

NEWSLETTER – October 2025



St. John's N.S., Kenmare

Bunscoil Eoin Naofa, An Neidín

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Upcoming School Closings:

Closed: Friday, 24th Oct 2025 – Presidential Election

Closed: Monday, 27th Oct. 2025 to Friday, 31st Oct. 2025 – Mid-Term Break

Closed: Thursday, 6th Nov. 2025 – Child Protection Training Day

A full list of closures for the coming school year was distributed prior to the school holidays. Holiday list available to download from our website.

School Mass:

School Mass will take place in our school hall on Tuesday, 21st Oct.

Halloween Dress up Day:



As is traditional to celebrate Halloween, the children are being given the option of dressing up in their Halloween costume on Thursday, October 23rd. Prizes will be given in each class grouping for the best costume.

Fundraising:

St. John's National School runs a School Lotto as an important fundraiser for our school ensuring up-to-date resources for pupils in our school. We would be very grateful if you would consider joining this fundraiser by visiting <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/stjohnskenmare> or scanning the QR code. So far, we have been able to use our lotto funds to

invest in the following: Lego Spike kits, BeeBots, Upgrade of Junior Infant play space including the purchase of new toys and other equipment, science workshops, and dance workshops. Through our School Lotto Fundraiser, we hope that this year we will be able to fund the recent replacement of the grass area at the gable of the building with tarmacadam, making it a safe, clean and



viable play space for our pupils all year round. Our Parent's Association will also run fundraising events at various intervals throughout the school year. In October, one lucky parent won the jackpot of €2,575.

Before and After School Care

We are delighted to have *Sherpa Kids* as our before and after school service provider in our school. Sherpa Kids come with an excellent reputation nationally for delivering high-quality, reliable care in school settings. If you are interested in availing of the service, further information is available from the main office.

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal:



Leaflets have been distributed to pupils from 1st to 6th class encouraging them to send a Christmas Shoebox to a child struggling in poverty or with the effects of conflict in Eastern

Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The deadline for return of the shoeboxes is Wednesday, October 22nd.

Green Schools:

We held a Sale of Work in June to mark the open of our School Garden. Flowers and vegetables which the children had grown were sold. We raised €140 and this money will be used to buy seed and materials for the garden for next year.

Sincere thanks to everyone in our school community who supported us. Special thanks to Patricia and all the team in the garden for helping us and to Stephanie O'Toole, Heritage in Schools expert, for guiding us with our planting scheme. During October and November, we will be doing some maintenance work in the gardening and collecting seed for next year. We will also be harvesting some food we have grown and tasting it. The pumpkins we planted will be ready for harvesting and will be raffled off before Halloween.



World Mental Health Day:

In honour of World Mental Health Day, the children brightened up the school with colourful clothes and ties to raise money for local Mental Health Services. Money raised on October 10th will be donated to local Mental Health Services. Thank you to all our pupils for supporting charity initiatives in our school.

Maths Week:

From October 13th to 17th, St. John's N.S. took part in Maths Week, celebrating with a variety of engaging activities designed to foster a positive attitude towards Maths and boost pupils' confidence in the subject. Throughout the week, students enjoyed taking part in solving riddles, teaming up with Maths buddies and exploring numbers through a Maths trail. It was a fantastic week full of fun, learning and discovery.

Scholastic Book Fair:



We're excited to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be held at St. John's N.S. on Wednesday, December 3rd. The fair offers a wonderful variety of books for children of all ages, a perfect opportunity to spark a love of reading. Parents are invited to come along and explore the selection.

Camogie:

Students from 3rd to 6th class had a fantastic time during their camogie lessons this term with Ceann Mara Camogie Club. The girls will soon take part in a fun blitz, a great chance to showcase the skills they've been working hard to develop.

School Choir:

Thanks to St. John's N.S. school choir who sang so beautifully at mass on Sunday, October 19th. Thanks to Ms. Cashman and Mrs. O'Connell who work with our school choir. In the next half term, the choir will be busy preparing for a number of Christmas events.

Cumann na mBunscol:

St. John's N.S. Cumann na mBunscol team won the Urban Division 2 South Blitz in Killarney on October 6th. The team displayed excellent skill, played impressive football and secured victories in all three matches. Aaron Sullivan Casey accepted the Niall McGillicuddy shield. On October 10th, the team faced Nagle Rice N.S. Milltown in the semifinal and won superbly. Each and every single player displayed a great range of skills in contributing to the win. The team will play Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn in the final this Tuesday, Oct 21st in Austin Stacks Park at 6.30 p.m. Many thanks to our fantastic coaches, Mr. Hussey and Mr. Morley. The boys and girls are a great credit to themselves and their families and are wonderful representatives for our school.

Congratulations to the Kerry Team:

Congratulations to Mr. Tadhg Morley and the Kerry Team on winning the All Ireland Football Final on Sunday, July 27th 2025. The Sam Maguire and Kerry players Tadhg Morley, Seánie O'Shea and Killian Spillane visited the school on September 19th. All the students and staff were thrilled to wear the Kerry colours and welcome back the Sam Maguire to St. John's N.S.



Principal's Message:

I am delighted to share that the return to school has been smooth and successful for everyone, particularly our new Junior Infants, who have settled in wonderfully. Sincere thanks to all parents, and a special welcome to those who are new to our school community, for your continued support and cooperation. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our teachers, SNAs, secretary and caretaker. Wishing everyone an enjoyable and well-deserved mid-term break

**WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR PUPILS AND PARENTS
A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE HALLOWEEN**



Mise le meas,

Barry O'Leary

Barry O'Leary
Principal.