

Newsletter

October 2025

School closures

GANS will be closed on Friday 24th October as the school will be used as a polling station in the presidential election. We are closed for mid-term break the following week - and after such a busy start to the year, we know that everyone is really looking forward to some downtime. We wish all our pupils and families a restful, happy and healthy mid-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 3rd November. Finally, a reminder that we are closed for in-house staff training on Wednesday 5th November.

Halloween celebration

Junior and Senior Infants are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to school on Thursday 23rd October. Dressing up is optional and anyone who would prefer not to, is welcome to wear their own clothes. First to Sixth Class will have the opportunity to show off their costumes at the Halloween disco. Please be mindful of any props that might be safer at home or easily lost (light sabres, swords, wigs, brooms or false teeth!). Please remember that the children will not be allowed to bring mobile phones to the disco and that we adults will keep our phones in our pockets on the night.

Our pumpkin patch

Last year our SNA Mary planted pumpkins with Senior Infants. Thanks to their brilliant green fingers, we harvested some huge pumpkins for our autumn display. Well done to all our little gardeners – we are so impressed by your skills.



Student Council elections

Elections for the 2025/26 Student Council take place in the Halla on Thursday 16th October. Being part of the Student Council is the best way to make sure student voices are heard – and of representing your class. We are so impressed by all the pupils who have nominated themselves and worked so hard on their campaigns and speeches. We wish everyone the best of luck on election day and look forward to working with the new council in the year ahead.

Smart watches

A reminder that pupils are not allowed to have any mobile phone or device switched on at any time during the school day or while on school property. This includes smart watches or any device that is capable of receiving or sending calls and messages, taking photos or accessing the internet, Wi-Fi, social media etc. All devices must be turned-off/not activated and kept in the pupil's bag at all times while the pupil is on school property. Any device switched on or used while on school property will be confiscated.

Illnesses

At this time of year there are lots of coughs, colds and bugs flying around. We remind everyone that if your child is feeling unwell, they should be kept at home. To help keep everyone as healthy as possible, please see the guidance below from the HSE on when it's safe for your child to return to school after an illness. Please also note that if a child has vomiting or diarrhoea, they cannot return to school until **48 hours** after their last episode – even if they're feeling better. We really appreciate everyone's help and support in keeping our whole school community healthy and well.

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/ CHILDCARE?

Chicken Pox
When scabs are dry

Conjunctivitis
No need to stay out*

Diarrhoea or Vomiting
48 hours after the last episode

Flu
5 days after start of illness

Glandular Fever
No need to stay out*

Hand, foot & mouth
No need to stay out*

Head Lice
No need to stay out*

Impetigo
When scabs are dry or 24 hours after starting antibiotics

Measles
4 days after rash appears

Mumps
5 days after swelling appears

Scabies
After first treatment

Scarlet Fever
24 hours after starting antibiotics

Slapped Cheek
No need to stay out*

Threadworms
No need to stay out*

Whooping Cough
5 days after starting antibiotics or 21 days after start of illness

This information is based on the Management of Infectious Diseases in Schools guidance document.

*No need to stay out if child is well but school or childcare provider should be informed.

HSE Building a Better Health Service | Seachtú Sláinte Músc Fáil & Fórsaí | hpsc

Yard supervision

A reminder that school yard supervision starts at 8.35am. There is no supervision at the school gates before 8.35am. For safety, it's best to arrive at school between 8.35 and 8.50am.

Junior Infants 2026/27

A gentle reminder that the closing date for applications for Junior Infants 2026 is Friday 31st October. Even with a sibling in the school, you still need to submit an application form for a new Junior Infant. Application forms and more details can be found in the Admissions section of our website. Please note that any applications received after 31st October will be automatically placed on a waiting list.



Update from GANS PTA



Dates for the diary

Junior and Senior Infants parents/guardians coffee mornings at the coffee shop, in the pastoral centre beside the church – dates tbc. These take place once a month, on a Friday morning after drop off, for anyone who can pop in and say hello. It's a nice way to get to know your new classes. We will send reminders for the dates when they are set up.

16th October – PTA AGM, 7.30-8.30pm in the school halla. Guest speaker, Dr Claire Stephens, clinical psychologist for children and young people. Update on the smartphone free initiative and PTA fundraising, as well as welcoming new committee members. Hope to see many of you there.

Wednesday 22nd October – Halloween Disco in the school halla. 1st to 3rd class 5.30-6.30pm and 4th to 6th class 7-8.30pm. Tickets on sale from 15th October via Aladdin and the volunteer form has been circulated on the class WhatsApp groups. Thank you to the very generous family in the school community, who has sourced and sponsored the DJ. Everyone's support is greatly appreciated in helping these events go ahead. Junior & Senior Infants can dress up, if they wish, the following day for school, 23rd October, and will have their own disco in the halla.
26th November – Christmas Jumper swap/giveaway.

5th December – Bake Sale

Other points of note

After a delay due to the bad weather the **sponsored walk** went ahead and the children enjoyed some fresh air and exercise. Thank you to everyone who supported and sponsored, over €4k raised and counting. It is greatly appreciated and will go toward current initiatives, such as a new purpose-built sensory room, iPads and the yard redevelopment.

Thank you to everyone who donated and came by to the **Halloween costume swap/giveaway**. Hopefully some managed to pick up a new costume.

[GANS PTA committee members update](#) – we would like to say a huge thank you and goodbye to our departing committee members, Louise, Amy and Carmen. Thank you for all the time, effort and energy spent organising and supporting the committee and fundraising events. We will be welcoming our new members and you will hear from them soon.

If you cannot commit to joining the PTA we always need additional volunteers for events and your class rep will be in touch.

[Matched Giving Incentives](#) for community initiatives and organisations. We are reaching out to the school community to ask if anyone has access to this type of incentive. We are currently raising €10k to pay for a sensory room and building funds towards the large redevelopment of the yard. We would be grateful if you would consider these projects. Please contact the PTA if you can help ptaguardianangels@gmail.com.

A reminder that the various school policies including use of mobile phones and social media can be found here at <https://www.guardianangels.ie/policies/>.

Thank you on behalf of GANS PTA

<https://www.guardianangels.ie/pta/> ptaguardianangels@gmail.com