



St Andrew's National School
Curragha, Ashbourne,
Co Meath

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26th of February 2026

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed a busy February and I am delighted to share some of our highlights.

February Newsletter

RIP Martin Bruen

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of our former caretaker and lollipop man Martin Bruen. Martin was a much loved member of our school community and a great friend to all of the children of Curragha. Our condolences to his wife Olive. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Confirmation 2026

Congratulations to our 5th and 6th class who were Confirmed by Bishop Tom Deenihan on Friday 13th of February in St. Andrew's Church. Thank you to their teacher Ms Niamh Ronan for all her hard work in preparing the children for their special day. Thank you to Ms Hannah Horgan for preparing the choir and soloists who sang so beautifully on the day. A huge thank you to our Parents' Association for the wonderful reception for our families in the school hall afterwards.

MEP Visit

Nina Carberry visited 1st and 2nd class on Friday 6th of February as part of the Blue Star Programme. Nina explained her role and responsibilities in the European Union. She answered questions from the children regarding her daily work in Brussels and Stockholm. She even joined in with our Active Break Every Day Challenge. Thank you Nina for visiting our school!

Féile Fichille

Congratulations to the 32 children from 3rd - 6th classes who represented our school so brilliantly at the recent Féile Fichille Chess Day in Dunshaughlin. Our 'Noble Knights' team composed of Donagh, Avril, Kate, Odhran, Sophie, Anna, Lauren and Noah, have progressed through to the Comórtas Fichille Tournament in March. Congratulations to them! We are very proud of all our chess players!

Picker Pals Programme:

First and second class are continuing to keep their local environment litter free with the help of Picker Pals. They took part in a live Zoom call on the theme 'Reduce the Use'. We learned that the real environmental superpower is choosing to use less in the first place. We took part in a Kahoot quiz and earned top marks!

Inter Schools Equestrian League

Congratulations to Nancy Caffrey who represented our school in the Interschool's Show-jumping League over the past couple of months, finishing in first place on a combined team with other schools. Well done to Evie Bourke who also represented the school in individual events. We are very proud of you both!

Gymnastics

We completed 6 weeks of gymnastics classes with Coolmine Gymnastics Club. We learned many new skills and techniques which has really increased our confidence in gymnastics.

Thursday Morning Training

Early morning training for 3rd to 6th class continues weekly at 8.30am.

Active Schools

Our Active Schools Committee encouraged all classes to take part in the GAA Active Breaks Challenge from January 19th- February 13th. The 'Active Break Every Day' challenge is a Department of Education and Youth initiative supported by Healthy Ireland. It is designed to energise the school day, helping more pupils reach 60 minutes of daily physical activity. This year the Active Breaks had a GAA theme with children learning facts about Croke Park as they were completing their workout.

Green Schools

Our Green Schools Committee (Róisín, Alisha, Sophie, Nancy, Sean, Kerri, Elizabeth, Sadie and Arthur) are busy promoting the Festival of Energy which runs from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th February. Classes have been attending virtual presentations from EirGrid via Zoom. All children have been given an Energy Survey to complete at home and return to their class Green Schools representative. Children are also taking part in a Stop the Standby colouring competition and are being encouraged to make sure appliances in school and at home are only left on standby when absolutely necessary! We appreciate the support of parents in this initiative.

Playspace

We have started the upgrade of our yard playspace. Artificial grass was laid over midterm on an extensive area of yard. This phase was funded by the money raised by the Parents Association last year and various donations to the school. (A list of donors will be published on our website). The children were thrilled with their new playspace on Monday morning! We will have an afternoon when the weather is better to show parents around the playspace.

Coming Up....

Information Evening

You are invited to attend an information evening: Parents & Schools: Understanding the Digital World on Thursday 26th of February at 7pm in The Venue Rataoth.

Soccer Coaching

All classes will take part in 5 weeks of soccer coaching with Klaaskickz academy at a cost of €13.00 per child. A payment link will be sent out via Aladdin.

First Confession

2nd class children will have their First Confession on Sunday 1st of March. Thank you to Ms Siobhan Gilligan for preparing the children so well for the Sacrament. Thank you to Fr. Steve for guiding and supporting the children in their faith.

World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 5th of March**. Pupils can come to school dressed as their favourite book characters on the day. We will hold our annual Readathon during World Book week. Please see attached letter.

Coicís na Gaeilge

Coicís na Gaeilge is just around the corner, and we've got some great activities lined up from March 2nd to 13th! To kick off Seachtain na Gaeilge all classes will enjoy a high energy show on Monday, March 2nd with High Rock Productions. Junior Infants to 1st class will watch Seachtapus and 2nd to 6th classes will enjoy Stair. The cost of this is €9 per child. A payment link will be sent via Aladdin.

We will also have several school wide activities to celebrate our Grá for Gaeilge! First up is **Tráth na gceist on Friday, 6th March**. The following week, **9th to 13th March**, students can take part in the **Comórtas Seanfhocail**, showing off their knowledge of Irish proverbs. On **Wednesday 11th March there will be Biongó and a Céilí Mór** to enjoy. We'll finish up on **Friday 13th March with a Ceolchoirm and Lá Glas**, so make sure to wear something green!

FAI 5 a side

Our boys' teams will compete in the FAI 5 a side soccer tournament in Navan on March 3rd and our girls' teams will compete on March 12th. We are looking forward to what has always been a very enjoyable outing!

Mini 7s

Unfortunately, due to the recent rain the Mini 7s event scheduled for February 25th has been postponed. We look forward to competing at this event when it is rescheduled in March.

St. Patrick's Day

School will close on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th for St. Patrick's Day.

Curriculum Training

School will close on Wednesday 18th of March to facilitate teacher training in the new Primary Curriculum in Navan.

Car Park Safety

Please drive slowly on approach and on leaving the school car park. Be mindful of children as they leave their cars and when crossing the road. Seat belts should be used for children at all times

School Calendar

A copy of the school calendar for 2026/2027 will be sent home and emailed to all families today. This calendar is subject to change at any time by the Board of Management. You will be informed immediately of any changes.

Check out our website www.standrewscurragha.com for all our school news and information.

Follow us on Instagram https://www.instagram.com/standrews_curragha_pa?igsh=ZTdmbmp6dHN6d25g

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<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087714897519>

Mise le meas,


Catherine O'Connor

