



*St Andrew's National School
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1st of February 2024

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you and your family! We've kicked off 2024 with great enthusiasm and we have enjoyed a busy and productive month.

January Newsletter

School Attendance

We are focusing on our pupil attendance this term. I would like to remind parents that if your child is absent from school; you must inform the school and the reason for their absence. This information is inputted into the school's attendance database. If a child is absent for more than 20 days, the school must pass the information to the Educational Welfare Service of Tusla - Child and Family Agency.

Our attendance for the month of **January is 94%**. We hope to see an improvement in the coming months.

New Pupils

We welcomed Sasha & Liza to our school. We are delighted that they have settled in so well this term.

Gymnastics

We are enjoying 5 weeks of gymnastics with Coolmine Gymnastics Club. We have learned many new skills and techniques which has really increased our confidence in gymnastics.

Food Dudes Programme

There has been a positive response to the Food Dudes programme which was introduced to Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st & 2nd Class in January. Pupils in 3rd & 4th Class and 5th & 6th Class are currently participating in a Food Dudes refresher week. Food Dudes is Ireland's national healthy eating programme for primary schools. It works by positively changing children's attitudes towards eating fresh fruit and vegetables. This programme supports our Healthy Eating Policy <https://www.standrewscurragha.com/school-policies.html>

Catholic Schools' Week

We celebrated Catholic Schools' week through the theme 'Catholic Schools: Communities of Service. Fr. Kevin celebrated a beautiful Grandparents Mass and the Parents' Association provided refreshments afterwards. Our pupils created a special Grandparents' photo gallery in our school hall which reminded us of the special relationships we have with our Grandparents.

Creative Schools

Our school has been selected to take part in the Creative Schools Programme. This initiative is led by the Arts Council in partnership with the Department of Education and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. All classes took part in a Creative Schools workshop with our Creative Schools advisor, Gabriella McGrath on 23rd of January. We have sent out a survey to parents which will further advise our Creative Schools plan.

Credit Union Quiz

Well done to our quiz teams who represented the school at the Ashbourne Credit Union Quiz Competition last Friday night. Our junior team came second and our senior team narrowly missed out on the tie breaker by one point. Well done everyone! We are very proud of you!

New Life 4 Clothes

We will collect unwanted clothes and shoes for New Life 4 Clothes to raise money for our school. This initiative allows clothes to start a second life and keep them out of landfill. Please leave bags of clothes inside the hall door before Friday 9th of February.

Feast of St. Brigid

We attended Mass this morning with Fr. Kevin to celebrate the Feast of St. Brigid.

Coming Up..

Science Dome

The Science Dome will visit our school on Friday 2nd of February. This activity was scheduled for Science Week in November but due to a technical problem on the day, it couldn't go ahead. The cost of €5 has already been paid. We look forward to a fun and exciting day of astronomy.

Bank Holiday

School will close on Monday 5th of February for the St. Brigid's Bank Holiday.

Primary Maths Curriculum

School will close on Tuesday 6th of February to facilitate staff training in the Primary Maths Curriculum in Navan.

Mid-term Break

School will close for February mid-term break from 12th -16th of February.

Féile Fichelle

Two *Master* teams from 5th & 6th class and one *Buds* team from 4th class will take part in a Féile Fichelle Chess Day on Tuesday 20th of February. We wish them the best of luck.

GAA Coaching

Our new Participation Officer (PO) Caroline Butler, will provide coaching sessions in school for all classes starting on 20th of February. Thank you to Curraha GAA who is funding the employment of the PO for our school. We look forward to working with Caroline.

Confirmation

Bishop Tom Deenihan will Confirm 5th & 6th pupils class on Friday 23rd of February at 3pm.

First Confession

Second class will have their First Confession on Wednesday 28th of February at 7.30pm.

FAI Schools Primary 5s competition

Our boys' and girls' soccer teams are busy preparing for the FAI Schools Primary 5s Competition on 5th & 12th of March.

World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 7th of March. Pupils can come to school dressed as their favourite book characters on the day.

Referendum

School will close for the national Referendum on Friday 8th of March as the school premises is used as a polling station.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend!