



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

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30<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you and your family! We've kicked off 2025 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 92%**. We hope to see an improvement in the coming months.

#### **New Pupils**

We welcomed Robert, Alisha, Chloe & Cian to our school. We are delighted that they have settled in so well this term.

#### **Cumann na mBunscol Sports Quiz**

This year for the first time in Cumann na mBunscol history schools were offered the opportunity to enter a county sports quiz. Congratulations to Ailbhe, Charlie, Keelan, Jack, James, Freddie, Odhran and Maggie who represented the school with distinction. Both teams scored very highly and answered some really complicated questions. We narrowly missed qualifying for the county final but we look forward to taking part in many more sports quizzes in years to come.

#### **Walk your Dog Month**

In January our Active Schools and Green Schools Committees invited all of the children of Curragha to get out and get active using the greenest form of transport - walking! January is International Walk your Dog month and we were delighted to receive photos of so many pupils out walking their four legged friends. The gallery can be viewed on our school website <https://www.standrewscurragha.com/>

#### **Green Schools - Travel Flag Update**

On January 28<sup>th</sup> our Green Schools Committee had their flag renewal visit with our Travel Officer Paula Carroll. We presented her with details of all the work we have been doing to achieve our Green Flag for Travel. We will be organising another car park audit and car pool/ park and stride day soon so please watch out for details on how you can help us in our quest for our third flag!

#### **Catholic Schools' Week**

We celebrated Catholic Schools' week through the theme 'Alive in Christ!'. Fr. Steve celebrated a beautiful Grandparents Mass and the Parents' Association provided refreshments afterwards.

#### **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.

### **Fundraising Update**

Our New Life 4 Clothes fundraiser raised €275. Thank you for all the clothes and shoe donations. We raised an impressive €600 from the Tesco Blue Token initiative. Thank to JP and Polly for accepting the cheque on behalf of our school.

### **Coming Up.....**

### **School Lotto**

Our next School Lotto draw will take place tonight, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of January. There will be an additional Bonus National Giveaway Draw tonight. Thank you to everyone who has signed up and congratulations to our prize winners to date. Thank you to members of our Parents' Association who are leading this fundraiser. Join now to support our school. <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/standrewscurragha>

### **Creative February - St. Brigid**

Tomorrow, all classes will take part in an online workshop where we will join author Caroline Busher to explore the life of St. Brigid and learn more about the legend of Brigid's cloak and the significance of Brigid's cross.

### **Féile Fichelle**

Two *Master* teams from 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class and one *Buds* team from 4<sup>th</sup> class will take part in a Féile Fichelle Chess Day tomorrow 31<sup>st</sup> of January. We wish them the best of luck.

### **Credit Union Quiz**

Our Senior and Junior quiz teams will take part in the upcoming Ashbourne Credit Union Quiz on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> of February. They have been working hard on their general knowledge and we wish them the best of luck on the night!

### **Creative Schools**

Junior and Senior Infants will join artist Maeve O'Shea on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> of February for an online workshop to create Origami hearts.

We have been invited to attend a Creative Schools Showcase on 11<sup>th</sup> of February in Ashbourne Library. Students will share our Creative Schools experience to date with other schools on the day.

### **St.Valentine's Raffle**

Raffle tickets will go on sale next week for a St. Valentine's raffle. Make sure you're in with a chance to win some fabulous prizes!

### **Deposit Return Scheme**

We are collecting plastic bottles and aluminum cans for the Deposit Return Scheme at our school every Thursday morning at the hall door. Thank you to those who have brought their bottles and cans in January.

### **Bank Holiday**

School will close on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February for the St. Brigid's Bank Holiday.

### **Mid-term Break**

School will close for February mid-term break from 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> of February.

### **World Book Day**

We will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of March. Pupils can come to school dressed as their favourite book characters on the day.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend!

Mise le meas,

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Catherine O'Connor