



*St Andrew's National School  
Curragha, Ashbourne,  
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2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2026

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you and your family! We've kicked off 2026 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 92.6%**. We hope to see an improvement in the coming months.

#### New Pupil

We welcomed Ionela to third class this month. We hope she will be very happy in our school.

#### Cumann na mBunscol Sports Quiz

The second annual Cumann na mBunscol Sports Quiz took place on January 14th and we were very proud to be one of the 6 schools chosen to host a regional round. Our B team came 6th out of 14 teams. Congratulations to James, Maggie, Robyn and Luke on a great performance. Our A team finished in 2nd place after a nailbiting final round which saw them overtake their closest rivals Donacarney by 1 point! They now advance to the county final to be held in Trim on Wednesday, February 14th. Good luck Avril, Odhran, Donagh and Noah!

#### Catholic Schools' Week

We celebrated Catholic Schools' week through the theme 'Normal Lives, Called to Holiness'. Fr. Steve celebrated a beautiful Grandparents Mass and the Parents' Association provided refreshments afterwards in our school hall. Thank you to the many grandparents who came to spend the morning with us. We are very lucky to have such wonderful people in our lives.

#### Croke Park Appearance

Well done to Odhran in 6th class on his selection for the Meath team that played in Croke Park at half time of the Meath v Derry match this month! We are so proud of you! Well done also to Mr. Kinsella on his win with Meath! He came out to meet the team before their big game!

#### Dublin City Educational Trip

This past month the children of third and fourth class have been learning about the Vikings, the Bronze Age and the Irish artist Jack B. Yeats. The children of fifth and sixth class have been learning about the Irish Famine. To support these topics we went on an educational tour to Dublin City where the younger classes visited the National Gallery and the National Museum and the older classes visited the Jeannie Johnston ship and the EPIC Emigration Museum.

### **Bronze Age Presentation**

Last Friday, third & fourth class presented their Bronze age projects to the other classes. We enjoyed learning about the discovery of bronze as well as about weapons, clothing, food, games and houses of that time. Well done boys and girls!

### **Picker Pals**

First and second class have been busy keeping Curragha clean with the Picker home pack. Picker Pals enable children and their families to make a real impact on our environment.

### **Gymnastics**

We are enjoying 6 weeks of gymnastics with Coolmine Gymnastics Club. We have learned many new skills and techniques which have really increased our confidence in gymnastics.

### **Note from the Parents Association**

Now that we are well and truly settled into 2026, we wanted to look back a little before we look forward. There have been two key fundraising events organised by the PA during the start of this school year:

- Hallowe'en Bake Sale which yielded an incredible €1,523.00, many thanks to all the makers and bakers who helped to contribute.
- Christmas Liturgy evening: This replaced the traditional Christmas Fair and I think it's fair to say it was a huge success, both financially for the PA and the school, raising an impressive €7,613.00 which was 24% more than the Christmas Fair in 2024, so certainly a worthwhile move to a new format. Plus, it seemed to be really well received by the local community across the board and we'd like to thank all of those who attended or supported in any way.
- DRS: This has developed into a valuable source of revenue, many thanks to all the parents who contribute their bottles and cans and thanks to Deirdre and her team for bringing to the relevant Return Points.

This has enabled us to source new Playground equipment which will be ordered by the school shortly and funded by the PA. We will also be buying new tables and chairs for the hall which will be needed later this month when 34 children celebrate their Confirmation in St Andrews' Church followed by a reception in the hall immediately afterwards. Volunteers are still needed so please contact your class rep for more details on how you can help and support the PA and in turn the children of St Andrew's.

We are busy planning more events including a return of the popular Table Quiz which took place last year in Gourmet Food Parlour in Dunshaughlin, keep an eye out for more details to come.

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

### **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 this Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of February. 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 Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. They have been working hard on their general knowledge and we wish them the best of luck on the night! Our Junior Team members are Layla, Saoirse, Elizabeth and JP. Our Senior Team members are Avril, Odhran, Finn and Jude. Good luck everyone!

### **Soccer with Klasskickz Academy**

On Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> all classes will begin soccer coaching with Klaaskickz Academy for 5 weeks. The cost of this is €3 per child.

### **Mini 7s**

We are looking forward to defending our Boys' Mini 7s title from last year. Both boys' and girls' teams will compete in the first round of the Mini 7s competition during the last week of February - the exact dates will be confirmed shortly.

### **School Lotto**

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>

### **Confirmation**

Bishop Tom Deenihan will confirm 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils on Friday the 13th of February at 3pm. We wish our 34 wonderful Confirmandi a very special day.

### **Mid-term Break**

School will close for February mid-term break on the 19th and 20th of February.

### **World Book Day**

We will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of March. Pupils can come to school dressed as their favourite book characters on the day.

### **Primary Curriculum Framework Training**

School will close on Wednesday 18th of March as teachers will attend Primary Curriculum Framework Training in Navan.

Mise le meas,



Catherine O'Connor

