



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

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30th of March 2025

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of our second term, I would like to share some March highlights.

First Confession

2nd class children had their First Confession on Thursday 6th 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 celebrated World Book Day at school on March 6th. We came to school dressed as our favourite book characters and enjoyed reading in our library and classrooms, some with pillows and blankets! We got World Book Day tokens to spend on a new book.

Readathon

Children took part in our annual Readathon during World Book Week. If you have not done so already, please return the Readathon sponsorship card and any monies collected. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile school fundraiser.

Coicís na Gaeilge 2025

We had a wonderful celebration of Irish language and culture during Coicís na Gaeilge. Each class took part in a high energy dramaíocht workshop based on Irish myths and legends. Sean and Niall from High Rock Productions had us all speaking loads of Irish and acting our hearts out! All children participated in a whole school Tráth na gCeist and Biongó! We held our annual Seanfhocail competition and the beautiful artwork showcasing Irish proverbs was displayed in the hall. A huge highlight of the fortnight was our ceolchoirm which was coordinated by Ms. O'Farrell. We had a trad group, dancers, singers and individual instrumental performances. Buíochas mór to Ms. O'Farrell and all of the children who put such huge effort into this performance, rehearsing for several weeks beforehand. Footage of the ceolchoirm is on our website <https://www.standrewscurragha.com/>

Mini 7s

Our boys' team continued their fantastic football record with an outstanding performance at the Cumann na mBunscol Meath Mini 7s finals on Wednesday, March 19th. Approximately 100 schools of all sizes entered the competition and after 3 very tightly contested rounds our boys emerged victorious as Meath Champions. This is a truly remarkable achievement for a school our size and we are so proud of every single boy who played throughout the competition. Thanks to all of the children and parents who travelled to Dunganny to support our boys and thanks to John and Paddy for their ongoing mentorship.

Creative Schools

Our Creative Schools ceramics project has been mounted on the wall out in the yard and we are delighted with it! Every single child in the school contributed to this artwork and it has been an artistic journey that has taken several months. The children have learned so much about art and ceramics and it has been an incredible journey in creativity for all! Thank you so much to Ms. McLarnon and Creative Schools liaison Niamh Synnott. All parents are welcome to walk around the back of the school to see the art work.

Soccer with Klaaskickz Academy

Four weeks of soccer training with Cian from Klasskickz Academy finished up last week. Children from Junior Infants up to 6th class took part in weekly training sessions learning all about the skills and discipline required for the game of soccer. We look forward to working with Klasskickz again in the future!

FAI 5 a side

Two boys' teams with pupils from 3rd to 6th class took part in the first round of the FAI 5 a side soccer competition on Tuesday, March 25th. Our junior boys' team finished third in their group and our senior boys' team qualified for the next round. Two girls' teams will travel to Navan on Thursday, April 3rd for their competition and we wish them the very best of luck!

GAA

GAA coaching has started back for all classes with Caroline Butler P.O. this term. Thank you to Curraha GAA Club who fund this coaching.

Food Dudes 2025

All pupils participated in Food Dudes Week, from the 25th March-28th March where they tasted and enjoyed a variety of delicious fruit and vegetables. Thank you to Ms Gilligan for organising Year 2 of the programme.

School Lotto

Congratulations to Angela Duggan who won our School Lotto jackpot of €775 this week. Thank you to everyone who has signed up and congratulations to all 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>

Deposit Return Scheme

We continue to collect plastic bottles and aluminium 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 to date. We have raised an impressive €430 so far.

Coming up in April/May

NCC

We are only two weeks away from the National Children's Choir concert on Thursday 10th April at 7pm. Please continue to encourage your child to learn their lyrics and return any ticket money for tickets as soon as possible.

Chess

Both Masters' teams are looking forward to a great day of chess competition on Wednesday 2nd April in Navan. We wish them the best of luck and hope they enjoy the day. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to drive our players.

Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme for 2024/2025

On Monday 7th of April, we will welcome local firefighters to give a talk to 3rd and 4th class on fire safety. The programme is designed to enhance the level of awareness of fire safety in the home and thereby raise the level of awareness of fire safety in the community. The school children are encouraged, as part of their homework, to interact with their families on the elements of the programme.

Swimming

- As part of the Aquatics Strand in the P.E. Curriculum, 1st to 6th class will attend 6 weeks of lessons in Aura Swimming Pool in Navan. Lessons will start on Friday 2nd of May. The cost of the lessons and the bus to the pool will be €60 per child. An Aladdin link will be sent to you for payment. Parents will have the opportunity to pay for the lessons in instalments if they wish.
- Junior and Senior Infants will complete the Paws Programme where they will learn water safety skills in the classroom.

Quiz Night in Gourmet Food Parlour

In partnership with the Parents' Association, the school will hold a Quiz Night in Gourmet Food Parlour in Dunshaughlin on Friday 16th of May. The MC for the night will be comedian Jarlath Regan. The PA will send on further details in the coming days. We look forward to a great night of food and fun to support our school.

Fundraising

As a local school committed to providing our students with the best educational experience possible, we recognise the significant role that outdoor play has in developing both physical and social skills. In partnership with the Parents' Association, our fundraising goal for this year is to provide a safe, stimulating, and inclusive outdoor area where children can develop physically, socially, and creatively. By modernising our current play area, we hope to inspire active play, improve overall well-being, and enhance our students' learning experiences.

After extensive research and consultation with specialized artificial grass suppliers, we have devised a 2-Phase project:

- **Phase 1:** Supply and Fit of All Weather (Non Infill) Multi Use Schools Grass with a shock pad cushioning underlay on existing yard area of 1,062m². Coloured grass for games/shapes and line markings will be included.
- **Phase 2:** replace existing pitch 1,664m². Ground Excavation to create base levels. Installation of drainage system. Installation of terram geotextile layer to prevent intermixing of particles. Shock pad foam underlay is then installed. Border the full space with a 2 lane coloured walking/running track. Include a 4 lane coloured sprint track. Goal mouths and line markings will be included in white grass.

The cost of the entire play space transformation is in the region of €200,000. To make this vision a reality, we are seeking your support whether it be a in the form of a donation, a fundraising idea or grant application. We will record our fundraising journey on our website over the coming months.

The images below are suggested designs for our new play space.



School will close for Easter holidays on Friday 11th of April at 12 noon. School will reopen on Monday 28th of April.

I wish you and your families a happy Easter and an enjoyable break.

Mise le meas,

Catherine O'Connor