



St. Andrew's N.S.
Curragha, Ashbourne,
Co. Meath

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23rd of October 2025

Dear Parents,

October has been very busy in the run up to mid-term.

Student Council

We formed our first ever Student Council in October. The council is currently made up of students from 4th to 6th class. Students submitted application letters giving reasons for their suitability. Congratulations to Avril (Chairperson), Katie (Vice-chairperson), Jude, Lauren, Isla, Jamie, Aimee, Evan, Charlie, Layla, Saoirse & Tom, our new Student Council. Check out our webpage <https://www.standrewscurragha.com/student-council.html>

Green Schools Committee

Our newly elected Green Schools Committee is Alisha, Róisín, Nancy, Sophie, Seán, Kerri, Elizabeth, Sadie, Arthur and PJ are already busy working on our Green Flag for Energy.

Active Committee

Our new Active Committee members are Maggie, Odhran, Kate, Emma, Lillian, Juliette, James, Robyn, Orlaith, Olivia, Evie, Callum and Sonny. They successfully hosted their first event of the year. All pupils were encouraged to skip for 10 minutes a day as part of the 'SKIP Around the World' challenge. Working together as a class, and as a school, our combined skips allowed us to travel to many of the world's most famous locations.

Children's Book Festival

1st and 2nd class took part in a Story and Drawing Workshop in Ashbourne Library on Wednesday 1st of October with Tatyana Feeney. She read her book *Skipping Stones*. The children then enjoyed illustrating imaginary monsters. Thank you to parents, who drove on the day,

1st and 2nd class also had a Zoom call with author Matt Oldfield. He spoke about his love of football and writing books about his football heroes. Matt's books include the *Ultimate Football Heroes* series, *Johnny Ball: Football Genius* series and *Unbelievable Football*.

Paud O' Donoghue's Forge

As part of their local history study, 3rd and 4th class visited Paud O'Donoghue's Forge at Swan's Pub. Thank you to Paddy Swan who gave a wonderful presentation to the children on the part Paud and the Forge played in the 1798 Rebellion.

Bodhrán

Thank you to Aimee Farrell-Courtney who has taught Bodhrán to all classes for the past 6 weeks.

Drama

Pupils enjoyed Drama classes with Suzanne in school. Thank you to the Parents' Association and the school's Board of Management who covered the cost of this activity. After school Drama classes will continue after midterm.

GAA

Pupils have been enjoying GAA coaching sessions with Paul (PO assistant) this month. They have practised lots of new ball skills every week. Thank you to Curraha GAA who continues to fund this weekly in-school coaching.

Tag Rugby

All pupils had tag rugby sessions with Sue Malone from Ratoath RC. They really engaged with the activities and learned important rugby skills.

Brother Cross Country

Congratulations to everyone who competed in the Brother Cross Country competition on October 1st. It was amazing to see so many first time runners out enjoying themselves and all our experienced athletes led by example as always.

Cumann na mBunscol

Our girls' and boys' teams both gave great performances in the Cumann na mBunscol Division 4 Championships which began on September 9th. Our boys team started out strongly with a win but narrow defeats to Boyerstown and Dunderry ended our campaign placing 4th in the group. The girls team made it to a play off for a semi final spot but unfortunately lost to Ardcaith by 7 points in a very high scoring game. It was a great way to start our sporting year and we are very proud of all of our footballers from 6th right down to 3rd class. Sincere thanks also to the parents who drove us to and from our weekly fixtures and to Paddy and John for their help with coaching and refereeing. Based on our performance in the Girls' competition we have been asked to select one girl to play on the Meath team for the upcoming intercounty blitz in Darver, Co. Louth. Congratulations to our co-captain Robyn on her selection.

Early Morning Sports

Cross country training on Tuesdays with Ms Ronan and football training with Ms Kinsella and Ms. O'Connor on Thursdays are back in full swing for 3rd to 6th class pupils. All are welcome to join at 8.30am for some fun activities and exercise.

Hero in the Hallway

Our Hero in the Hallway initiative is up and running. Teachers and pupils nominate classmates for an act of kindness and the pupil chosen receives a certificate and wears our Hero in the Hallway badge for the month.

Fire Safety Week

We took part in Fire Safety Week in October. Kerri Dillon from Ashbourne Fire Brigade visited our school and talked to all classes about fire safety.

Ireland AM Appearance

Pupils from 1st and 2nd class appeared on Ireland AM live from Emerald Park on October 15th. The children showcased the ever popular Tricky Trail at sunrise. They had lots of spooky fun with presenter Deric and looked great on national TV!

Maths Week

Maths Week ran from October 11th to 17th and all classes took part in exciting maths activities in class. Pictures can be found on our school website www.standrewscurragha.com. The mathematical fun culminated in our annual Maths Escape Room. This fast-paced and thoroughly enjoyable activity is always a big hit and it was great to see the leadership skills of our senior school pupils as they worked on their maths problems with their younger schoolmates. Congratulations to Donagh, Emma and their Blue Team who won on the day and managed to help their team 'escape' in the quickest time.

Dyslexia Awareness Month

We held a special assembly to mark Dyslexia Awareness Month. Children from 1st to 6th spoke about the 'learning difference' and highlighted famous people who live with dyslexia. Some children spoke about their own experiences with dyslexia which was insightful and educational for everyone. Our Transition Year student Gina, spoke about her dyslexia journey through school and answered questions from our assembled pupils. A positive and memorable assembly for all! For information on dyslexia check out <https://dyslexia.ie>

Cash 4 Clobber

We collected clothes etc for the Cash 4 Clobber initiative this month. We raised €160 for our school. Thank you to everyone who donated their unwanted 'clobber'.

Halloween Bake Sale

The Parents Association held our annual Bake Sale on 22nd of October. It was a huge success raising an impressive €1431.23. Thank you to all the parents who helped out selling raffle tickets, decorating the hall, preparing and selling at the Bake Sale. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Attendance

Our attendance for the month of October is **97%**. We record attendance on our Student Council Board every week. We hope to see an improvement in the coming months. Remember "Every Day Counts!"

Coming up in November.....

Homework Club and Club Francais

Homework Club and Club Francais will start back the week we return to school after midterm. Homework Club Forms will be distributed at the beginning of that week. Club Francais pupils are paid and registered until Christmas.

Hot Meals

Carambola are delighted to announce that they have a fresh new menu for hot meals launching after Halloween break! The menu went **LIVE on Monday 22nd of October** for children to make their selections over the Halloween break. The menu will start arriving in schools from Monday 3rd November. In addition, I have invited a representative from Carambola to meet with our Student Council and Parents on Tuesday 18th of November at 11.30am. This will give both groups an opportunity to taste the new menu and discuss any issues with the food provider. It is important that both voices are represented on the day.

Zumba

Zumba classes with Marta will begin on Tuesday 4th of November for 6 weeks. This will cost €8 per child. An Aladdin payment link has been emailed.

Heritage in Schools

Classes 1st to 6th will take part in a Heritage in Schools workshop with Francesca Caddedu on Wednesday 5th of November. The workshop will be on the origins of Samhain and the Irish archaeological heritage connected to it.

Science Week

Science Week will take place after mid-term from 9th to 16th of November. We have lots of great activities planned. The ever popular Space Dome will come to our school. This will cost €5 per pupil. An Aladdin link will be sent after midterm. We will also host two professors from UCD who will do science experiments with every class! On Friday of Science Week we will have our annual Super Science Quiz!

Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Championship

The Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Championship will take place in Fairyhouse from 10am to 11.30am on Wednesday, November 19th. Our athletes have been working hard preparing and training on Tuesday mornings. We are looking forward to a great day out. Full details and permission slips will be sent out to team members after the midterm break.

SKIPnROPE

All classes will take part in a skipping workshop on Thursday 27th of November. A SKIPnROPE workshop will take the pupils through the basics, footwork skills, arm action skills plus encourage teamwork through partner & long rope skills. The workshop will cost €4 per pupil. An Aladdin link will be sent after midterm.

Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Once again we are taking part in the Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. These much appreciated boxes will be sent to children affected by poverty in 12 countries across Africa and Eastern Europe this Christmas. An information leaflet will be sent home today with your child. Completed Shoeboxes will be collected from the school on **Wednesday 12th of November.**

100 Skips a Day Challenge

St. Andrew's NS staff have signed up to the '100 Skips a Day Challenge' for the month of November. This challenge will help raise vital funds for sick children and their families at Children's Health Ireland hospitals.

Open Evening

We will have an Open Evening for prospective new parents in the school on Tuesday 11th of November from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Please invite any parents you know who are considering sending their children to a rural school next year.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings will take place during the last two weeks in November. You will be sent an assigned time by your child's class teacher after Halloween. If alternative times are requested, we will do our best to facilitate you.

School Uniform

As you all know, we take great pride in our uniform here at St. Andrew's. A school uniform reflects a sense of belonging to a school community as well as being economical for families. I would appreciate it if all parents and guardians ensure that their children are wearing the correct uniform every day.

Enrolment for 2026/2027

Enrolment for 2026/2027 is now open. Please fill the registration form on our website homepage and return to the school office. <https://www.standrewscurragha.com/>

Presidential Election

The school will close on Friday 24th of October for the Presidential Election. The school will be used as a polling station.

Mid-term break

School will close for mid-term break from Monday 27th to Friday 31st of October. We will reopen on 3rd of November.

Important December Dates

- Friday 12th of December: Junior Infants to 2nd Class Christmas Performances:
- Tuesday 16th of December: 3rd to 6th Liturgy in St. Andrew's Church at 7pm

Please check our school website <https://www.standrewscurragha.com/> for regular school updates.

Have a lovely midterm break!

Mise le meas,

Principal