



St. Andrew's N.S.  
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Co. Meath

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18<sup>th</sup> of December 2025

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of our first school term, I'm delighted to share with you our December news and some exciting new activities that are coming up in the New Year.

### December

#### **Our School Lotto**

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to our School Lotto during the year 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>

#### **100 Skips a Day Challenge**

St. Andrew's NS staff completed the '100 Skips a Day Challenge' for the month of November and raised €400 for sick children and their families at Children's Health Ireland hospitals. Thank you to those who supported the challenge.

#### **Zumba**

Thank you to Marta, our Zumba teacher, for 6 weeks of energetic and fun filled classes.

#### **Christmas Performances**

Congratulations to all our pupils and teachers on their Christmas performances. Our corridors have been full of song and Christmas cheer for the month of December! Thank you to everyone who came to see the children perform in school last week.

- ❖ Junior & Senior Infants performed '*The Nativity*' for their parents in the school on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of December. Thank you to Ms Kinsella, Ms McLarnon and SNA Karen for preparing the Infant classes.
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class performed '*It's a Party!*' for their parents in the school on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of December. Thank you to Ms Gilligan, SNAs Gillian & Trish for all their hard work in preparing the children.
- ❖ On December 16<sup>th</sup>, our 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class students presented a special Christmas liturgy in the church through song, dance, scripture, and drama. A huge thank you to their teachers Ms O'Farrell, Ms Horgan and Ms Ronan, SNAs Mary and Aoife for preparing the children for this wonderful occasion. Thank you to all who came on the night to support.

#### **Parents' Association Christmas Reception**

Thank you to our Parents' Association who hosted a wonderful reception in our school hall after the Christmas Liturgy where families and our wider school community got to come together to mark the festive season. Thank you to all who organised and volunteered to make it happen.

#### **Christmas Carols at Kilbrew**

Ms Horgan took a choral group to Kilbrew Nursing Home to sing Christmas songs for the residents on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of December. Senior School children sent individual Christmas letters to the residents too. This is a lovely intergenerational experience for our children in the local community.

### **Carol Singing at Tesco**

Our choral group continued to spread Christmas cheer when they sang Christmas carols outside Tesco in Ashbourne in the afternoon. Thank you to the parents who provided lifts.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

We held our Christmas Jumper Day in aid of St. Vincent de Paul Society on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of December. All pupils wore Christmas jumpers and we raised an impressive €465 to date. Thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause.

### **New BOM Parents' Representative**

Paula Heavey has been elected as the new Parents' Representative on the school's Board of Management. We wish her the best of luck in her new role on the Board. Thank you to all parents/guardians who participated in the election process.

### Coming up.....

### **Christmas Holidays**

School will close for Christmas holidays at 12 noon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of December and will reopen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2026.

### **Deposit Return Scheme**

After Christmas we will collect any plastic bottles and aluminium cans in our orange returns bin which will be located at the hall door. Thank you to members of the PA who collect the returns weekly. Money raised will go towards the funding of our new play space.

### **Quiz Time!**

January will be a great month for our school quiz teams. The Cumann na mBunscol Sports Quiz preliminary rounds will be held in early January and we wish our two teams the very best as they aim to qualify for the final! Well done to Odhran, Donagh, James, Avril, Robyn, Noah, Luke and Maggie on making the team.

The Credit Union Quiz is also coming up soon and we wish our Under 11 and our Under 13 teams the very best of luck. Congratulations to Elizabeth, Saoirse, Layla and JP who will represent us in the Under 11 competition and to Avril, Odhran, Jude and Finn who will represent us in the Under 13 competition.

### **School Photos**

School photos will be taken on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of January. A link from the photographer Niamh Menton has been emailed to you. All children should wear their full school uniform on the day.

### **Gymnastics**

Gymnastic classes with Coolmine Gymnastics Club will run for 6 weeks starting on 13<sup>th</sup> of January. The cost of these lessons is €10 per child. An Aladdin payment link will be emailed to you after Christmas.

### **Educational Tours in January**

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 3rd to 6th classes will go on a trip to Dublin City. 3rd and 4th classes have been learning about the Stone Age and Bronze Age in history and about Irish artist Jack B. Yeats in art. To support these areas of the curriculum they will visit the National Gallery and the National Museum. 5th and 6th classes will begin covering the history topic An Gorta Mór in January and to support his curricular area we will visit the Jeannie Johnston Famine Ship and EPIC Museum. The cost of this educational trip will be €10 each for 3rd and 4th class and €20 each for 5th and 6th class. Aladdin payment links will be sent out in the new year.

### **Confirmation**

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of February at 3pm. We look forward to helping the children prepare for this special day.

### **Tracksuit Days Next Term**

After Christmas children will wear their school tracksuits on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the parents for your continued support this year. Thank you to our Parents' Association for their successful fundraising which enhances all aspects of school life for our pupils. With upcoming events like Confirmation, First Communion and Graduation, it is crucial that parents step up to support the planning and running of these memorable occasions for our children.

Thank you to our dedicated staff for all their hard work with their classes throughout a very busy first term.

I would like to wish all of you a very happy and healthy Christmas with your families. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Le gach dea guí,

Catherine O'Connor

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Principal

