



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

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26th of March 2026

Dear Parents,

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

### **First Confession**

2<sup>nd</sup> class children had their First Confession on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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. We have raised an impressive €2071.70 to date. 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 2026**

We had a wonderful celebration of Irish language and culture during Coicís na Gaeilge. Each class took part in a dramaíocht workshop. Sáilí and Brian from High Rock Productions put on two brilliant shows with the younger children enjoying Seachtapus and the older classes taking part in Stair. All children participated in a whole school Tráth na gCeist, Biongó and a Céilí! We held our annual Seanfhocail competition and the beautiful artwork showcasing Irish proverbs was displayed in our corridor. 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 and pictures of all activities can be viewed on our website

<https://www.standrewscurragha.com/>

### **The Big Quiz**

Well done to Avril, Finn, Jude and Odhran who took part in The Big Quiz, an exciting online event powered by Sligo Education Centre & Newstalk Radio, bringing pupils together for a fun and engaging quiz competition.

### **STEAM Team Meath**

We are delighted to announce that St. Andrew's N.S. has been selected to take part in the STEAM Team 2026 Programme. A STEAM Team is a school-based steering group that brings together school staff, parents, and children to intentionally plan for and promote STEAM activities within our school context.

For 2026, with new funding from Meath County Council (supported by META community grant), the research focus is to develop a new model for home/school collaboration to support the development of an OurKidsCode club (and other STEAM initiatives) in primary schools. We look forward to updating you on our progress in the coming weeks.

<https://ourkidscode.ie/steam-team/>

### **Mini 7s**

Our boys' and girls' teams took part in Round One of the Cumann na mBunscol Mini 7s in Dunganny on Friday, March 20th. There were some great performances all round and the boys finished third in their group after a couple of very close games. Our girls' team put on a fantastic display and went undefeated on the day. They progressed to the semifinal stage, which placed them in the top 16 teams in the county. Unfortunately, they did not progress but represented our school with extreme resilience and pride in very trying weather conditions!

### **Intercounty Success**

Congratulations to Maggie Jane and Robyn from 6th class who have been selected for the Cumann na mBunscol Meath team. They enjoyed a training session with the rest of the panel in Dunganny Centre of Excellence on Thursday 19th March, and will travel to Darver in Co. Louth to play an inter-county blitz in April - well done girls!

### **Soccer with Klaaskickz Academy**

Children from Junior Infants up to 6th class are currently enjoying weekly training sessions with Cian from Klasskickz Academy learning all about the skills and discipline required for the game of soccer.

### **FAI 5 a side**

Two boys' teams and two girls' 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 3rd and Monday, March 23rd. We had two great days of soccer with lots of skill on display and great teamwork too!

### **Confirmation Class Donation**

The children of 5th and 6th class used some of the money they received on the occasion of their Confirmation and made donations to two charities. This year the children chose Cystic Fibrosis Ireland and the Irish Cancer Society - they donated an impressive €750 to these very worthy causes.

### **Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme for 2025/2026**

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of March, we welcomed local firefighters to give a talk to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **Chess**

Following on from the first round of Féile Fichille which took place in February, our Masters' team were invited back to participate in the finals on March 26th in Ardee, Co. Louth. We wish Donagh, James, Kate, Avril, Noah, Anna, Sophie and Lauren the very best of luck!

### **Play Space Upgrade**

A heartfelt thank you to our main sponsor, local business Emerald Park, for their generous contribution to upgrading our play space. We're also deeply grateful to our dedicated Parents' Association, whose many fundraising events made this possible. Special thanks as well to ASIT, Energia, Ille, Ashbourne Credit Union, and all private donors for their support in transforming our yard.

### **School Lotto**

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.

### **Parents' Association**

Thank you to all the parents who attended our meeting on 11th of March. Thank you to Nick Storey, Ursula Rath and Deirdre Swan for their hard work on the committee. The new PA Committee is as follows:

Chairperson: Emma Drake

Vice-chairperson: Jeff McNabb

Secretary: Shauna Allen

Vice-secretary: TBC

Treasurer: Stephen Dwyer

Vice-treasurer: Lora Mooney

We look forward to a successful final term of fundraising for our school, including our annual Table Quiz and School Disco. Volunteers will be needed for the upcoming First Communion reception and the Graduation reception in June.

Thank you

### **Coming up in April/May/June**

#### **Homework Club and French Club**

Homework Club and French Club will resume on Monday 13th of April.

#### **GAA**

GAA coaching will start with our new P.O. Curraha player Matthew Brennan after the Easter holidays. Thank you to Curraha GAA Club who funds this coaching.

#### **Our Shoes**

St. Andrew's N.S. will be participating in the *Our Shoes* appeal, collecting pre-loved shoes for children in need in South Africa. Flat shoes and trainers are especially welcome. Please drop all donations to the school hall by April 24th.

<https://www.ourshoes.ie/>

#### **Active Week & Wellness Week**

Our Active Schools Committee and our Amber Flag Committee are busy preparing for a week of activity and fun during the week beginning April 27th. We are all looking forward to what is always a very enjoyable event!

#### **Staff Meeting**

School will close early on Wednesday, April 29th for all pupils. This is to facilitate a staff meeting. There will be no Homework Club or French Club on this date.

#### **Swimming**

- As part of the Aquatics Strand in the P.E. Curriculum, 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will attend 6 weeks of lessons in Aura Swimming Pool in Navan. Lessons will start on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 installments if they wish.
- Junior and Senior Infants will complete the Paws Programme where they will learn water safety skills in the classroom.

#### **First Holy Communion**

Children in 2nd class will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 23rd of May at 11.00am. Our Parents' Association are currently working hard preparing for the Communion reception for families in the hall. All volunteers are welcome to help out.

### **School Tours**

- Junior Infants to 2nd class will visit Emerald Park on Wednesday, the 10th of June for an action packed day.
- 3rd & 4th class will experience a multi-activity "Let's Go" Tour at Gormanaston Park on Wednesday 10th of June
- 5th & 6th Class will visit Tanagh Outdoor Education and Training Centre located near Rockcorry, County Monaghan for our bi-annual overnight trip on Friday, June 5th. The centre provides a range of water-based and land-based adventure activities for all.

### **Sports Day**

We will hold our annual Sports Day on Tuesday 23rd of June. Venue to be confirmed.

### **Graduation Day**

6th class graduation mass and ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 25th at 11am.

### **Camp Curragha**

Camp Curragha will run from Monday, June 29th to Friday, July 3rd from 9.30am to 1.00pm daily. This camp is open to all children from incoming Junior Infants to outgoing 6th class. An application form is attached for your convenience. Please contact Ms. Ronan or Ms. Kinsella to book a place.

### **Easter Holidays**

School will close for Easter holidays on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of March at 12 noon. School will reopen on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of April.

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

Mise le meas,



Catherine O'Connor