



January 2026

Charity number: 20116453



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We have settled back into school life after the Christmas break and are looking forward to the remainder of the term ahead. The coming weeks will bring plenty of learning, along with a range of activities and events that will keep everyone engaged.

The Ceremony of Light and First Penance for 2nd and 6th classes are big milestones this term. These occasions are very meaningful for the children and their families, and we look forward to supporting them as they get ready for these important steps in their faith journey.



Catholic Schools' Week

Catholic Schools' Week was in January, and the theme was "*Normal Lives, Called to Holiness.*" At our January

assembly we were reminded of the gospel values and how we show love to all in our school community. Third classes reflected on our connection with grandparents and all we learn from them.



Grandparents' Day

Grandparents' Day for 3rd Class took place on 30th January. The theme, *Normal Lives-Called to Holiness*, connected perfectly with Grandparents often showing us that holiness is not found in extraordinary moments, but in the simple, everyday acts of love, patience, kindness, and faithfulness that shape family life.

Grandparents (and some other special adults) joined us in the school hall for a blessing, some entertainment and refreshments. Thanks to the pupils, Ms. Horan and Mr. Ryan for planning the schedule and to the P.A for all

their wonderful hosting. It was a lovely occasion which gave the pupils an an opportunity to think about, remember, and celebrate grandparents and other special relations, and all we learn from them.





Safer Internet Day



Safer Internet Day takes place on Tuesday, 10th of February. The day focuses on the theme, “*AI Aware: Safe, Smart, and in Control.*” Classes will learn about internet safety through stories, activities and discussion.

Ms. Baxter has also organised a poster competition to highlight the positives and negatives of AI, and we look forward to seeing the winning posters displayed around the school. Each entrant will receive a merit cert, and the winning entrants from 1st-3rd class and from 3rd-6th class will receive a prize voucher.

The majority of time that children spend on the internet is at home so it is important that parents and guardians understand the potential dangers and what can be done to avoid them. If your child spends time online, using mobile phones, games consoles, social media and online streaming, it is essential

that they are safe while doing so. “Webwise” is running a series of parent webinars for Safer Internet Day 2026.

<https://www.webwise.ie/guides-parents>

Separately, the National Parents Council will provide an excellent parent talk on Internet Safety, on Wednesday 4th March at 7:30pm. This will be hosted in the Education Centre, next door to the senior building. Parents/ Guardians of St Pat’s and other local schools are invited to attend this talk, which is supported by the P.A



Stay Safe

The Stay Safe Programme is taught in full this term to the pupils of Junior Infants, 1st class, 3rd class and 5th class. Stay Safe is a personal safety skills programme. The overall aim of the programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying, by teaching the children skills and strategies for dealing with potentially unsafe, threatening or dangerous situations. A Stay Safe Parent Guide with more information was

recently sent, via Aladdin, to parents of those classes. All other classes will revisit “safety” as part of the SPHE programme this term.



FUSE Anti-Bullying programme
Pupils in 4th class cover the lessons of DCU’s FUSE Anti-Bullying programme. The 5th and 6th classes revisit FUSE this term to cover the CyberBullying lessons, as part of Internet Safety awareness.

RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education)

RSE is an integral part of the SPHE programme. Later this term, all classes will cover the sensitive elements of their class programme, under the strand units “Growing and Changing” and “Taking Care of my Body.”

A note will be sent to parents/guardians in advance of the lessons.

The 5th and 6th classes will receive an RSE talk from an Accord facilitator in April, under the guidance of their class teachers.

In advance, an ACCORD online parent talk will take place online, which will help with any queries you may have regarding the pupil talk. A link to the online parent talk, further details and consent link will be shared with the 5th/6th class parents/guardians via Aladdin closer the time. More information is also available at: <https://www.accord.ie/dublin/faqs/>

Bí Cineálta

“Bí Cineálta” is the school’s procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools. Classes were reminded of our Bí Cineálta policy and class poster at assembly and in class. We will continue to reinforce these expectations throughout the year to ensure that all pupils understand their role in maintaining a respectful school environment

St. Patrick's N.S. – Bí Cineálta Policy
We want everyone at our school to feel safe and happy.
We made this policy to try to stop bullying behaviour.

We are Upstanders

- If a student reports bullying behaviour, we will:
 - talk with the student
 - ask the student what they want to happen and make a plan together
 - talk to the other student(s) involved
 - talk with parents

We are a 'telling' school
Please tell someone if you think you are being bullied or someone else is being bullied.

Kind Words Kind Hands Kind Feet

Don't Retaliate Say No Move Away Tell

Who can help?

Teacher / Principal **SNA / Friend**

Is it Bullying?

- It is bullying when someone keeps being mean or hurtful to others on purpose, over and over again.
- Bullying is targeted at one person or a group of people.
- Online Bullying – a single hurtful message posted online can be seen as bullying because it can be shared.

If you think that you or someone else is being bullied, you need to tell a teacher or another adult that you trust. They will know how to help.

Ethos and Sacraments

Thanks to the Parent Committees of 2nd and 6th Class who have been helping with the preparation for the sacraments at the Sunday Family Masses in the chapel. We will soon be celebrating the Ceremony of Light with the 6th class pupils on Thursday 26th of February, and will celebrate First Penance with the 2nd class pupils on Thursday, 12th of March, two important milestones in the sacramental preparation. Fr. Ultan will be celebrating these special occasions with us.



Enrolment 2026

The Parent Talk for new Junior Infants 2026 will take place on Thursday, 12th of February at 7:30pm in the hall of the Junior Building.

Applications for a place in a specialised class for pupils with DLD (Developmental Language Disorder) for 2026/27, will be accepted until the 27th of February 2026. The applications for the DLD class are led by the

child's Speech and Language therapist or psychologist.

A waiting list is in operation for the Autism Class, should a place become available for the 2026/2027 school year.

Attendance Strategy

The school's policy and strategy for attendance are available on the school website. A reminder that the school is legally obligated to report to TESS (Túsla Education Support Services), any child who misses more than 20 days in the school year. You will receive notifications on Aladdin when your child has missed 15 or 20 days. Where there is a concern around your child's attendance, you will be contacted by the school.



Punctuality

We place an emphasis on being punctual to school. Our expectation is that pupils **arrive between 8:30am and 8:40am** for yard

gathering time. Pupils who arrive a few minutes late (and whose classroom does not have its own external door) should come in the door by Ms. Bassett's office. Once that door is closed, they should come in the front door at the secretary's office. Lateness is formally recorded by the class teacher on Aladdin **when pupils arrive after 9am**. While we appreciate there can be reasons for being a little late on occasion, please help ensure this is not a consistent occurrence and that your child arrives on time, organised and ready the day.



Smart Devices Policy

A reminder that smart watches should remain in school bags during the day. In line with our school policy, pupils should not bring phones to school. In recognition that current 5th and 6th class pupils may already have a phone for communication with parents, they must place it in their class phone box each morning. This ensures pupils do not have access to phones during the school day.

We are very supportive of the Parent Association Voluntary Code, encouraging families not to purchase smartphones for primary-school children. It's been fantastic to see such a high level of participation. Choosing to delay smartphone use is a positive step for children's wellbeing, and we appreciate the strong partnership with parents in promoting healthy digital habits. We remind everyone of our Smart Devices policy at each assembly.



3rd and 6th class swimming

3rd and 6th classes are enjoying their six week block of swimming lessons this term in Sportslink as part of the aquatics strand of the P.E programme.



Soccer

Two days of trials were held recently to select players for this year's senior soccer squad.

Over forty boys participated and the standard was very high. Thanks to all who attended; they can all be proud of how well they played, but unfortunately with such large numbers not everyone could be selected. It was encouraging for the younger classes to see all of the 6th Class boys who attended the trials being recognised at assembly for their sportsmanship, talent, behaviour, and willingness to give it a go. We wish the successful sixteen boys the best of luck with their matches. Thanks to Mr. Moraghan, Mr. Williams and Mr. Ryan for their time with the team.

Hurling

We look forward to hearing an update from Mr Lynch, Mr. Comerford, Ms. Cronin and Mr. Skelly about hurling season starting later in the term!

Chess Tournament

Our school looks forward to again hosting a one day chess tournament in February, run by Féile Fichille with the help of Mr. Moore. This is a non-competitive, meet-and-greet style chess tournament. We look forward to welcoming teams from Drumcondra N.S, Gardiner St Primary School and St. Vincent's G.N.S.



Peace Proms

The pupils in Mr. Doyle's and Mr. Comerford's 4th classes have been very busy in recent weeks polishing their dance moves and rehearsing musical and pop medleys for the Peace Proms, which will take place on Sunday, 8th of February in the RDS Arena. They will perform alongside the internationally acclaimed Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland and a choir of 2,500 children. Sincere thanks to the class teachers for their hard work and the time they have dedicated to making this wonderful experience possible.

Credit Union Quiz

Well done to the pupils from 5th and 6th class who tried out for the school quiz team. It was great to see such a strong interest and display of general knowledge - they can all be proud of themselves. The preliminary rounds will take place on the 6th of February, and this year we will have three teams entering the competition.

Best of luck to our representatives and thanks to Mr. Moore for helping with the all the organising.

The pupils representing the schools are:

Team A: Daniel Bourke, William O'Reilly, Leo Jensen, Kevin Ryan, Sub: Iarlaith Drew



Team B: Ben Smith, Conor McNulty, Rian O' Sullivan, Isaac Lee, Sub: Patrick Reville.



Team C: Xavier Moss, Noah Finucane, Oisín McNulty, Daniel Corrigan, Sub: Aidan Browne



Also, best of luck to 6th class pupil, Daniel Daly, playing table-tennis with Team Ireland in Croatia this week!

Podcasters

Our 5th classes recently began podcasting! They have been developing an impressive range of skills, from planning interviews and writing scripts to recording and editing, practising their communication skills and learning how to work together creatively. Ms. Cronin's class interviewed Ms. Bassett as their inaugural guest, and they followed this by welcoming Florence from News2Day. Once the classes have finished editing their interviews, we look forward to sharing their podcasts on our school website.

News2Day visited the school to interview some of the pupils about their work. It was a very exciting experience to share where they are on their podcasting journey.





Student Council

Mr. Moore plans to meet with the Student Council this term to get some feedback on our BÍ Cineálta school policy, as part of our annual review of the policy.

Active Committee

The Active Committee and Mr. Skelly continue to promote and organise the yard activities and schedule. They have also encouraged classes to try some of the Active Break '26 challenges in their classrooms during January.

Wellbeing Wizards

The Wellbeing Wizards and Ms. Quinn continue to promote connection and fun between older and younger classes during Wellbeing Wednesday each month.

Green School Committee

The members of the new Green School Committee are:
John Lennon and Charlie McNamee (1st class); Donnacha Hughes, Reon Moran and Andrew Ioana (2nd class and Ms. Baxter's class); Daniel Byrne, Eli Siwale Poland and Jacob O' Garro (3rd class and Ms. Gallagher's class); Cooper McCarthy and Aidan

Maguire (4th class); David Cleary and Davin O'Dwyer (5th class) and Leo Jensen and Seán Kinsella (6th class).

The new committee members met with Ms. Cronin to decide on their officer roles and the next steps in renewing our Green Flag. We look forward to hearing more from them as they help to promote a litter free and sustainable environment.



Out and About

Mr. Doyle's 4th class recently attended an engineering workshop at the local library. They learned about how engineering shapes the world around us and explored some of the problem-solving and creative thinking involved in the field. It was a great opportunity for them to hear about real-life examples of engineering in action and to spark their curiosity about how things are designed and built.

Mr. Comerford's class will be visiting the DCU gym to engage in a series of P.E lessons with DCU's P.E specialism students.

This partnership gives pupils a great opportunity to develop their skills and try new activities with the help of the students.

Ms. Baxter's and Ms. Gallagher's pupils have been invited to a DLD celebration day in Powerstown School, where they will engage in some group activities and enjoy some treats.

3rd and 4th classes are developing their G.A.A skills this term with the help of Mark Cooper from Na Fianna, using DCU's astro pitch each week.

The 5th classes attended Dublin Castle for a guided tour where they learned about its rich history and its role in Ireland's past and present.



The 6th Class Bake Sale in the school hall will be on Friday, 13th Feb in aid of Child Vision!

Hot school meals

This month we carried out a review of the Hot School Meals provision in our school. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey, both your feedback and the pupils' feedback were extremely helpful and helped inform the review.

All meal providers must follow the Department of Social Protection's strict guidelines regarding what can and cannot be included on school menus. This means that certain items removed last summer cannot be reinstated, even if requested. However, the company has listened to some of our suggestions of suitable alternatives and pass these to the relevant personnel including their dietician. Portion sizes are also set by the Department and cannot be altered by the school or the provider. We are currently trialling a new system with some classes, that keeps food warmer for longer. Pupils have already given very positive feedback, and we plan to extend this to other classes.

A review of pupil orders suggests that some children may not be

aware of the new menu items added last term, or may not update their choices. Your child may wish to try some new menu items if they haven't done so already. If your child is no longer taking part in the Hot School Meals Scheme and is bringing their own lunch instead, please email the office so their name can be removed from the Carambola ordering system, and to avoid unwanted orders.



Parking

A reminder that we are in a "School Zone." In the interest of pupil safety, please abide by traffic and parking rules & restrictions on Milbourne Avenue and on DCU grounds. This includes stopping in the painted "school zone", or in the yellow lined areas of DCU campus. A reminder that the school car park is for staff only, and in the interest of safety, please do not park or stop inside or at the school car park gates. A reminder also to maintain respectful interactions with other drivers in pupils' presence.

P.A.

Sincere thanks to the P.A. members and 3rd class parent volunteers who helped make Grandparents' Day such a special event by providing tea and coffee and refreshments.

The P.A will share details of an Internet Safety talk, to be held in the Education Centre on the 4th of March.

The recent AGM was very well attended. Anne Looney, chairperson of our Board of Management gave an insightful talk about her role with the National Convention on Education, which is currently gathering the voices of parents, pupils and staff to help shape the future of education. She also discussed topics such as AI, wellbeing, and the core values that guide our school community. Ms. Bassett spoke about the school's improvement plan, outlining the work currently underway, the priorities planned and the key areas of expenditure last year.

The Chairperson, Audrey Buckley, gave an overview of the events and initiatives that the

Parents' Association supports throughout the school year, while Kate Sarna gave an overview of the results of the No Smartphone Voluntary Code.

The Treasurer, Aoife O'Leary gave an overview of accounts and Claire Timon provided a P.R.O report.

Cliona Kernan, from the Board of Management, provided an update on the sensory garden design.

The plans are progressing well and the full design will be shared with the school community once we have followed up with DCU on a small number of outstanding queries.

At the A.G.M, the P.A and B.o.M thanked Audrey Buckley for her great work as Chairperson. As her term has come to an end, a new Chairperson needs to be nominated. Rebecca Thompson was nominated as Deputy Chair. Nominations for Chair are invited at the next meeting on the 10th of February.

We look forward to hearing more information about the Family Quiz, expected to take place on Sunday, 22nd March!

Board of Management

The Board met on the 12th of January. Correspondence was discussed, including correspondence from the Department of Education in relation to Special Classes. The Child Protection Oversight Report and Anti-Bullying Oversight Report were presented.

The Board considered and approved the priority areas and responsibilities for the vacant Assistant Principal 2 position, which will be filled on an acting basis.

The Board reviewed the survey responses from parents and pupils in relation to the Hot Meals Scheme to date. It was agreed that these findings will be shared with the Hot Meals provider at an upcoming annual review meeting. The Board approved and ratified the updated Whole School Maths Plan, and thanked those involved for their work on this.

The Principal's Report and Teaching and Learning Report were presented. The Board noted in particular the success of recent Christmas school events and

commended all involved.

The Board received an update on the Sensory Garden and the treasurer provided an update on the school accounts. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 9th of February.

The school was saddened to hear of the passing of Fr. Ultan's father last week. We extend our deepest sympathies to Fr. Ultan and his family at this sad time. May his father rest in peace.

Calendar of upcoming dates:

1. Mid-term break: **Thursday 19th and Friday 20th of February.**
2. School closure: **Tuesday, 3rd of March** to facilitate staff training in the New Primary Curriculum Framework.
3. School closure: **Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th March** for St Patrick's Day.
4. End of term is **Friday, 27th of March** (Finish time that day will be 11:50am).

Thank you for your continued support,
Natasha Bassett- Principal