

ST PATRICK'S N.S

MAY NEWSLETTER



CHARITY NUMBER:20116453

ETHOS AND SACRAMENTS

It was a very special month for our 2nd Class pupils as they celebrated their First Holy Communion. Under the guidance of their teachers and Fr. Ultan, the ceremony was such a memorable occasion for the children and their families. We extend a huge thank-you to the 2nd Class parent committee who helped with Sunday Masses, and to the 1st Class parents and P.A who put on a wonderful reception afterwards. Their generosity truly embodied the spirit of paying it forward, and it made the day even more meaningful for our school community.



GREEN SCHOOL NEWS



It was a wonderful month for our Green School Committee, who were successful in renewing our Green Flag. The whole school was delighted with the news and proud of the hard work that made it possible. Two committee members-along with two teachers, Ms. Cronin and Ms. Walsh, were invited by An Taisce to a special ceremony in the Helix to receive our new flag for Global Citizenship- Litter and Waste. We look forward to raising it proudly before the end of the year. A sincere thank-you to everyone involved for their dedication and enthusiasm.



You can read all about the Green School Committee's work throughout the year, here:

<https://saintpats.ie/2026/05/25/green-schools-flag-renewal-global-citizenship-litter-waste/>

If you haven't already seen the video clip of our recent Action Day Clean Up, organised by the Green School Committee, click on the link below and scroll down to view <https://saintpats.ie/2026/04/27/an-taisces-spring-clean/>



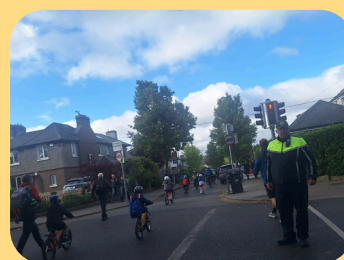
MAY ASSEMBLY

At our May Assembly, we held the much-anticipated Sponsored Walk Raffle. Congratulations to our lucky winners – Finn and Zara from Junior Infants, Molly from Senior Infants, and Sam and Ben from 1st and 3rd class. There was great excitement in the hall as each name was called out. We also took the opportunity to share some important reminders, along with updates on recent sporting achievements and other school news.



COW- CYCLE ON WEDNESDAY

As part of National Bike Week, our Active and Green Committees, with fantastic support from the Parents' Association, organised a very successful Cycle on Wednesday (CoW event). A huge thank-you to the parents and staff who joined the pupils on the two "cycling trains" travelling safely to school. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the local gardai, who assisted along the route and helped ensure the event ran smoothly. It's a great day to celebrate active travel, school community and a greener way of getting to school.



ATHLETICS IN SANTRY

Well done to all our pupils who represented the school so brilliantly at Santry this week. Our 5th Class relay team ran a fantastic race, finishing third in their heat. They were very close to a podium place overall. A huge congratulations to all the 5th and 6th Class pupils who took part across the events, including high jump, shot put, relay, and the 600 metres. Their effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship were outstanding, and we are very proud of them all. Thanks to Mr. Skelly, Mr Lynch and Ms. Cronin for volunteering their time early in the morning for training and trials.



BASKETBALL COACHING

Our 4th, 5th and 6th classes had the opportunity to receive some coaching by a basketball coach from Tolka Rovers, as part of a local schools programme. A group of 12 pupils from the three class levels then travelled with Mr. Ryan to the National Basketball Arena to take part in the schools event. It was a fantastic experience for them – a chance to play in a national venue, meet pupils from other schools, and put their new skills into practice in a fun and supportive environment.

The pupils represented the school very well, showing great teamwork, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the day. Thanks to Mr. Ryan for his involvement with this.



JUNIOR HURLING

Our 5th Class Junior hurling team has had a fantastic season so far, playing three matches and winning two out of the three. The boys have shown great teamwork, determination, and skill in each game, and we are very proud of their efforts and sportsmanship. We look forward to the rest of the league and wish the team continued success. Thank to their coaches, Ms. Cronin and Mr. Skelly, and also to our parent group who helped with our morning training sessions.



SENIOR HURLING

Our 6th class senior hurlers have achieved something very special! In their semi-final match, they found themselves six points down at the start of the second half. Lesser teams might have dropped their heads, but not our boys. They dug deep, showed incredible determination, and fought their way back to win by a single point! It was a display of heart, resilience and teamwork that made the school proud. We now look forward to supporting them in the final on 8th of June, as they take to the pitch in Croke Park, an unforgettable experience for any young hurler! Thanks to the coaches, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Comerford, and also to the parent group who helped with our morning training sessions.



SOCCER

The 6th Class Soccer team played with real heart in every match this year. They narrowly missed out on being first in our League Group - winning against Our Lady of Victories, St Canices and putting up a fantastic effort against Sacred Heart. They demonstrated excellent teamwork and fairplay, and represented themselves and the school very well in training and matches. Thanks to the players, coaches and supporters!

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 17th of June, weather permitting!

If the weather is not good, it will take place on Thursday, 18th of June instead.

Pupils should arrive at school that day as normal, with their usual school bag/books/copies. They should also have a small "kit" bag to take with them between activities. This should contain a substantial small lunch and extra drink (and a main lunch if your child does not usually avail of a hot meal). It should also contain a sun cap and sun cream if the weather is fine, and a rain jacket in the event of showers! Pupils should wear their school tracksuit bottoms or navy shorts, and can wear their favourite sports top/t-shirt. We look forward to a fun day!

4TH CLASS FIGHTING WORDS

This month, Mr. Doyle's class attended a Fighting Words workshop, to share their creative story-writing ideas to create their class story!

<https://www.fightingwords.ie/stories-creative-work/school-stories/petes-pizzeria-revenge>

5TH CLASS CYCLE TRAINING

Our 5th classes have been taking part in a seven session Cycle Right course in the school grounds. Cycle Right is the National Standard for Cycle Training and provides practical cycle safety and skills training to promote competent and confident cyclists. It is produced and supported by the Department of Transport, the Road Safety Authority and Cycling Ireland. Pupils are receiving skills training mixed with theory and Rules of the Road instruction.



NEW INFANTS

We look forward to meeting all of our new boys and girls when they come to visit us on the afternoon of 12th of June meet their teacher and see their classroom!

YARD PAINTINGS ON THE INFANT YARD

We are delighted with the new yard paintings in the infant yard. This was something we had originally planned with the PA a couple of years ago, but unfortunately the project was delayed at the time. A new company completed the work recently, and the results are fantastic- bright, engaging and already being enjoyed by the Junior and Senior Infants



ONLINE SAFETY TALKS/ DIGITAL DEVICES

5th and 6th Class took part in a safety workshop this month, delivered by Barnardos. Each class learned about staying safe online, making good choices, and understanding how to use the internet responsibly. The workshops were very engaging, and a good reminder to pupils about expected online behaviour.

A reminder that pupils are not permitted to wear smart-watches in school. If your child brings a smartwatch for the purpose of contacting you after school, it must remain switched off and kept in their school bag throughout the day.

As per school policy, pupils are not allowed access to mobile phones during the school day. If any child currently in 5th class has a phone and if it is brought to school next year, it must be placed in the Teacher's Box on arrival, and collected from the box at home time. It is anticipated that no other pupils will bring phones to school from 2026/2027.

We expect that the P.A.'s 'No Smartphone Voluntary Code' will apply fully to all pupils in all classes from 2026/2027.

GRADUATIONS

6th class Graduation will take place on Friday 26th of June at 10am in the chapel, followed by a tea/coffee reception. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Our Senior Infants will graduate from the Junior Building and receive their graduation certs on Wednesday, 24th June at 12:50pm in the Junior Building hall. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL TOURS

Summer Tours are taking place and we hope everyone has an enjoyable day.

Junior and Senior Infants and Mr William's class will visit Newbridge Farm, Donabate.

1st class: Fort Lucan

2nd class and Ms. Baxter's class: Crystal Maze Adventure Centre, Co. Meath

3rd class: Clara Lara, Co. Wicklow

4th Class and Ms. Gallagher's class: Alive Outside Adventure Centre, Co. Wicklow,

5th class: Lilliput Adventure Centre, Co. Westmeath

6th Class: Alive Outside Adventure Centre, Co. Wicklow,

Details of your child's tour is on Aladdin.



SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

All school textbooks, novels and readers should be returned to the school in good condition next Monday, the 8th of June. The Book Scheme will again be in operation for 2026/2027.

There will be reading and learning homework next week, and no homework from Monday, 15th of June, to facilitate preparation of textbooks for next year.

STUDENT COUNCIL

This year, the Council raised over €900, which will go towards creating a Movement Break Resource Box for each classroom. While they did not get the chance to cost and order the equipment before the end of term, this will be the first task for the new Student Council in the coming school year.

Hopefully, the Student Council can help with one final task before the school year ends: gathering feedback from 3rd-6th Class on their experiences with our tin whistle classes over the past few years, and to collect ideas on how we can continue to promote the Arts across the school. Thanks to our Council members for all their help throughout the year with various activities.

STANDARDISED TESTING



School reports will be made available on Aladdin in a couple of weeks time.

As always, standardised tests in literacy and numeracy are administered in term three from 1st-6th class and will be noted in the reports.

It is so important to note that standardised tests are only one of the measures that your child's teacher uses to build a picture of your child's learning, and are only a snapshot of how a child performs in Maths and English on a specific day.

A STEN score reflects how your child compares with pupils of the same age nationally at that moment in time, each year with a different age band. For this reason, a change in STEN score does not necessarily mean a change in progress. Classroom work, observations, and other class assessments help understand each child's progress.

A note on understanding standardised tests scores can be found on [ncca.ie](https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf):
https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf

The school's preference would be not to discuss standardised tests with pupils, but to focus instead on how well they worked in general throughout the year. We STRONGLY advise that you only discuss results in general terms with children, rather than giving them a numeric value. Sharing scores with children can cause undue worry about 'going up' or 'going down' from year to year, when it is perfectly natural for results to do this. Reports should NOT be a topic of conversation in school, particularly in the senior classes, as it can cause a lot of undue pressure for children.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management met on 25th of May. The Child Protection Oversight Report and Anti-Bullying Oversight Report were presented and correspondence was considered.

The School Website Accessibility Statement was approved. The revised Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) was reviewed and the Board expressed thanks to the staff members involved and provided some further feedback. This policy will be brought forward for ratification at a future Board meeting following minor amendments. The Board commended the creativity of all entries received in the AUP poster competition for senior classes and congratulated the student who submitted the winning entry.

The updated Wellbeing Statement was considered. The Board expressed its thanks to the staff members involved and provided further feedback. The statement will be brought forward for ratification at a future Board meeting following minor amendments.

The Principal's Report and Teaching and Learning Report were presented.

An update of P.A activities was received. The Board expressed its appreciation for their hard work in organising recent fundraising events and supporting the receptions for the Confirmation and First Holy Communion classes.

The Board noted the success of the recent Confirmation and First Holy Communion ceremonies and thanked the staff involved in sacramental preparation.

The Board received an update on the Sensory Garden project. A further update is expected in June.

The Treasurer provided an update on the school accounts. The next Board of Management Meeting will be on Monday, 22nd June 2026.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This year, we focused on developing and embedding targets from Years One and Two, including developing teaching methodologies in line with the new Maths Curriculum. Also, continued partnership with the NCSE through the In-School Therapy Support programme, to help support an inclusive learning environment for all. Through that, we have planned for a whole school approach to visuals which will commence from the start of the new school year.

AND FINALLY

Enrolment for next year
If any families will not be returning to school next year, could you please let the office know as soon as possible. It is important that we have this information to help us plan our classes for the coming year.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

A huge thank you to the P.A for helping with recent and upcoming events such as the Cycle on Wednesday, the Communion Reception with the 1st Class parents, the 6th Class hoodies, 6th Class graduation reception, new infant induction tea/coffee reception, and the annual Pre-loved uniform sale. These events are highlights for the school community and we appreciate the time and effort that goes into making them a success.

A recent talk by play therapist, Regina Igoe, was very well-attended. Thanks to the P.A for organising such an interactive and informative talk.

Thanks to all our P.A for their help during the year, and a special thanks to those who leave the school as their children start post-primary school.



CALENDAR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tour dates	17 th June	30 th June
Check Aladdin	Sports Day	Last day of term. Finish 11:50am

Le gach deá-ghuí,

Natasha Bassett

Principal

