



Easter '25

Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

How quickly time has flown this term! January feels like it was just yesterday, and now, here we are with Easter on the horizon and a bustling calendar of exciting events ahead. We've had a busy and eventful few months at school, filled with memorable experiences, learning milestones, and plenty of laughter. There's so much to reflect on, and even more to look forward to as we enter this exciting time of year.

Since January, our students have been working hard, both academically and socially. It's been a time of growth, not only in the classroom but also in extracurricular activities. We've seen amazing efforts in our various school clubs, sports teams, and creative projects. Whether it's been a class project, a special themed day, or a collaborative effort in sports, the children have been shining in so many ways. Their enthusiasm and determination are heartening!

As we approach the final months of the school year, we're preparing for what's sure to be an action-packed time. With so many upcoming events, our school is buzzing with excitement. First, we're gearing up for our Sports Days, where our students will showcase their athletic talents and teamwork in a fun, friendly competition. This is always a highlight of the year, and we can't wait for these fun days.

We're also planning School Tours, which will give our students the chance to have fun together and learn beyond the classroom. These trips are a great opportunity for the children to explore new places and make lasting memories.

We are happy to announce our upcoming Grandparents Day celebration. This is a day where we'll honour the special role that grandparents play in our students' lives, with fun activities and shared moments that bring our school community even closer.

Of course, we have the annual Standardised Testing during May and there's still plenty of curriculum work to keep everyone busy.

In a couple of months we look forward to Graduation, as we celebrate our graduating students' achievements and bid them farewell as they embark on their next journey. It's always a bittersweet moment, as we're so proud of their growth and accomplishments but will miss their presence in our school community.

We know that this is a very busy time of year, and we appreciate the continued support from all of our parents and families. As we juggle these exciting events, we're committed to making sure that the children's learning remains top priority, and we're grateful for the partnership between home and school that makes everything we do so special.

Please keep an eye on our school calendar and newsletter for all the important dates and details on these upcoming events. We can't wait to share these moments with you and your family as we continue to make this year one to remember.

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. Let's make the remainder of this year a truly memorable one for all of our students!

Principal



Find & circle the following words in the newsletter to be in with a chance to win a homework pass:

**Bunny
Chocolate
Eggs
(Each word is mentioned once)**

Board of Management News

We begin with some news from the Board of Management.....



Incoming Junior Infants

Applications for Junior Infants for September 2025 are now closed and we have filled 3 classes. Parents of incoming Junior Infants are invited to attend an information meeting in the school on May 25th. At this meeting, Mr. O'Connor and the Junior Infant teachers will share important and relevant information with parents about start dates, day to day for Junior Infants, preparing the children for school, etc. Incoming Junior Infants visit the school for an introductory visit in June. Details of this will be shared at the information meeting on the 25th.

Solar Panels

As part of the Governments Schools Photovoltaic Programme, solar panels will be installed on the schools roof. This project is grant funded. It should reduce electricity costs in the future, albeit on a small scale.

Lotto

In March, we launched our exciting new Lotto Fundraiser, providing an easy and affordable way for parents, families, and the wider community to support our school. For just a small entry fee, participants have the chance to win fantastic prizes, all while helping us raise funds for essential school resources and activities. This fun and simple initiative allows everyone to contribute to the school's success without it being a significant financial burden. We're grateful for the support and look forward to seeing how this fundraiser helps enhance the learning experience for our students! We have a weekly winner but so far no-one has won the jackpot. The jackpot stands at €1,475



SCAN ME

Parents Association

We cannot say it enough times how lucky we are to have the support of such a dedicated Parents Association. Again, we extend our deepest gratitude to the Parents Association for their ongoing hard work, support, and creativity in helping raise vital funds for the children in St. Mary's National School. Through their tireless efforts, initiatives such as Cash for Clobber, Battle of the Bottles, the visit of Dr. O'Kane speaking about building resilience in our children, and the participation in our school's Social Walk and Talk mornings, have made a significant impact. These activities not only raised essential funds but also brought our school community closer together, fostering a spirit of collaboration and care. We are bunny fortunate to have such a dedicated group of parents who are committed to enhancing the educational experience of all our students. You can read more about the P.A.'s Battle of the Bottles initiative in the article overleaf written by one of our 6th class students.



6th Class Hoodies!!

By Evita Kalibaite

"In Sixth class, we have been preparing to receive our Sixth Class Leaving hoodies. We got to pick what colours we wanted and the options were Lilac, Royal Blue, Grey and Black. The majority of the class chose lilac. The rest of the class chose the other colours. We want to say a big thank you to the PA (Parents' Association) & Ms. Behan for organizing the hoodies for us, we are so grateful that we got hoodies.

The hoodies will have the students' names on the back along with "Class of 2025". We are all looking forward to receiving these Sixth Class jumpers."

Board of Management News, cont'd.....



The Battle of the Bottles

by Saoirse Colley 6th Class!

"Here in St Mary's National School we started our Battle of the Bottles competition. Every class competes head to head trying to bring in as many bottles as they can for their class. The class that brings in the most bottles wins a trip to Melt!"

The Student Council and the Parents' Association have been working together to ensure the game is fair and enjoyed by everyone here in St Mary's.

After four weeks of the competition the Parents' Association were astonished by how many bottles were brought in so they had to add a second and third place as well!!

In third place was Mr Lynch's third class!! They won a delicious chocolate treat!

In second place was Ms Bennett's Junior Infants!! They won an easter egg for everyone in the class!!

In first place was Ms Barry's Senior Infants!! They won a class trip to Melt!!

And as well the Parents' Association gave everyone a packet of jellies!!

Thank you to everyone who helped or participated in this event. And a huge thank you to the Student Council for coming up with the idea and the Parents' Association for making this fundraiser happen!!"



Painting of classrooms

One of the projects which has been made possible by the Parents Association is the internal painting and refreshing of the school. We are thrilled that the 3rd class rooms and corridor have been freshly painted, and new felt noticeboards have been installed. This vibrant upgrade provides a brighter, more hygienic and more welcoming environment for our students to learn and grow. A big thank you to everyone who contributed, as your support has made this transformation possible!

Outdoor/ Sensory Space

Your fundraising contributions have also made it possible for us to begin planning the development of our **new outdoor adventure and sensory space** which will be designed to inspire creativity, exploration and sensory experiences for our students. With a back-to-basics approach, the space will feature sandpits, tyres, tunnels, and even an outdoor classroom, all aimed at encouraging free, imaginative play and fostering a love for the outdoors. Some of our team members have visited other schools in the county to gather inspiration and advice on creating a space that will spark adventure and promote physical activity. We're excited to begin implementing some small changes over the Easter break, and we hope to offer the children a fresh, dynamic environment where they can embrace nature, learn through play, and enjoy the chocolate fresh air. Dirt boxes were introduced earlier in the term and the younger children are really enjoying playing in them. If any parents or family members have expertise in this area or are able to offer landscaping services, we would love to hear from you and welcome your support!



Board of Management News, cont'd.....

School uniform

Children are permitted, weather dependent, to wear the St Mary's **school shorts**. If you have not purchased these yet, children may wear plain, loose-fitting, school appropriate navy or wine coloured shorts (i.e not tight fitting shorts) with their regular uniform or school tracksuit.

The white collar polo-shirt is the only t-shirt permitted to be worn. If you are cutting school trousers or tracksuit bottoms, please use a hem. Replacement school ties can be purchased in Anu Fashions.

For health and safety reasons, jewellery is not allowed, with the exception of a watch (not a 'smartwatch') and a stud earring in the ear. Hair styles are to be kept clean and neat. For hygiene reasons, long hair should be tied up.

Nails are to be kept short, clean and natural. Make-up and false tan are not permitted.

Easter Hamper Raffle

The winners of the Easter Hamper Raffle are:

1. Ben Kelly, 6th class
2. Lily-Rose Lydon, Senior Infants
3. Éabha Maguire, 6th class
4. Riley McDermott, 1st class
5. Daniel Donnelly, 6th class
6. Méabh Creagh, Junior Infants
7. Aleks Todorowski, 1st class
8. Gerard McCormack, 6th class
9. Lauren Hann Mulvany, Senior Infants
10. Noah Rogers, Junior Infants

Bonus Hampers:

- Sadie Woods, 5th class
- Sarah Conroy, 2nd class
- Rhys Campbell, 4th class



THANK
you

Easter Competition

Just find and circle the following words which are randomly placed in the newsletter

(Each word is mentioned only once)



Bunny
Chocolate
Eggs

Bring this printed copy of the newsletter in to your teacher with the words circled and receive a homework pass.



Learning in the Classroom

While we always make time for fun, our main focus remains on learning. Inside the classroom, students have been engaging in a variety of curriculum-based activities, all while enjoying creative and fun approaches to deepen their understanding. Our teachers continue to learn too and implement new curriculum changes, ensuring that our students receive the most up-to-date and effective educational experiences.

Fire Safety Seminars

The students in 3rd class at St. Mary's National School recently had an informative fire safety talk from the local fire station in Ashbourne. The firefighters shared essential safety tips, including the importance of having a fire escape plan at home and how to safely stop, drop, and roll if caught in a fire. The children learned valuable lessons that will help keep them safe in emergencies. We're grateful to the Ashbourne Fire Station for this engaging and important presentation!



Book Fair + World Book Day

St. Mary's National School recently enjoyed a fantastic visit from the Book Fair, coinciding with our World Book Day celebrations. The children had a wonderful time dressing up as their favourite book characters, bringing stories to life and showcasing their love for reading. It was a day filled with fun and excitement, but it also highlighted the importance of reading in our daily lives. Encouraging boys and girls to read not only sparks their imagination but also helps improve literacy skills, expands knowledge, and fosters a lifelong love of learning. What a memorable and inspiring day it was for all!

You can read more about the visiting book fair in this article below by 6th class student Chloe Davis.

The Book Fair

by Chloe Davis 6th class.

"This year in St Marys N.S we had our annual book fair. We are happy to say it was a great success.

There were so many books to choose from at great prices. There was a book for everyone's ages and interests.

We loved seeing how many of our pupils were interested in reading. We hope all our children enjoyed the time out of class whether it was reading or buying books.

We managed to raise lots of money for our school and that will go towards loads of fun activities throughout the year.

A big thank you to all the parents and children for bringing in money and purchasing loads of our books. And also a thanks to the student council for creating a presentation and showing it at assembly to inform all our pupils."



St. Mary's Continues Its Creative Schools Journey!

We are delighted to be entering our second year of the Creative Schools Programme, continuing to nurture creativity and artistic expression among our students. This exciting initiative has given our children the opportunity to explore a variety of artists and develop their own unique artistic styles.

Each month, our students learn about a new artist, studying their techniques and the inspiration behind their work. This April, our focus is on the legendary Pablo Picasso, and the children have been busy creating their own Picasso-inspired masterpieces. From bold colours to abstract portraits, their artwork truly reflects the creativity and enthusiasm that this programme fosters.

To celebrate their hard work, Mr. O'Connor selected a standout piece from every classroom, and these fantastic artworks now take pride of place in our very own St. Mary's Masterpiece Gallery. This special display allows the whole school community to admire and appreciate the incredible talent of our young artists.

We are so proud of our students' artistic achievements and look forward to another inspiring year of creativity in St. Mary's Creative Schools Programme! Keep an eye out for next month's featured artist – more masterpieces are on the way!

The article below, written by Lauren and Molly from Ms. O'Connor's class explains how the children are learning about science, research and statistics.



EPIC Museum Tour

By Luiza Dascalu, James Beggy and Adam Lynch.

In February the two 5th classes went on a trip to the EPIC Museum in Dublin . We all went downstairs to find lots of very interesting facts about the famine. Then we went to a dress-up room, where you could dress up and hold a clipboard and get pictures taken. We got a passport and we had to collect stamps in it. In every room there was a stamp machine where we would stamp our passports. There was even an interactive quiz, Irish traditional music and an old style Irish pub. We all saw a little video about transport and communication between now and a long time ago during the Great Famine. When we were finished at the EPIC Museum, we went on the replica of a famine ship, the Jeannie Johnston! It had very realistic dolls that were life size. We got a tour of the ship and we all loved it!



START Competition

By Lauren McCarthy and Molly O'Doherty, Ms. O'Connor's 4th Class

In November we started watching a webinar series called Meet the Scientist. We learnt about the START competition and decided to enter. After weeks of looking at different ideas for our randomised research we finally decided on doing research on homework and does it affect family stress levels.

We look at all the different ways that we could collect the ideas. We decided on a questionnaire.

Using a spinner we divided the class into 2 parts. For one week half the class had homework as normal and the other half didn't.

Lauren designed and created a chart to see families' stress levels which we then filled out every night for one week. We then compared the stress levels for each group and the results are Find out in the summer Newsletter!!!

By Lauren McCarthy and Molly O'Doherty, Ms. O'Connor's 4th Class



Faith Development

Confirmation

The children from both 6th classes recently celebrated a very special milestone as they made their Confirmation in our church, with Bishop Deenihan leading the ceremony and confirming the children. After the service, they gathered with their family and friends to celebrate this important occasion. The following Monday, the children returned to school in their finery, proudly wearing their Confirmation clothes. They had their photographs taken, shared their joy with classmates, and even visited the classrooms.



First Communion

This weekend the children of second class will attend their final "Do This In Memory" mass in preparation for their First Communion on Saturday 10th May. The children have been working so hard learning about Communion, learning prayers, preparing artwork and visiting the church. We wish all our Communicants a wonderful day making lots of happy memories. After the ceremony families are invited back to the school for a meet-up and refreshments.



First Confession for Boys and Girls in First Class

This year, our First Class students at St. Mary's National School made an important and special step in their faith journey by receiving the sacrament of First Confession. With joyful hearts, the children participated in this sacred moment, where they learned the importance of forgiveness, kindness, and seeking peace in their lives. It was a beautiful occasion for both students and families, filled with reflections and prayers. We are proud of the children's growth in faith and look forward to supporting them as they continue their spiritual journey through the sacraments. Congratulations to all the children on this meaningful milestone!



Fourth Class Lenten Service

By Emma & Michael, 4th class, Ms. O'Connor

"Father Michael was in our class on Thursday 3/4/25. He was talking to us about Easter, lent and the Stations of the Cross. We had a prayer service with him. We learnt that other countries don't have chocolate eggs like we do. We also learned that Jesus met his mother Mary, Simon, Veronica and the women of Jerasulum while he was carrying the cross. People from our class and from the class next door did readings."



De La Salle Reflection Day

By Aoife Lynam, 6th class

"On Friday the 21st of March 6th class went to De La Salle Retreat Centre.

The gates opened at 8:45 am. Once everyone arrived we got our cold lunches and then we did attendance. At 9:00 am we all got on the bus and left.

When we arrived at De La Salle Retreat Centre we were split up into three groups of 20 every group had a team leader their names were Eugene, Conor and Ailish.

Each group went to different rooms with their teacher. In the rooms we played games and we did some drawing. We drew posters about the things we would miss about primary school and what we wouldn't miss. We also played games like Guess Who?, Guess the Logo and Guess the Movie. They also talked about secondary school."





Remembering Our Friend



Gerard O'Byrne

The whole St Mary's NS School Community was both shocked and saddened when we heard that Mr Gerard O'Byrne, a former teacher in our school had passed away.

Gerard/ Mr. O'Byrne was such a huge part of our school right back to when he started teaching in St Mary's NS in September 1986. As a teacher he brought so much to the school throughout his 34 years here - a brilliant educator both in mainstream classes and in various Learning Support roles. He taught children with the sole aim of getting the best out of each individual child, showing care, empathy and kindness to each student. Gerard loved teaching and children loved being taught by him as his energy, sense of fun and true dedication filled his classrooms.

As well as being a wonderful teacher, Gerard had an array of talents and skills. He was our 'go to' person for Digital Technology in the school introducing a wide range of IT initiatives, always ensuring that the latest programmes or technology were provided to our students and staff. His musical talent was one that was so evident both in his classroom but also throughout the school. This was most notably on show at the Christmas Carol Service whereby Gerard led the rehearsals and then the service itself with tremendous energy, fun and enjoyment.

Gerard was not 'only' a teacher in our school. He was a fantastic colleague and a wonderful friend to the many members of staff who worked with him throughout his 34 years in St Mary's. He formed great friendships with so many of the staff and these continued after his retirement and we were always delighted to have him back with us to help out with our Christmas Bazaar or just to sit and have a chat with him when he called in to see the pupils and staff.

During the days after his death, it was so clear from the conversations, phone calls, messages and cards how highly regarded Gerard was with students, staff and families, both past and present. It was greatly appreciated by the school and by Gerard's family to hear or read these very kind and heartfelt tributes. It reminded us all of the importance and value of a school community.

Gerard will be greatly missed but he has left an indelible mark on those who knew him.

May his gentle soul Rest in Peace/ Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Extra Curricular

There is plenty of activity beyond the classroom, thanks to a wide range of extracurricular activities that allow students to explore their passions and talents, from sports teams to f clubs. These activities promote teamwork, physical fitness, and creativity and help students develop important life skills, not to mention the simple enjoyment that is to be gotten from sports and creativity. We're proud of the enthusiasm and dedication the children bring to each activity!

3rd & 4th Class Boys Shine in GAA Match Against St. Canice's!

Our 3rd and 4th class boys put on a fantastic display of effort, passion, and skill in their recent GAA match against St. Canice's of Finglas. From start to finish, the team played with great determination, showcasing their hard work and teamwork on the field.

It was wonderful to see so many parents cheering from the sidelines, creating a brilliant atmosphere and encouraging the players throughout the game. Most importantly, the boys had a fantastic time and are already looking forward to more matches ahead. Exciting times ahead for our young GAA stars!

FAI Blitz- MDL Navan 28-3-25

By Shane Hickey

"Won our first game 9-0. Then we lost our 2nd match we lost against St. Declans. After that we had our 3rd group game against another school and we won 3-0. After that we had our final group match against the Ratoath Senior B team and we won 4-0. We then got into a penalty shootout against St. Declan's B team won the shootout 3-2. After that we played against some teams A team in a round of 16. We drew 1-1 and after that we played against Laytowns A team and won 2-1 and we are now into a Semi Final Quarter Final."

Boys and Girls GAA Mini Sevens

Our boys' and girls' teams had a fantastic day at the Mini 7 Gaelic Football Blitz in Donaghmore Ashbourne! They competed against local schools, showing great teamwork and sportsmanship. Everyone had a brilliant time, with plenty of fun, friendly competition, and exciting moments on the field. Well done to all players for their effort and enthusiasm!

Credit Union Quiz

By Jamie Swinburne, 5th Class

"Last January Mr Ó Brádaigh hosted 4 trial sessions with 25 questions in each session. After the 4 sessions he picked 2 teams for the quiz. Each team had 4 people on it. The people on the senior team were Barry, Ruby, Charlie and Jamie. The people on the junior team were called Tom, Hugo, Abbie and Orlagh."

We practiced for weeks at big break almost every day. Then the day finally came. The Ashbourne finals took place in the Pillo Hotel on 10th February. It was a hard quiz but we wore our St Marys jerseys with pride! One of the questions was about a dog from a book we had never heard of! We got it wrong 😞. The junior team ended up winning in their group and the senior team came second and got €20 each! The junior team made it to the next round in March. It took place in Virginia Co Cavan but they missed out on qualification to the All Irelands Finals by a few points.

Overall it was an enjoyable experience!"



Extra Curricular, cont'd.....

Cumann na mBunscol Quiz

By Ellie, Katie, Alex and Shane, 6th Class, Mr. Cawley

"On the 17th of January it was the first round of the Cumann na mBunscol quiz. It was held in Ratoath Senior National School. The questions started off easy, but as the rounds went on they got harder. We did really well on the last round and we got all of them right. In the end we got 2nd place and made it to the next round.

The next round was held in St. Marys National School Trim. The teams were very good and the questions were hard. It was really enjoyable. On the way home we stopped off and got ice cream. The only reason we got it is because we wrecked Mr. Cawley's head (Sorry!!)

Overall it was a great experience and we all really enjoyed it."

Golf in School

By James Eglington

"In St. Mary's we got a visit from some people from Golf Ireland who taught us loads about golf and let us play lots of fun golf games.

One of them was you had to whack the ball up into a net and if you did you would get twenty points, it was really fun!

Another game we did was one where you had to aim for the bullseye and if you hit it you would get fifty points.

It was great fun playing golf and I hope we can do it again!"

Playing Golf

By Gerard Mc Cormack, 6th class

"Golf is a sport where you get a club and go somewhere nice and open and wide with no people except for you, of course! Then you should get one of your clubs from your bag - if it's short range get a putter, if medium use an iron, if long use a driver. Anyway make sure to have golf balls in your bag or the whole visit here was useless and make sure to have spare golf balls in case you use them all. You can also pick them back up but that takes way too long so just rent golf balls at the course - it should be there, I mean that's the whole point of the game right? Anyway to be allowed onto the course you have to wear suitable clothes; just wear chino shorts and a polo shirt and some fancy shoes and socks, any socks, and probably wear a cap its normally very sunny while going to golf unless you like to play in the rain - don't know why anyone would do that but that's not the point..... the point is don't go on bad looking days it ruins the whole experience since nobody will be there. Golfers mostly only go on sunny days and if going on a bad day just go to the parking range - you don't need any fancy clothes for that and it's always protected with a cover that stops rain from coming in, so, yeah that's all about clothes and clubs. Next is the food in golf courses. They will have a little building, most likely, and in that building they might have a bar where you can get food. The food in the Ashbourne Golf Club is crazy good... besides, even if not playing golf you can still go there for the food - I'm pretty sure it's a restaurant anyway?! If reading this, you should definitely try going there sometime; the food is 10 out of 10 for sure. Okay, now we talked about that next on the list is what car you should have while driving to the course. The answer anything! Toyota, Volvo, Volkswagen... anything else you can bring. They don't care if you're the President of the United States, they will treat you the exact same as an everyday customer. Besides they're pretty chill, so yeah thats how you should play golf."



Extra Curricular, cont'd.....



Rounders Squad

By Niamh Grange and Savva Dimitrijevs, 5th Class

"Over the last 3 weeks the girls have had rounders training on Mondays. It takes place after school from 3-4. Ms McNulty, Ms Barry and Ms Wylde are our coaches. The team is made up of girls from both 5th & 6th classes. For the past few weeks, us girls have mainly been focusing on throwing. The 2 types of throwing are overhand and underhand. There are many positions on the pitch such as: pitcher, back stop, out -field and batter . Both backstop and pitcher have to wear helmets.

The girls' first game is a home match against Scoil Mhuire Navan after Easter. The rounders training has been lots of fun so I would definitely recommend you join next year!

The 5th and 6th rounders boys' squad training has been going very well with Mr Ó Brádaigh and Mr Halpin. They have been training us over the past few months. We have been practicing for our first match in May. Rounders training lasts for an hour from 3-4pm so we recommend trying out for the squad next year! It's great fun!"

Girls Rounders

by Isabel Puthuppillil, 6th class

"On Monday 24th of March, the girls from 5th and 6th all came onto the field for an hour between 3pm-4pm to take part in the Girls Rounders Training. The teachers who are involved are : Ms Mc Nulty, Ms Barry and Ms Wylde. We practiced our pitching, batting and catching. We had a mini-match at the end. We enjoyed it very much! Soon, we will be doing competitive matches against other schools."



Bracelets for Temple Street

by Hannahbella, Chloe and Abigail, Ms. O'Connor's 4th Class

"Hi my name is Hannahbella. I am in the 4th class. I raised over €170 for toys for kids in hospital. It started by asking my teacher Ms. O'Connor if I could sell them at the school book fair. After the bookfair, me and Chloe went round to the school and started selling them by taking orders. We made all these bracelets by hand and worked very hard on them.

When we had all done our work Mrs O'Connor let us make bracelets in the classroom. When we had all the orders filled we emailed Kim from Templestreet. She worked in a hospital where she lets sick kids come to play with toys when they are sick, which is very kind. When she got back to us she gave us some ideas of where to get the toys. I am going to go to Smyths to buy lots of toys, then after I will drop them to kim. Thank you to all who bought bracelets or supported me."



Upcoming

The next few months are set to be packed with events at school. We have a busy calendar ahead, with lots to look forward to, from school tours to sports days. These events will be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the hard work and enthusiasm of our students. Be sure to keep an eye on the dates, as there's so much happening in the coming weeks!

Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day will take place on Friday, 2nd May. We're hoping for good weather so that we can mingle outside. The priest will hold a small service for grandparents after which grandparents can visit their grandchildren and then enjoy some refreshments.

School Tours

Children will head off on school tours in May and June. For each class permission and payment will be required via Aladdin. Notes will be sent home after Easter with all the relevant details.

First Communion

First Communion will take place on Saturday 10th May this year. We wish all our Communicants a wonderful day making lots of happy memories. After the ceremony families are invited back to the school for a meet-up and refreshments.

Drumcondra Tests

Drumcondra Tests will be carried out during the middle two weeks of May. Please try to ensure your child is in school during this time.

Marathon

Our annual Marathon will be on 29th May. Each child will run a lap and combined they will all run a marathon. Eggs.

Sports Days

Sports Day will be held over two days again this year. This ensures all children get a turn at all the events in a relaxed atmosphere.

Junior Sports Day will be on Tuesday 27th May.

Senior Sports Day will be on Tuesday 3rd June.



SMASH Social

SMASH Social will be held for 6th class students on 13th June this year. This event is organised by the Parents Association. Sixth class students will be invited to come together in the hall for an evening of fun, including a disco, photo booth, pizzas and a slushie machine.

Tracksuit Shop

The school tracksuit shop will open online from Monday 16th June until Friday 4th July. You can access it at [THIS LINK](#) or www.oreillysofficial.com

Children may continue to wear the old style tracksuit this year.

School Calendar

Our school calendar, at the end of this newsletter, notes the beginning of the school year, closures and finish dates.





St. Mary's N.S. Calendar 2025 / 2026

Return from Summer Holidays	Wed 27th August 2025 School Reopens	
Hallowe'en Mid-term		Mon 27th - Fri 31st October
Christmas Holidays	Closing: Fri 19th December, Re-opening: Mon 5th January 2026	
St. Brigid's Bank Holiday		Mon 2nd February
Spring Mid-term	Thurs 19th & Fri 20th February	
St. Patrick's Weekend		Mon 16th & Tue 17th March
Easter Holidays	Closing: Fri 27th March, Re-opening: Mon 13th April	
May Holiday		Mon 4th - Fri 8th May
June Bank Holiday		Mon 1st June
Summer Holidays	Closing Fri 26th June, 2026	

NOTES:

If changes are necessary, we will notify parents as soon as possible.
Standardised Testing will take place from 12th to 28th May 2026. Please bear this in mind if booking holidays.