



NEWSLETTER



ST. CATHERINE'S N.S.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

On March 13th, following a week of celebrations for Seachtain na Gaeilge in St. Catherine's, we proudly marked our annual Green Day, or Lá Glas. Students and staff alike embraced the spirit of the occasion by dressing in green in advance of the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. During both Junior and Senior assemblies, each class showcased their hard work by performing a poem or song. The performances were thoroughly enjoyed and highlighted the enthusiasm and creativity of our school community as we celebrated our language and culture.

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Gaeilgóirí na Seachtaine



In the lead-up to Green Day, students across the school made a fantastic effort to speak Irish both in their classrooms and around the school. Each class selected a Gaeilgóir na Seachtaine—a student who showed great commitment to learning Irish, actively participated in their class performance, or regularly used Irish throughout the school day.

Pictured here are our Junior and Senior Gaeilgóirí na Seachtaine, who were proudly presented with their certificates at assembly. Well done to all our wonderful Gaeilgóirí for embracing and celebrating the Irish language!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PROJECTS

I rith Seachtain na Gaeilge

Mr. McGrath's 3rd Class in Room 10 were kept very busy throughout March creating their St. Patrick's Day projects and crafts. With St. Patrick's Day in mind, the students carefully planned and designed their own decorations and mini-floats.

Pictured here are just some of the wonderful creations, which added colour, creativity and great festive spirit to Lá Glas in Room 10.

They then proudly decorated their classroom and the area outside their room with their St. Patrick's Day-themed projects, creating a bright and festive display for everyone to enjoy.



LE CHÉILE DÉ HAoine

Despite a very busy March and April, we continued our weekly tradition of coming together for assemblies in the school hall.

Several of these assemblies coincided with special occasions such as World Book Day, Lá Glas, our Easter Raffles and Autism Awareness Day, making them even more meaningful and memorable.

We were treated to a variety of class performances, book readings by Ms. Dunne, and special presentations by students throughout the school.

One assembly included an engaging presentation on the Traveller Community, where students had the opportunity to see an antique heirloom and books.

On another occasion, students from 4th Class delivered a thoughtful presentation on our Core Values.

Assemblies also provided an opportunity to celebrate achievements, including the results of our ANSEO Attendance Programme and the announcement of our Core Values Raffle winners.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Character Dress Up

On March 6th, our school was filled with excitement as we celebrated World Book Day with our annual Character Dress-Up. It was wonderful to see so many beloved book characters brought to life, with creativity and enthusiasm shining through every costume.

A huge congratulations to all who took part—your efforts were fantastic—and special mention to our prize winners on the day.

Sincere thanks and well done to Mr. Hegarty (also known as Where's Wally!) for organising such an enjoyable and memorable event.



BOOK FAIR

Fostering a Love of Reading

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, St. Catherine's was delighted to host a lively and successful Book Fair in the school.

Throughout the week, students eagerly visited the fair to browse an exciting and varied selection of books, from thrilling adventures to heart-warming stories. The event was made possible thanks to the wonderful support of our Student Council and Parents' Association, who generously gave their time to assist with purchases and ensure the fair ran smoothly.

Each afternoon after school, children and their parents were invited to attend, offering a lovely opportunity for families to come together and share a love of reading. More than just a chance to buy books, the Book Fair celebrated the joy of reading and helped encourage a lifelong love of learning.

EASTER EGG RAFFLE



Representatives from the Parents' Association were in school on Friday 27th March to announce the winners of 2026 Easter Raffle. There were over 160 Eggs to be won plus vouchers from Smyths Stores Superstore for the sellers who sold the most tickets. This year we tried out a new method of drawing the tickets by using a random number generator. This selected the 125 winners at random and ensured that the selection was fair and it also saved a bit of time during the assembly.

A big thanks to all our sponsors who generously donated the prizes - this year the sponsors were Kenure Landscaping, Mrs Connor Cleaning, Dermot McNamara & Co Solicitors, Kyles Barbers of Skerries and NC Fitness. And thank you to everyone who supported the raffle by purchasing a ticket which helped raise €1710 for the school.





LÁMH

Ag fhoglaím le chéile

As part of our weekly assemblies, Ms. Mahon's class in Room 8 took to the stage to share a wonderful performance with the school community.

Over the past few months, the children have been learning Lámh Sign Language and were delighted to showcase their learning through song at assembly.

The class also took time to teach everyone a selection of simple Lámh signs, encouraging the whole school to join in together. It was a lovely, inclusive performance that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

COLLABORATION

Discovering Drumanagh

Ms Kavanagh's 4th class are working on an exceptionally exciting project for Fingal Coco and Creative Ireland this month.

They are 'Discovering Drumanagh' with the help of Christine Baker, the Chief Heritage Officer for Fingal and the author and illustrator, Niamh Sharkey.

They have been investigating, drawing, writing and exploring our local heritage.... and you will have to watch this space to see what they produce!



TEANGACHA

Language Learning

Here is the revised version with Ms. Ó Grady in place of Ms. Daly: As part of our EAL (English as an Additional Language) provision, Ms. Ó Grady runs weekly language meet-ups on Friday afternoons.

These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for students who speak another language at home to come together with peers who share the same language, allowing them to chat in their native language and enjoy playing board games together.

This is always a very enjoyable and eagerly anticipated activity. When the Friday bell rings, students listen with excitement to hear which languages will be meeting up that day. Sincere thanks to Ms. Ó Grady for organising and supporting this wonderful, inclusive initiative.



CRICKET

Links with our local cricket club

Each spring, our senior classes in St. Catherine's take part in a series of cricket lessons in collaboration with Rush Cricket Club. Our 5th and 6th Classes alternate sessions over the following months in preparation for the inter-schools cricket competitions in June.

Students selected for the school cricket team then receive additional training on the cricket field using proper cricket equipment, giving them a real insight into the skills, teamwork and excitement involved in the sport.

FOOTBALL FRENZY

A Team Effort

Over the past two months, our Boys' and Girls' football teams have been very busy with training sessions and matches. With the improvement in the weather, both teams have been taking part in a series of games as part of the FAI Primary School League and Cup. For some of our players, this has been a brand-new experience, including the opportunity to play on a full football pitch for the first time. For others, many of whom are members of local clubs in Rush and across Dublin, it has been a great chance to further develop their skills in a competitive setting.

Throughout the matches, both teams have shown excellent determination, teamwork and skill, representing St. Catherine's with pride. We have also been very fortunate this year to have the support of two parents as team coaches. Derek has been training the girls' team, while Vicky has been leading the boys' team—both of whom have been a huge asset to the school. A big thank you also to our wonderful parent supporters who came along to cheer the teams on from the sidelines. Your encouragement is greatly appreciated.



WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY 2026

Inclusion in St. Catherine's NS



On April 24th, St. Catherine's N.S. proudly celebrated World Autism Awareness Day. As a school with three Autism Classes alongside our mainstream classes, we marked the occasion with a range of thoughtful and inclusive activities.

We began the day with another Parents' Coffee Morning for the families of all our autistic students.

These gatherings provide a welcoming and supportive space for parents to connect, share experiences, and strengthen our school community.

One of the highlights of the day was a very special visit from an Autism Assistance Dog, who supports one of our students in an Autism Class. The dog visited classes throughout the school and was met with great excitement and enthusiasm from the children.

At 10am, the entire school community came together for a school-wide walk around the park, led by our three Autism Classes. This was a meaningful and memorable way to promote inclusion, raise awareness, and celebrate the diversity that makes our school such a special place.

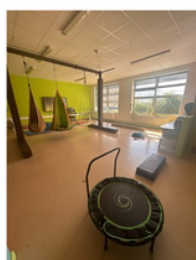
To conclude the day, we gathered for assembly where Ms. Dunne delivered an informative presentation. This helped students learn more about our Autism Classes, the students and staff involved, and some of the key resources used, including the outdoor play area, sensory room, and O.T. room.



Our outdoor play area



Room 5: Our exercise (OT) room



The OT room is a fun space where pupils can practice important skills like movement, balance, and coordination through activities like bouncing and swinging.

Sensory room



A sensory room is a calm and quiet space where pupils can relax and feel safe.

Some children wear ear defenders in class, outside or everywhere to help them cope with loud noises and feel more comfortable.



PARENT'S ASSOCIATION UPDATES

The Parents' Association Committee

This is the Parents' Association committee for 2025/26. The committee consists of three elected roles and representatives from each class.

Officers:

Chair: Matthew Semple
Treasurer: Bryan Moore
Secretary: Milena Fuzetto

Class Representatives:

Deborah Moore (Junior Infants)
Elora Byrne (Senior Infants - Ms. Gaughan)
Erin Cartlidge (1st Class - Mrs. McDermott)
Lorraine Murphy (2nd Class - Ms. Farrell)
Leah Kiernan (3rd Class - Mr. McGrath)
Milena Fuzetto (2nd/3rd class - Ms. Boyd/Ms. Comiskey)
Tracey Dockrell (4th Class - Ms. Kavanagh)
Deborah Moore (5th/4th Class - Ms. Archer)
Elora Byrne (5th Class - Ms. Dennis)
Nicola Semple (6th Class - Mr. O'Brien)
Martina Debenc (6th Class - Mr. Hegarty)
Donna Kennedy (Autism Class)
Shauna Farrell (Autism Class)

Each class / year has a WhatsApp group to support communication among parents. If you would like to join, please get in touch with your class representative or email the Parents' Association at chairpersonPA@stcatherinesns.ie



All parents are members of the Parents' Association and are most welcome to attend all meetings. You'll get notification on Aladdin and via email of our meetings, and all meetings have the option to join by Zoom.

The Parents' Association works in partnership with the Principal, Staff, and Board of Management for the benefit of your child. When parents and schools work together, children do better.

PARENT ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Spring and Summer Events

The Parents' Association held a meeting of the committee on Thursday 12th March and it was decided that we would be holding the following events: Multicultural Day on Friday 22nd May and An End-of-Year Disco on Friday 12th of June.

Multicultural Day will be held during the same week as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development and will provide an opportunity for people of all backgrounds in our community to meet and share music, food and other aspects of our cultures. More information about how to take part is on the next page, and don't forget to put the date in your calendar.

The ***End of Year Disco*** is a new event that we haven't run before and this year is being offered in place of the Christmas Disco that was not run in 2025. This will be a great opportunity for students at the school to celebrate the end of the academic year and there will be a particular focus on 6th Class Leavers for whom this will be their last such party. Tickets will be offered to 6th Class first and then, if there is availability, offered for sale to students in the other classes, towards the top end of the school.

MULTICULTURAL DAY



Multicultural Day 2026

The Parents' Association has successfully run a Multicultural Day in 2018 and 2024 and to mark UNESCO's World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, we are going to hold Multicultural Day 2026 on **Friday 22nd May**.

Get Involved!

We are looking for volunteers to represent their country or culture at Multicultural Day 2026. The time commitment is minimal (just 2 hours on the day). Previously families have represented Australia, Brazil, India, Ireland, Latvia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand and Great Britain.

You could represent a country from where you or your family originate or somewhere you have lived or visited or somewhere where you like to go on holiday.

What can I do?

You would be provided with a table to display books, posters, souvenirs, artefacts or offer food that represents your chosen country or culture. There is no fixed format, and you can choose what you would like to display. You can also take part by singing a song in your language from your country.

If you would like to take part or find out more about taking part in the event, please get in touch via email chairpersonpa@stcatherinesns.ie or secretarypa@stcatherinesns.ie or join the Multicultural Day WhatsApp group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CfP3LggGjQnGUpSvUcGu01>



Displays from Ireland, Brazil and India at the 2024 event.