



NEWSLETTER



ST. CATHERINE'S NS



GRADUATIONS 2026

As the 2025/2026 school year draws to a close, we said some heartfelt goodbyes to our students who are moving on from St. Catherine's. On Wednesday, 24th June, we celebrated the graduation of Mr. Hegarty's and Mr. O'Brien's 6th Class pupils. It was a wonderful evening filled with music, inspiring speeches, and joyful celebrations as we marked this important milestone in their lives. A sincere thank you to our Parents' Association members and staff who generously gave their time to serve refreshments and help make the evening so special. We also celebrated the achievements of the 2nd Class graduates from Mr. Teeling's Autism Class, who are now preparing to begin the next stage of their educational journey in their new school. We wish all of our graduates every success and happiness as they embark on this exciting new chapter.

ST. CATHERINE'S QUIZ TEAMS

Putting our General Knowledge to the test



On Friday, 19th June, 20 pupils from 3rd to 6th Class at St. Catherine's travelled to Rush National School to take part in the annual inter-school table quiz.

This event is a wonderful way for pupils to come together at the end of the school year, test their general knowledge, and enjoy some friendly competition with students from other schools. St. Catherine's was represented by four teams—two Under-11 teams and two Under-13 teams. A huge congratulations to one of our Under-11 teams, who were crowned champions on the day! We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for representing the school so well with enthusiasm, teamwork, and great sportsmanship.

Well done to everyone involved. We look forward to welcoming participating schools to St. Catherine's when we host the table quiz next year.

LEAVERS' HOODIES

Thanks to Our Parents' Association

During the month of June, it has been great to see the 6th Class Leavers wearing their 'Class of 2026' hoodies all over the town.

A record number of hoodies were purchased this year which also saw the introduction of a new colour - with pink joining the blue and grey hoodies that were available for 2025.

A huge thank you to Matthew Semple and our Parents' Association for organising this year's school hoodies. We really appreciate the time, effort, and dedication that goes into coordinating the fittings, communicating with families, collecting payments, and ensuring every child receives their hoodie. Your hard work behind the scenes is greatly valued and helps create lasting memories for our students.



CRICKET

Collaborating with our local Cricket Club

On Tuesday, 23rd June, Ms. Dennis and our 5th Class Girls' Cricket Team travelled to Rush Cricket Club to take part in an inter-school cricket blitz.

The girls enjoyed a fantastic day of cricket in the sunshine, competing against teams from Rush National School and St. Brendan's National School, Loughshinny. The blitz provided a wonderful opportunity for the girls to develop their cricket skills, work together as a team, and enjoy some friendly competition with neighbouring schools.

A special congratulations to Dereka, who received the Best Overall Catcher award for her outstanding fielding skills on the day. This was a fantastic achievement and a well-deserved recognition of her excellent performance. Well done to all of our girls for representing St. Catherine's with such enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship. We are very proud of you all!



SPORTS DAY

A Day to Remember



ROOM 12 - BOOK LAUNCH

Discovering Drumanagh – Bringing Local History to Life

We were delighted to celebrate the launch of Discovering Drumanagh at Rush Library, a unique illustrated book created by Ms. Kavanagh's 4th Class in collaboration with renowned children's author and illustrator Niamh Sharkey.

Throughout the project, the children explored the fascinating history of Drumanagh, the ancient promontory fort in Rush with remarkable links to the Roman world. Through site visits, storytelling, art, and creative workshops, they uncovered the hidden stories of this important local landmark and brought them to life through their own imaginations. Working with Niamh Sharkey, the pupils experimented with a variety of artistic techniques, including ink and charcoal, while learning about archaeology, biodiversity, and local heritage. Their creativity, enthusiasm, and curiosity are beautifully showcased in Discovering Drumanagh, a vibrant publication written and illustrated by the children themselves.

The launch at Rush Library was a wonderful celebration of all their hard work. It was fantastic to see the excitement and pride on the children's faces as they shared their book with family, friends, and members of the local community. As a special keepsake, each pupil received their own copy of Discovering Drumanagh to take home—a wonderful reminder of their creativity, teamwork, and the important contribution they made to preserving and celebrating their local heritage.

A sincere thank you to Niamh Sharkey for inspiring our young authors and artists, and to Fingal County Council's Heritage Office, Libraries Department, and Arts Office for making this wonderful project possible. The project was funded through Creative Ireland and is a wonderful example of how creativity can help young people connect with their local history and heritage.

Congratulations to Ms. Kavanagh's 4th Class on this fantastic achievement!



GAA BLITZ

Representing our school

On Tuesday, 9th June, pupils from 5th and 6th Class at St. Catherine's took part in the Martin Finnegan GAA Tournament in Lusk. Accompanied by Ms. Dennis and Mr. O'Donnell, our teams competed against a number of local schools in a fantastic day of Gaelic games.

There was a wonderful atmosphere at Round Towers GAA Club, with all the pupils enjoying the opportunity to showcase their skills, work as a team, and take part in some healthy competition. It was a memorable day of sport, fun, and friendship, and we are very proud of how our students represented St. Catherine's throughout the tournament.



COMMUNION

Important faith milestone

On Friday, 15th May, the pupils of 2nd Class at St. Catherine's celebrated the special occasion of their First Holy Communion. The boys and girls looked wonderful in their beautiful dresses and smart suits as they gathered with their families, teachers, and friends to mark this important milestone. Throughout the year, the children prepared for this special day with the support of their teachers and parents. A great deal of time and effort went into preparing the prayers, hymns, readings, and artwork, helping to make the ceremony a memorable and meaningful celebration. A sincere well done and thank you to all of the teachers and SNAs who supported and guided the children throughout their preparation.

This year, pupils from Ms. Farrell's class, Ms. Boyd and Ms. Comiskey's class, Mr. Teeling's class, and Ms. Koelstra and Ms. O'Brien's class celebrated their First Holy Communion. Congratulations to all of our First Holy Communion pupils and their families. Below is a selection of photographs from this very special day.

JUNIOR INFANT SCHOOL TOUR

A first of many

Ms. Bate's Junior Infants from Room 4 enjoyed their very first primary school tour—an exciting milestone that pupils look forward to each year! The children travelled to Newgrange Farm for a fantastic day filled with fun, adventure, and hands-on learning experiences.

From meeting the animals to exploring the farm and taking part in a range of activities, there were smiles all around. The pupils had a wonderful day and created many happy memories with their classmates. Their excitement and enjoyment are clear to see in the photos below!



A TRIP TO PJS

For Room 2, 7 and 8

Pupils from Rooms 2, 7, and 8 enjoyed a fantastic school tour to PJ's Play Centre in Balbriggan.

The children had a wonderful time exploring the play centre, making the most of all the activities, and especially enjoyed the excitement of the go-karts. It was a fun-filled day with plenty of laughter and adventure.

One of the highlights of the tour was the opportunity for pupils from different classes to spend time together, make new friendships, and create lasting memories. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day for everyone involved.

SCHOOL TOUR SEASON

St. Catherine's On Tour



FOOTBALL FINAL

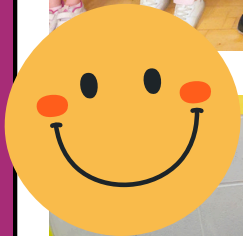
A huge congratulations to our Boys' Football Team on their fantastic victory in the FAI League Final! After months of hard work, training, and dedication, the team travelled to the AUL Complex on Thursday, 18th June, to face Scoil Aonghusa, Tallaght, in what proved to be a thrilling final. The whole St. Catherine's community was behind the boys every step of the way. Before they left for the match, they received a fantastic send-off from their fellow pupils and staff, who lined the school to wish them the very best of luck. On their return, the champions were welcomed back with a guard of honour, creating a memorable moment and showing just how proud everyone was of their achievement. From the first whistle, the match was played at a high standard, with both teams showing great skill, determination, and sportsmanship. Our boys worked tirelessly as a team, remained composed under pressure, and held onto their lead throughout the game. Their efforts were rewarded with a memorable 3-2 victory, thanks to goals from Noah and Nadon.

At the final whistle, players, coaches, parents, and supporters celebrated together as the team were crowned FAI League champions. The celebrations continued during the medal presentation, where team captain Elliot gave a heartfelt speech, thanking his teammates, coaches, and everyone who supported the team throughout the season. A very special thank you and congratulations to our parent coach, Vicky, whose dedication, encouragement, and commitment played a huge role in helping the boys achieve this wonderful success. Well done to the entire squad on an incredible achievement. We are all extremely proud of you!



WELLBEING FRIDAY IN ST. CATHERINE'S

A visit from the **Icecream Van** thanks for the school Wellbeing Team and Parents' Association



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.

A Final Message from our Parents' Association

The final meeting of the Parents' Association for 2025/26 took place on Thursday 4th June. We had a packed agenda and good attendance from our wonderful committee members who have worked very hard this year to deliver a series of events and provided much support behind the scenes for all sorts of school activities.

We will be holding the **Annual General Meeting** soon after the start of the new 2026/27 academic year. Look out for information about how to attend this meeting where we will elect a new committee for next year, including officers to the posts of chairperson, secretary and treasurer. If you would like to **join the committee**, stand for one of those positions or just find out more about the parents' association, please contact the chair (chairpersonPA@stcatherinesns.ie) or the secretary (secretaryPA@stcatherinesns.ie).

Attention Parents of Our Incoming Junior Infants – September 2026

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Junior Infant pupils and their families to St. Catherine's this September! To help parents connect before the new school year begins, we have set up a Junior Infants Parents' WhatsApp Group. We hope to organise a summer meet-up for both parents and children, giving everyone the opportunity to get to know one another before school starts.

We encourage all parents of our incoming Junior Infants to join the WhatsApp group so you don't miss out on any updates or information about upcoming events. Join the WhatsApp group here: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DXh2CupKLCXGJEhL42kEMj>

ST CATHERINE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Join the WhatsApp group for your child's class using the QR code here >>>



Junior Infants 2026/27 - St Catherine's NS
WhatsApp group

WHY JOIN THE WHATSAPP GROUP?

- CONNECT WITH PARENTS OF YOUR CHILD'S FRIENDS
- ASK ABOUT TODAY'S HOMEWORK
- USE TO SEND AND RECEIVE INVITATIONS TO BIRTHDAY PARTIES
- BE FIRST TO HEAR ABOUT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS