



ST. BERNARD'S NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Message from Mrs Maguire:

As we come to the end of what has been an incredibly busy and rewarding term, I hope you enjoy reading all about the wonderful learning and experiences that have taken place across our school community. Throughout this newsletter, you'll see just how much our pupils have achieved and how much joy and effort they have brought to every activity.

Two particular highlights this term were the beautiful Primary Three First Confession celebration and the P6 Easter Presentation, both held in the Chapel. These were very special occasions, and our pupils participated with reverence, confidence, and a real sense of pride.

Our sporting teams have also done us proud, representing the school with enthusiasm and determination in basketball, Gaelic, netball, soccer, and cross country. Their commitment and team spirit have been evident at every event—well done to all involved.

During the season of Lent, our school community has joined together to support Trócaire, showing generosity and compassion. The Student Council raffle, alongside the ever-popular P5 Bun Sale, were fantastic successes that raised funds for those in need.

Our PTA has been busy as well, adding to the Easter excitement with their, 'Name the Bunny,' fundraiser. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing support and dedication to the school.

Thank you to all our pupils, staff, parents, and carers for your continued support throughout this vibrant term. We hope you enjoy reading more about these events, and many others, within the newsletter.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Easter break.

Dates for your diaries:

Thursday 2nd April

Easter Break. School closes for all pupils at 12 Noon.



Monday 25th –Friday 29th May

School closed – spring holiday

Monday 13th April

School recommences for all pupils.



Tuesday 30th June

Summer Break. School closes for all pupils at 12 Noon.



Monday 4th May

May Day holiday



WHAT'S GOING ON IN ST. BERNARD'S...

BOYS' FOOTBALL TEAM IMPRESSES IN THE SOUTH BELFAST LEAGUE

Our boys' football team put in a brilliant shift in the latest round of South Belfast League fixtures, winning 6 out of 7 games and playing with great confidence from start to finish. Their teamwork and energy were clear in every match.

Across the round, the boys produced some fantastic moments of football, combining sharp passing, solid defending and clever finishing. Each player played their part and helped drive the team's strong performances. A huge well done to the whole squad for an excellent set of results. The boys should be incredibly proud of their efforts and the high standard they set throughout!



BOYS' GAELIC TEAM

The St. Bernard's Gaelic team went along to Lough Moss for the Cumman na Bunscoil Gaelic Championships. There were 3 teams: St. Josephs, St. Ita's and St. Michael's. We played St. Josephs and were unlucky to lose by 1 point and then we played St. Ita's and did really well coming away with a good win. In our final game we played against St. Michael's who were quite strong despite our best efforts, and we lost that game. Even though we didn't qualify we scored some brilliant points and goals, we could only come away with one win.

Jaxon and Cillian

GIRLS' GAELIC TEAM

A huge well done to our girls' Gaelic football team, who delivered an outstanding performance at the Cumann na mBunscol Aontroma Development Cup in Woodlands Playing Fields.

The girls showed fantastic teamwork, resilience and passion for the game. They gave it everything in every match and demonstrated superb attitude throughout. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication. Brilliant job!



BOYS' GAELIC TEAM

Our boys' Gaelic football team put in a fantastic display at the Cumann na mBunscol Aontroma Development Cup in Woodlands Playing Fields. From the first whistle to the last, the boys played with real heart, determination and teamwork. They showcased great skill, supported one another throughout, and represented the school with pride both on and off the pitch. A brilliant effort from the entire squad. Well done!



WHAT'S GOING ON IN ST. BERNARD'S...

NEWFORGE – CELEBRATION OF SPORT



Our trip to Newforge was absolutely amazing! The Primary 6 and Primary 7 children got a bus over to Newforge sports complex and started with a dance warm as soon as we arrived. After the warmup, we headed inside to do free indoor activities. This included choosing some activities between scooters, golf driving simulator, break dancing, rowing machine and a reflexes test. Then we went over and were coached volleyball before going outside to do some gold. We all then had a lunch break before making our way back outside again for some more free activities and we got to choose between circuits, climbing wall, motor cross and archery. We then made our way to the pitches to take part in a rugby session with Ulster rugby. To end the day we did American football with the Belfast titans. We all had great fun trying out new sports and had a great day. Written by P7's

BASKETBALL BLITZ

We went along to Lisburn Racquets to take part in the P7 Basketball Blitz organised by the Cleveland Project. We had an awesome time and there were some wins, some losses, fun and dramatic finishes. There were lots of schools taking part and we played some really difficult games, but we think our 6 teams did really well in the boys and girls competitions. Even though some of the games were difficult, it was just loads of P7 children having fun and playing basketball. Written by P7



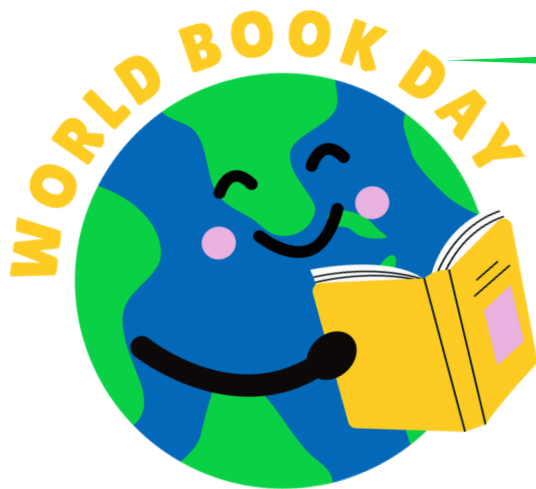
P2'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY ASSEMBLY



Well done to P2W on their assembly telling the story about St Patrick. Said all in rhyme, with an Irish blessing and a beautiful song—the children should be very proud of themselves and all their hard work. And don't they look smart all dressed in green! Well done P2W!

PLAYBOARD

At Playboard we learned about resilience, emotions and children rights. Jess and Susan came in every Wednesday to teach us about feelings and our rights to play. We had a different topic each week. There were lots of different activities to do, some of our favourites were arts and crafts, sports, dress up and making things using clay. On our last session we went to Cregagh community centre and did a bug play session with Knockbreda where we put in place all the things we had learned over the past few weeks. It was great fun, and we looked forward to it every Wednesday. Written by Molly W and Niamh



A huge well done to all the pupils for their fantastic efforts in celebrating World Book Day. Each class created wonderful door designs to promote a love of reading. Our P6 and P7 classes also did a fantastic job supporting their P1 and P2 buddies with decorating their T-shirts. On Thursday 5th March, we enjoyed a brilliant mix of costumes alongside the children's specially designed World Book Day T-shirts, and we all gathered for a fantastic assembly organised by Mr McGinn, where the pupils had the chance to show off their costumes to the whole school and share in the fun.





P3 First Confession



This month, our Primary three pupils made their First Confession, marking an important step in their faith journey. Well done to all the boys and girls. We extend our thanks to the teachers and classroom assistants whose preparation and support ensured it was a fantastic day.

P6 Way of the Cross



Our P6 pupils presented their Easter performance, The Way of the Cross, this week. The children combined singing, narration, and tableau-style scenes to guide the audience through the Stations of the Cross in a clear and engaging way.

They performed for the whole school on Tuesday, followed by a second performance for parents and families on Wednesday afternoon. The year group worked together with great focus, and the production brought the Easter story to life for everyone watching.

A special thanks to the teachers and classroom assistants who prepared the pupils so well, and to the church for accommodating rehearsals in the lead-up to the event.

It was a meaningful celebration as we head into the Easter break.

Lenten Fundraising for Trócaire

Throughout Lent, our school community has continued its long-standing tradition of supporting Trócaire's vital work. This year, St Bernard's focused on two main fundraising events, both of which were led with great enthusiasm by our pupils.

Our Primary 5 classes held their annual Bun Sale on Monday 30th March. The homemade treats proved extremely popular, and the event created a wonderful atmosphere throughout the school. Thanks to the hard work of the pupils—and the generosity of families—we raised an impressive £610.17, which will support Trócaire's Lenten campaign, currently focused on helping communities in rural Rwanda.

In addition, our School Council organised an Easter Egg Raffle, taking full responsibility for planning, promoting, and running the event. Their efforts were rewarded with a fantastic £621.52 raised for Trócaire. We are grateful to everyone who contributed and supported the pupils' initiative.

Together, these events highlight the commitment of our pupils to helping others and demonstrate the positive impact we can make as a school community during the Lenten season.

