

# EASTER BULLETIN



March 2026 | St. Francis of Assisi Primary School

## A message from the Principal

We are about to begin our Easter Holidays and return to our third term of the school year. As you will see from the bulletin, as always, there is a lot going on. The coming months will be busy with school sports activities, school tours, Sports Days etc. However, we still have a significant amount of curricular work, including assessments to get covered with the children so attendance is hugely important.

You will have heard lots of discussion in the media about proposed changes to SNA allocations, special classes, hot lunches etc. When I can confirm if any of these will directly impact us, I will share this information with you.

For the children in our school who take part in the Summer Programme, there has been a significant delay in the DEY publishing the circular relating to this with schools. We are hopeful that this will be shared shortly and that we will be in a position to offer the summer programme again this year.

I am very aware of the fact that we may have families with loved ones who have been impacted by the war in the Middle East. We are very mindful that this is causing huge stress, uncertainty and worry for many of our school community. We will continue keep all those families in our thoughts and prayers.

I wish you a peaceful and restful Easter break with your family.

*Johanne Dunne*

## Contact Info



**Email:** [Office@sfaps.net](mailto:Office@sfaps.net)

**Phone:** 01 8296007

**Opening Hours:** 8:50 -  
3:20 Monday - Friday  
Closed for lunch 1-1:30



# REMINDERS & DATES



## Reminders

- The school calendar for next year is being finalised and will be shared next week.
- Reminder to all parents that dogs are not allowed on the grounds of the school.
- Reminder to all families to be mindful of our neighbours and not to block driveways or the school entrance at drop off or collection.
- Reminder to all parents that we encourage healthy snacks in school, in so far as is possible. Children should not have large sharing packs of sweets or treats. If a child does have these in school, they will be asked to put them back in their bag.

With the return of the warmer weather, all children are required to wear their uniform over the coming months. Tracksuits are still permitted on PE days. Thank you for your co-operation with this. Full uniforms are expected from Monday 23rd March.

## Upcoming Events

- 27<sup>th</sup> March - school finishes at 12 for Easter holidays and reopens April 13<sup>th</sup>
- 14<sup>th</sup> April - Junior Infants MMR and 4 in 1 Vaccination
- 7<sup>th</sup> May - Provisional date for Junior Sports Day Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st class.
- 8<sup>th</sup> May - Holy communion 2pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> May - Provisional date for Senior Sports Day 2nd class- 6th class.
- 25<sup>th</sup> May - School Closure- staff training in Primary Curriculum Framework



# SCHOOL SPORTS



The soccer team recently had their first match of the season against Our Lady's Boys School Ballinteer. It was a cup match and it finished 2-2. The team eventually won on penalties.



The Fingal leagues in GAA are now in full flow for children from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class. Our senior boys team have won one and lost two games so far while the girls team have won their first game. The Junior teams will have their games starting in the coming weeks.



# SCHOOL BOOK FAIR



Thank you to all who bought books at our Scholastic Book Fair from 5th to 10th of March and helped encourage our little readers with the power of a good book. With your support, we have raised a further €2,475 for our school. This will help with a planned revitalising of our classroom libraries so we can stock them with new books and something to entice even the most reluctant reader, to pick up a book to read for enjoyment.

We celebrated World Book Day on the 5th of March. We hope you enjoy a day and lifetime of reading. There were some wonderful characters floating around the corridors and our senior classes (4th to 6th) were amazing, doing some lovely, paired reading with junior classes (Infants to 1st).



'A book is a dream that you hold in your hands' - Neil Gaiman



# GREEN SCHOOLS & PTA



Many thanks to our Chairperson Leo Kennedy and volunteers from Canon who did great work getting 3 of our polytunnels ready for spring planting. The children are delighted and will be planting a variety of crops including potatoes, peas, lettuce, onions and nasturtiums in the coming weeks. The spring bulbs all of the classes planted in the winter are now beginning to grow and can be seen blooming beside the basketball courts. If any parent or grandparent would like to help us with our polytunnels please email [deirdre.hanley@sfaps.net](mailto:deirdre.hanley@sfaps.net) to register your interest.



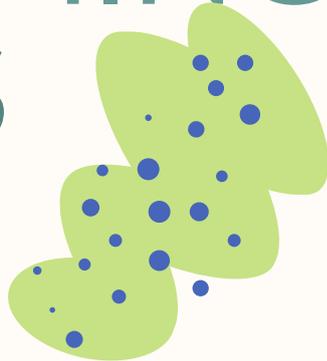
Thank you from the PTA!

Recently we had three staff from Canon spend the day working on our poly tunnels. They helped to clear out the raised beds and prepare the soil for our upcoming planting.

Sincere thank you to Leo Kennedy and his colleagues for his help with this.



# UPCOMING COSTS



As always, we are very fortunate to have staff who volunteer their own time, after school hours, to train the children in a variety of sports. These include football, hurling, soccer and athletics. To cover the costs associated with these sports, the fees below are due by all children taking part in school sports teams. The costs include - referee fees, entry fees to the various leagues and competitions, transports costs for all matches, replacement and upkeep of school jerseys, match footballs etc.

**This fee needs to be paid by all children taking part in school sports teams**

1. Children who play GAA €45 payment is required
2. Children who play Soccer €45 payment is required
3. Children who take part in Athletics €20 payment is required - this link will be sent to parents once the athletic teams have been set up
4. Additional Voluntary payment link - for families who may want to make a contribution (of any amount) even though their children do not take part in any of the above sports. (This was requested by parents).

The links will be active until March 25th



# UPCOMING COSTS



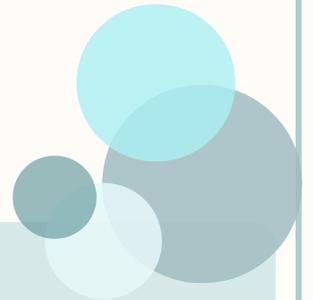
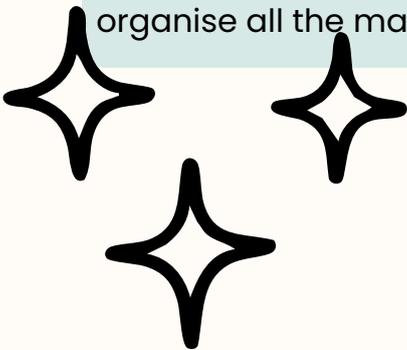
## School Tours

All school tours will take place in June this year. Payment links for these will be

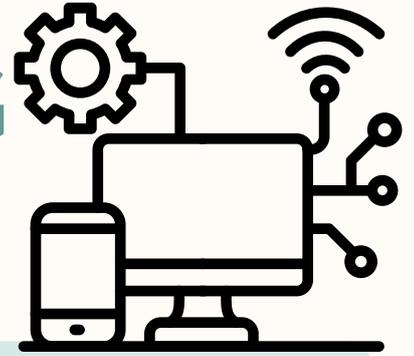
open shortly to allow early payment or to pay with instalments. As always, we have kept the costs to a minimum and all the money is used to cover the costs for your child's participation.

## School Expenses Payment

School expenses for the next academic year will also be opened shortly. There has been a delay in sharing this information with schools by the DEY. In recent years, this payment was approximately €60 per pupil. This covers the cost of photocopying, art materials, 24 hour pupil insurance etc. This payment has to be made before the end of the school year to ensure that we can order and organise all the materials to have them in place for the children in September.



# DIGITAL LEARNING FRAMEWORK

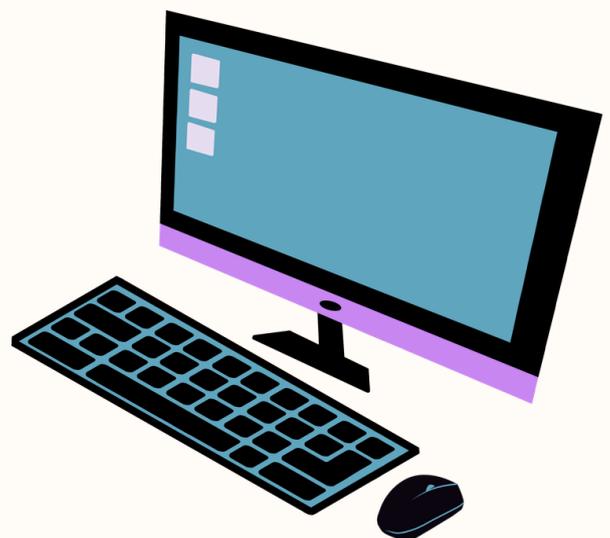
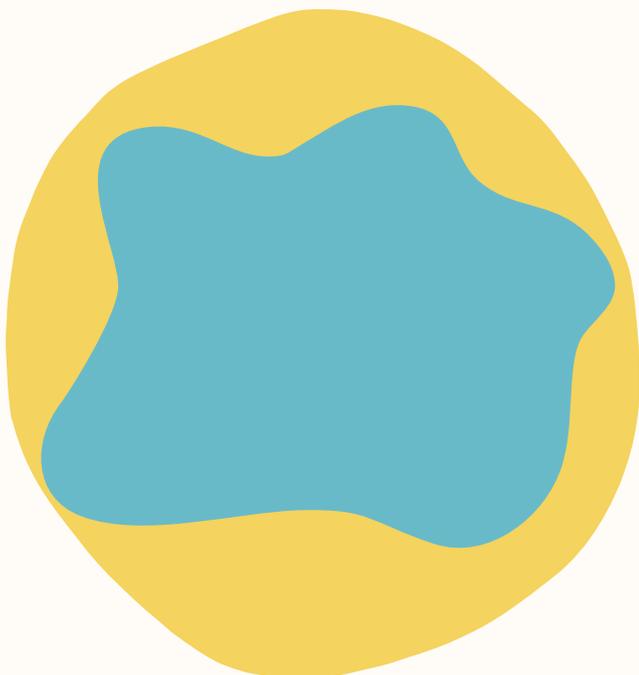


Thank you to all parents who participated in our recent survey on Digital Technology. We received many responses and greatly value the insights shared. Overall, feedback was very positive. The majority of parents agreed or strongly agreed that digital technologies enhance teaching and learning, are important for their child's education, and that their child enjoys using technology in school. Parents also strongly supported the importance of children learning to become responsible and ethical digital citizens.

Many respondents indicated interest in attending an internet safety talk, highlighting the importance of continued partnership between home and school in supporting safe and effective technology use.

In terms of website engagement, the School Calendar and Latest News sections were the most frequently viewed pages, suggesting these are key communication tools for families.

We will use this valuable feedback to inform the ongoing development of our Digital Learning Framework and to strengthen communication with parents.

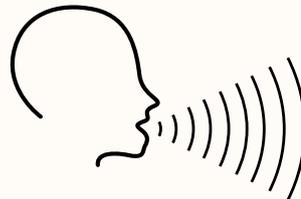


# ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY



Over the coming days parents will receive detailed information about the Dept of Education and Youth's drive for attendance and punctuality. I will share statistics from our school. Unfortunately, we have a significant number of children with poor attendance and punctuality is also a serious concern for many students. I would like to remind parents that children should not be taken out of school during term time for holidays. Over the coming weeks children will be completing their standardised tests. If your child misses these tests there is only a very short window of time for re-testing. You may have noticed some new signage around the school encouraging attendance and punctuality. We would appreciate parents and guardians taking the time to consider and reflect on the information that will be shared.

## PARENT INPUT



In our school we value parent input and try to provide opportunities for parents to contribute to school wide decisions. Recently, you will have been invited to take part in a parent survey regarding our Digital Technology policy. In the coming weeks you will be invited to contribute to the Homework review that we are conducting. We are also inviting parents of 4th class who were part of the first class to be re-shuffled to offer feedback in relation to this experience.

We really value your opinions, and they form part of the decision-making process. Thank you for supporting these surveys as they help us to strive for improvements in all that we do.

# SCHOOL NEWS



## Parent's Wellness Hour

As part of Wellness Week, we organised a Parent Wellness Hour with gentle yoga, cacao and a sound bath. The focus was on relaxation, and this was facilitated by Amanda Courtney (parent), Deirdre Hanley (teacher) and Lyndsey Moore (parent).

## Hall Rental

We have been contacted by many local groups looking to rent out hall or classroom spaces for various clubs and activities. For more information on hall rental, please contact [principal@sfaps.net](mailto:principal@sfaps.net)



## Cake Sale

6th Class would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who supported our recent bake sale.

Thank you to all the students, parents and teachers who baked delicious treats, and to everyone who bought something. Your support truly made the event a great success. Thanks to your kindness, we were able to raise valuable funds that will go towards our graduation.



## Dancing Stars

We wanted to acknowledge and recognise the achievements of two fifth class students, Nour Mouchanan and Alexandra Surma who both train with the House of Swag Dance Studio. This group are the current UK and Irish Champions and widely recognised as one of the leading hip hop dance crews in the country. Both girls show great commitment, work ethic and passion for dance.

This year, Nour is working towards qualifying and representing Ireland on the international stage. She trains at a very high level and has shown fantastic commitment, work ethic and passion for dance.

Last year, our team proudly represented Ireland at the World Hip Hop Dance Championships, reaching the Semi Finals against the best crews in the world. This year, Nour is now part of that journey, working towards qualifying and representing Ireland on the international stage.

# SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION - MATHS

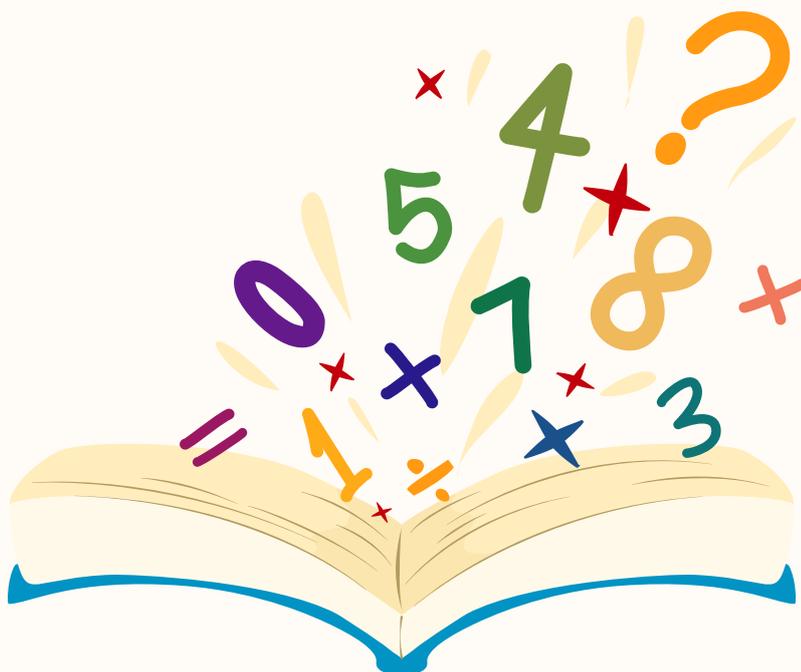


Thank you to all the parents and guardians who recently completed our Maths survey. Your feedback is very valuable and helps us continue to improve teaching and learning in our school.

The responses showed many positive aspects of maths learning in our school. Most parents reported that their children feel confident in maths and that maths homework is generally clear. A large number of parents also said they feel confident supporting their child with maths at home, which highlights the strong link between home and school.

Parents also shared helpful suggestions about ways we can continue to support pupils' learning. This feedback will help guide our work as we continue to develop maths teaching and learning in the school.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your views. Your input is greatly appreciated and plays an important role in supporting our pupils' learning.



# St. Francis of Assisi Primary School , Belmayne Fundraiser Lotto

*Your support makes a real difference*

Jackpot increases every week plus a weekly winner prize

## Play

### Pick 4 numbers

The same numbers will be played for you each week

## Pay

1 line for €2.50, 2 lines for €4

or 3 Lines for €5

Maximum 3 lines per person

## Win

Match 4 numbers to win the Jackpot

## Join now.

Scan the QR code or go to our website



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For more information email

[info@ourfundraiser.ie](mailto:info@ourfundraiser.ie)

**Reminder that our school lotto is up and running. The funds raised go back into our school. The information and QR code are available on our school website. You have to be in it, to win it!**