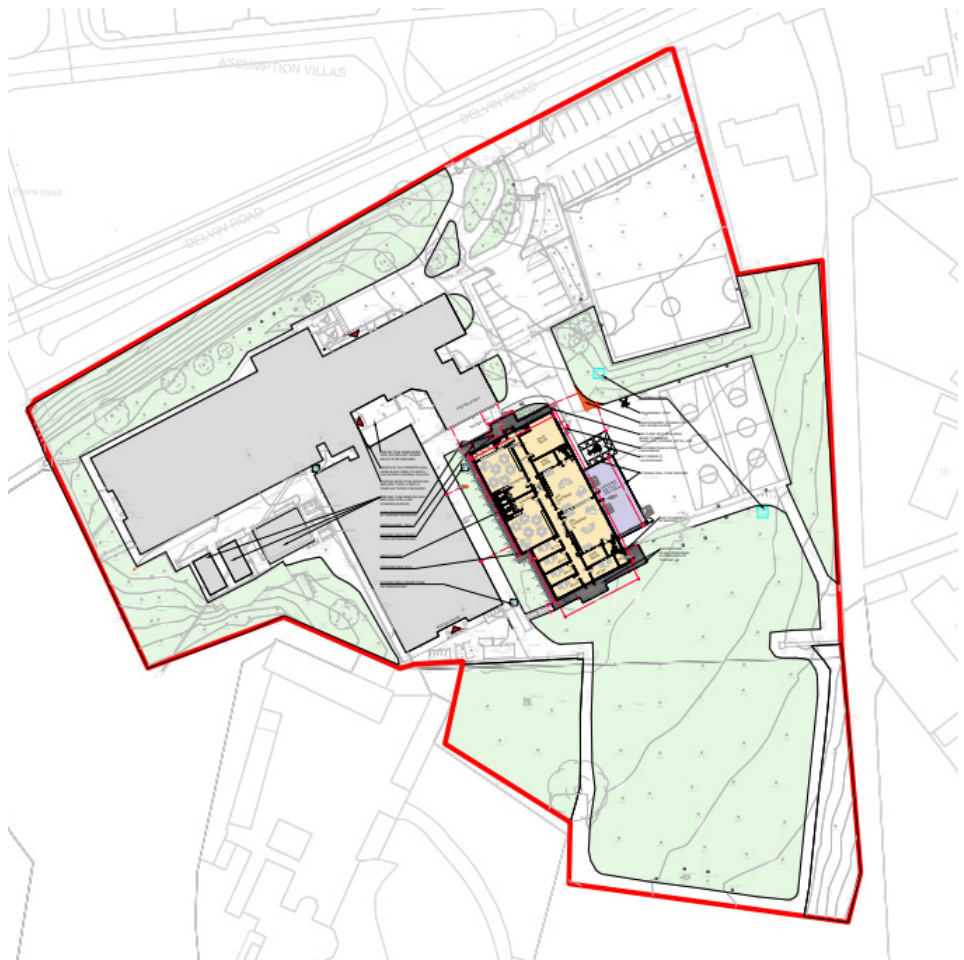




# New Accommodation

We are delighted to have recently received the news that we are to receive new accommodation before the end of the current school year. This modular accommodation will replace all the existing prefabs to the rear of the school, some of which are over 25 years old and in various states of disrepair. The accommodation will replace the SEN rooms and staffroom which are currently housed in these prefabs together with extra classroom space and two purpose built rooms for special classes. This new accommodation will be located on the grass area beside the top playground and groundworks are likely to commence before Christmas. This is a very exciting development for our school and we look forward to providing our children and staff with a more modern and comfortable environment within which to learn and play.



**Prefabs that are to be replaced**



# Parents Association News

## AGM

Our AGM took place on the 17th of September where we were able to reflect on a very successful 2024/25 school year. We are delighted that Eileen Mills and Dearbhla O'Sullivan will remain in their positions of Treasurer and Chairperson while we say a fond farewell to Brian Ivory who has served brilliantly as Secretary for the past three years. We wish to thank Brian for all his hard work and dedication over this time and we wish him all the best as his family moves on to secondary school. We are delighted to welcome Paul Martin as our new Secretary and look forward to working with him on our many projects over the course of his tenure.

## HELP NEEDED!!!

The Parents Association is made up of a collection of parent volunteers who wish to make a contribution to school life in St. Colman's for the benefit of all our children. The only formal roles are those of the Chairperson, Secre-

tary and Treasurer but the Association cannot function without the input and assistance of the greater parent body. This doesn't require any commitment other than to come along to some of the meetings (these are informal gatherings that last no longer than an hour) and help out where you can. It is a wonderful way to meet other parents and to get an insight into all that goes on behind the scenes in our busy school. Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 5th of November at 7pm. All are welcome to attend. We would love to see you there!

## CHRISTMAS FAIR & RAFFLE

This year's Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday the 30th of November. This is always a fabulous family day out, not to be missed! Our Christmas Raffle is our main fundraiser each year and we always ask families if they have any connections with local businesses that might be willing to sponsor prizes to get in



touch. Please contact the school office if you might be in a position to sponsor a prize. Thank you in advance for your support.

## VOLUNTARY SMARTPHONE AGREEMENT

There is growing awareness and concern among parents about the negative effects of smartphone and social media usage on the wellbeing of young children. Last year we issued a short survey asking parents whether Primary School students should have their own smartphone. Over 90% believed that they should not and over 80% said that they would be willing to enter a collective agreement with other parents in the school not to provide

their child with one until they had left primary school. Our Parents Association have been working on wording such an agreement and this will be issued to each family in the coming days. Whether parents sign up is optional and we respect the right of every parent to decide what is best for their own child.

The hope is that this collective agreement will help to reduce peer pressure for children to have a smartphone or access to social media platforms as the 'but everyone else has one' argument will no longer stand up. We hope that the majority of parents will recognise the merits of this initiative which has proven to be successful in a number of schools across the country.



## School is a No Phone Zone

In June of this year schools were issued a directive from the Department of Education to implement a policy for pupils which bans the use of, and access to personal mobile phones for the duration of the school day (circular 0044/2025). Children should not have mobile phones on their person or in their school bag during the school day

under any circumstances. While this has always been the policy in St. Colman's we wish to draw this national directive to your attention and to ask for your cooperation in its implementation. Should you wish to discuss this matter further please make an appointment through the school office.



## Bí Cineálta Policy

Following consultation with our Parents, Association, Board of Management, Staff and Pupils, we have recently produced our new 'Bí Cineálta' Anti-Bullying Policy in line with the requirements of Bí Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Pri-

mary Schools 2024. This policy can be found in the 'For Parents' section of our school website under the 'School Policies' tab. Below is the 'Child Friendly' poster version of the policy, designed by our Student Council and which is currently displayed in all classrooms throughout the school.

## Dates for the Diary

- 30th November - Christmas Fair
- Parent Teacher Meetings for children from 1st to 6th Classes will take place during the week beginning Nov. 17th. You can book your slot through the Aladdin App.
- 9th February - First Confessions
- 26th & 27th February - 6th class shows in the Arts Centre (Aladdin)
- 7th March - Confirmation Day
- 23rd May - First Holy Communion





# Maths Week 2025

We celebrated Maths Week across the school and what a fantastic time it was! Classrooms were buzzing with fun activities, problem-solving challenges, maths trails, and games that showed just how exciting maths can be. From our youngest pupils exploring shapes

and patterns to our older students tackling tricky puzzles and quizzes, everyone got involved and discovered that maths is all around us — in everyday life, in nature, and even in the games we play! A big thank you to all the teachers and students for their enthu-

siasm and creativity throughout the week. We loved seeing so many smiles, “light-bulb moments,” and brilliant teamwork in action. Keep counting, measuring, and problem-solving — because maths really does make sense!



# School Book Fair 2025

Our annual Book Fair was a huge success! The excitement around reading filled the school as pupils explored a wonderful selection of books and

discovered new stories to enjoy. It was lovely to see so many children chatting about their favourite authors, recommending books to friends, and devel-

oping a real love for reading. A big thank you to all the families who supported the Book Fair — your participation helps us earn new books for our school library and classrooms. Reading opens up a world of imagination and adventure, and this week reminded us just how special books can be. Keep reading and sharing stories!





# Welcome to Our New Junior Infants!

We are so excited to welcome our new Junior Infants as they begin their school journey! It has been wonderful seeing all the bright smiles and excitement as they settle into their new classrooms, make friends, and start learning new things each day. Starting school is such a special milestone, and we are very proud of how well everyone is settling in. A big thank you to all the parents and guardians for your support and encouragement during this important time. We look forward to a fantastic year of learning, laughter, and new adventures together!



**Mrs O'Mara's Junior Infants**



**Mrs Dowling's Junior Infants**



# Cumann na mBunscol

Football has started back, and there's great excitement among both our boys' and girls' teams! Training sessions are well

underway, and the players are showing fantastic teamwork, determination, and school spirit. We're looking forward to

an action-packed season ahead, with plenty of matches and fun along the way. A big thank you to the teachers and coaches

for giving their time and support — and best of luck to all our players as they represent the school with pride!



# Cross Country Running at Belvedere

Our pupils recently took part in a cross country running event at Belvedere. Everyone gave their best and showed fantastic effort, determination, and school spirit.

It was wonderful to see the students challenge themselves, support each other, and enjoy being part of such a special event. Well done to all our runners for representing the school so brilliantly!



**Wishing all our families a Happy Halloween. We will see you when we reopen on Monday 3rd of November.**

