

## Halloween 2025



### 2025 – 2026: Another Exciting Year at St. Conleth's National School.

It's been another busy start to the school year at St. Conleth's National School. Our Junior Infants are settling in well. Coming to 'big school' is a massive change for them. Ms. Mooney and Ms. Jenkins, alongside Del and Olivia, have been very busy helping the children to adapt to their new routines. The children are learning so much from their teachers. They're even learning a new language! It's been amazing to hear the children confidently using their new Irish words. Well done to all the children on their hard work during the first half term. Other classes have returned full of vim and vigour this year. We have a few new students and as usual, the children of Derrinturn have been very welcoming. We are always very proud of the way the children welcome others and include them in all their activities and experiences. A huge welcome is extended to all the new children and their families. A few more will join us after the Halloween break and we look forward to meeting them all and welcoming them to the school family.

[www.stconlethsns.ie](http://www.stconlethsns.ie)

Our new website, [www.stconlethsns.ie](http://www.stconlethsns.ie) has been launched. It's a bright and vibrant site and we are gradually adding all our news and information to this beautiful new platform. Ms. O' Brien, our I.T. coordinator has been very busy setting up the website and we're very grateful to her. Please visit the site. You'll soon see why we're so proud of our new website.

Our parent teacher meetings will be held in the week starting November 10<sup>th</sup>. When we return after Halloween, teachers will share the schedule for appointments on Aladdin. If you have changed any of your contact details, please let the school know, by ringing Carol at the school office on 046 9553490 or by e-mailing [secretary@stconlethsns.ie](mailto:secretary@stconlethsns.ie). We also encourage you all to make sure you have the Aladdin Connect App. The guidelines below will help you to set it up if it is new to you. If there are problems, make contact with us and we'll help you.

**Aladdin Connect**

### 6 Steps to Set Up your Aladdin App

- 01 Download**  
Download the app to your phone using the App Store for Apple devices or the Google Play store for Android devices.
- 02 Device Settings**  
After opening the app you'll be asked to select a device option. If you are the sole user of the device select the first option. If anyone besides you has the ability to use the device select the
- 03 Sign In**  
The next step is signing in to your account. You should have your username and password from the registration process you went through when your school activated the parent portal.
- 04 Mobile Verification**  
After signing in you'll be brought to the Mobile Verification process. If you would like to receive text messages via the app to this device follow the steps outlined. If you don't wish to receive text
- 05 Enter Code**  
You should receive a text message with a 6 digit code after entering your mobile number. Enter the code here and click "Verify". Wait for the green tick to confirm your mobile number
- 06 Setup Complete**  
Once verified you will be directed to your account homepage. From here you can navigate to all the different sections of your account. We hope you enjoy using the Aladdin app!

## Halloween Activities

Our annual Bring and Buy was organised on October 23<sup>rd</sup> by the very capable boys and girls in our 6<sup>th</sup> classes. They even allowed Mr. Dunne and Ms. Dunne to help with the preparations! There was a suggestion that it was a Dunnes Stores takeover bid! Both teachers and students have been amazed at the amount of donations they have received from all the parents. There were wonderful fresh bakes delivered on the morning of the sale as well. We really appreciate all your support. Bring and Buy Day has always been a very special day for the children of the school. It has become a school tradition and it's a wonderful experience for our older, organising students, as well as being great fun. As usual, the children dressed up on the final day of school in their Halloween costumes. This year, the children had the option of donating to Special Olympics Ireland as part of the Dress-Up Day. This is the charity we have chosen to support. There has always been a great community spirit of giving in Derrinturn and we are proud that this generosity continues.

## Building Project

Our building project is in full swing. We're delighted with the progress that is being made. We look forward to our new classroom and H.S.C.L. room being ready before the end of this school year. These rooms will be a welcome addition to the school. Mrs. Byrne is looking forward to leaving the prefab and moving to her new room. There will be a lot of work completed during our week off, that can only be completed when the school is closed. It's very exciting to watch it all take shape. Thanks to everyone for being so accommodating and patient with the changes to arrival and departure each day. Access is limited, but with your co-operation, we're keeping everybody safe. In the interests of safety, we remind you that the school gates do not open until 9.10am every day. Due to the building project, space is limited at the front of the school. We do not advise that children be dropped off early and left to wait for the gates to open. It is cold, dark and wet and being wet and cold is not a great way to start a school day for any child. Thanks for your support.

## Activities for Parents

Mrs. Byrne has been working with class teachers to arrange Halloween games for our younger classes during the final few days before Halloween. There are many old-style Halloween traditions that the children did not know about. The children were delighted to have their parents at school and young and old alike thoroughly enjoyed all their games.

Parents have been very busy since the school re-opened after the summer holidays. Knitting has started and the children have really taken to this skill. This is due to the shared wisdom and patience of all the parent and grandparent volunteers, that turn up every week. The gardening club are ploughing ahead with their plans for the year, and played a huge role in putting up our Halloween decorations at the front of the school. Thanks to everybody. We know that time is a precious commodity and we are so grateful for every minute you give to the children.



## Maths Week Activities.

Parents also joined classes for Maths games during Maths Week. Parents completed Maths Trails around the school with the children. It was a great opportunity for Maths and Maps Challenges as they negotiated their way through the school building and grounds in search of the answers to Maths questions.

5th and 6th Class students took part in a Math-a-thon to celebrate Maths Week. Students were challenged to collaborate with their groups in order to think outside the box when faced with complex word problems. Mr. Molloy prepared the digital Math-a-thon, which he hosted with Mr. Dunne and Ms. Dunne in the school hall. Children worked in teams and the challenges, questions and problems were presented on the big screen. A spinner built into the presentation offered rewards after each round, so that every group had a chance of gaining rewards. Congratulations to the winning groups. This Math-a-thon was one of our DEIS actions for this year and it was a great success. It links well with the new Maths Curriculum and is great preparation for Project Maths in secondary schools. Thanks to the three teachers and all the children that took part.



## Creative Clusters

We are very excited that our school will be part of Creative Clusters this year. The children in our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes will be working creatively on many projects in the coming months and connecting with the children from the other schools in our Cluster (Allenwood, Prosperous and Caragh schools.)

Síológa class and the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> classes have already taken part in a Lego Spike Coding activity. The children used their creative skills to design Lego models, write their own code to programme their model, to make it move, spin, flash or even drive! A wonderful STEM activity, which the children really enjoyed.



## Senior Boys Soccer

The boys from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes competed in the Division 3 Kildare Primary Soccer Tournament during September and October. The team defeated local rivals Allenwood and Allen by 3 – 0 and 5- 3 respectively. Unfortunately we were narrowly defeated away by Monasterevin. We had a spirited second-half fightback coming from 3 - 0 down. It was a great team effort. A semi-final away to Castledermot loomed, and although the lads fought tooth and nail until the final whistle, Castledermot were the narrow winners. It was a brave campaign, during which our boys showed grit and determination. Mr. Molloy and Catherine were very proud of the team and their sportsmanship. Well done boys and thanks to our coaches.

Goal Count: Goals from Shane Mulligan (5), Harry Walsh (2), Daragh Kenny (2), Alexandru Gheorghe, Harry Simonov and Liam Grogan.

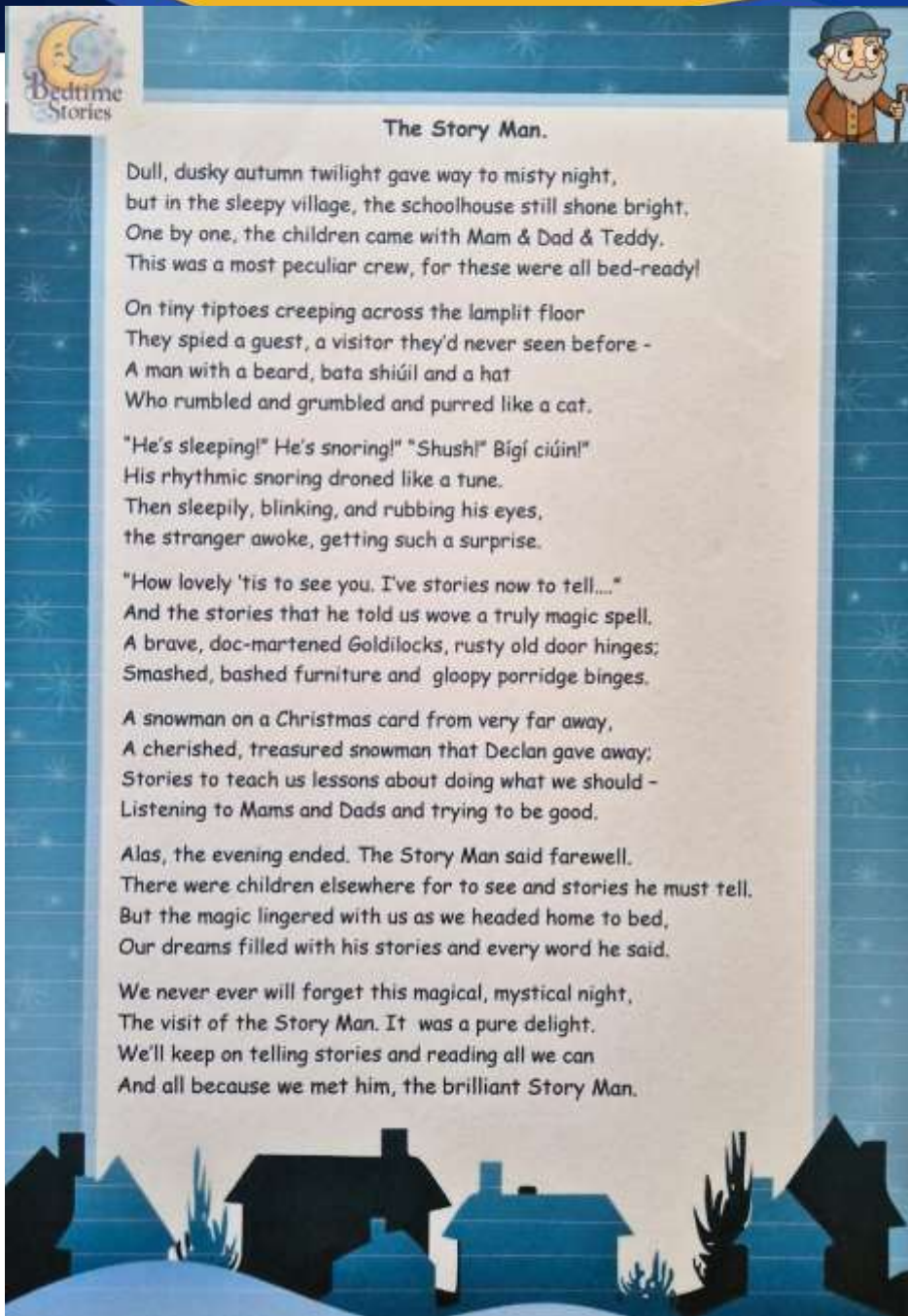
Our Gaelic teams have also been in action. News will follow in our next newsletter. Watch this spot!



## Student Consultation Committees

The Lunch Committee were straight back to work at the beginning of September. New representatives were nominated from 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes. There were discussions and debates about new dishes for the menu. The children discussed the need to address individual dietary requirements and the importance of choice. All decisions were presented to our supplier. The committee had a special tasting meeting (which they particularly enjoyed) in advance of the official start date for school lunches.

The Bí Cineálta Committee was formed at the end of last year. The committee worked on the Student-Friendly Bí Cineálta Policy, which is displayed at the school entrance, near Carol's office. Members of this committee will meet after the mid-term break to work on a student-friendly poster explaining the Child Protection Policy.



Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October:	Closing for mid-term break
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October :	School closed as Polling Station
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November:	Nasal Flu Vaccines in school – Information etc after Halloween.
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November:	Parent Teacher Meeting Week
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December:	Carol Service
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December:	Carol Service
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December:	Closed for staff training
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December:	Closing for Christmas Holidays