

Christmas 2025



Principal's Message:

On behalf of the Board of Management, staff and children of St. Conleth's National School I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and thank you for your support and cooperation throughout this term. We really appreciate all that you do for us.

The school is full of festive spirit at the moment. I am extremely proud of the children and all the hard work they have done preparing for their Nativity plays and Carol Services. They performed brilliantly.

As the first term draws to a close, I wish to acknowledge our school staff. Thanks to the teachers for their commitment and dedication to the children and to learning in the school, to the SNAs and bus escorts for their care and understanding of our pupils, and the secretary, caretaker and cleaning staff for all their hard work in the running and maintenance of the school. We have an amazing team, without which we would not have such a wonderful school.

Finally, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Board of Management, staff and pupils, I would like once again to wish you all a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Beannachtaí na Nollaig oraibh go léir.

School will re-open on Monday 5th January at 9.20am.

The builders are making great progress on our new rooms. There was great excitement this week, when our new sign was erected. It looks really well.



We had two amazing nights in the church on Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th December. The children told the Christmas story in narration and song. We are very proud of the incredibly confident performances. The children impressed the audience with their level of organisation and professionalism. What a wonderful start to the Christmas season. Well done everybody! Thanks to everyone that contributed to the donation box on the night. We raised just over €300, which will go into our hall upgrade fund so that many more performances may be enjoyed by all.



Members of the school choir helped out at the recent charity drive in the local Gala store. The children sung their hearts out, changing the lyrics of 'Deck the Halls' to include "Gala- la-la-la-la-la-la-la." Well... 'Tis the season to be jolly!



Society of St Vincent de Paul

A huge thanks to Carol, our school secretary, for coordinating our Annual St. Vincent de Paul appeal. As always, parents and staff have been extremely generous. Louise from S. V. P. was delighted with the donations, which she collected on Wednesday. She and the local volunteers will distribute your donations on time for Christmas.



Mr. Molloy's 5th class entered and won a competition. The prize was a school visit from an Irish Olympian. Bryan Mollen visited on 7th November and the entire school got to meet him. Lunchtime Chess Club was started on November 18th by Ms. Dunne. They recently had their Christmas tournament. The mobile library service has returned to the school. Ms. Dunne organised the Christmas Shoebox appeal for any teachers and classes that wanted to participate. We are always aware that children benefit greatly from meaningful charitable acts. The school has won 2 free Education Workshops from the Rediscovery Centre. The project is funded by the Department of Education and Youth under the Discover Programme.

DEIS Updates

DEIS stands for Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools. It is a programme funded by the Department of Education that aims to ensure all children have equal access to high-quality education, regardless of their background or circumstances. DEIS supports allow us to:

- Provide more targeted help for children who need it
- Offer extra learning opportunities and interventions
- Strengthen positive school experiences
- Build strong links between home and school

All children in the school benefit from these supports, as they contribute to a more inclusive, supportive, and effective learning environment. Parents and guardians play a vital role in the success of the DEIS programme. Your involvement in school activities, communication with teachers, and support for your child's learning at home all help to make a positive difference.

We have a DEIS Action Plan in place. This is our school development plan and we work on five themes. These are (1) Literacy, (2) Numeracy, (3) Attendance, (4) Partnership with Parents, Transitions and Retention and (5) Partnership with Others.

As you are aware, we focus on all of these and there are many actions in place to reach our targets. Staff have had training and sharing sessions in literacy this term and our new strategies and programmes are working really well. Literacy has also been incorporated into our Creative Cluster Project - a wonderful project with other schools in the area. Some of the children have exchanged pen-pal letters and Christmas cards with children in schools in the creative cluster. Our numeracy team have been busy as well. A Mathaton was held earlier in the term and we are gradually building up our Maths resources and implementing the new Primary Maths Curriculum. We are looking carefully at attendance data, and our focus for the rest of the year will be on reducing late arrivals and early departures. We'll also try to identify children at risk of poor attendance. A Tusla report is submitted in December so that Tusla are aware of individual children that have missed twenty days or more. Our partnership with parents is one of our stronger points due to your support and the intervention of our H.S.C.L. Mrs. Byrne. We've had brilliant knitting and gardening sessions, as well as wreath-making for Christmas. We've had forest school sessions, Halloween Games and Maths Games. Coffee mornings have been organised for new parents so that they can get to know us and indeed each other. There have been pottery classes at school for parents. We have many more plans in place for next term. We are constantly engaging with other agencies and organisations, such as Edenderry Library, Kildare Mobile Library, Community Gardaí, Heritage in Schools, Green Schools, Tidy Towns, Green Schools, School Completion and Music Generation. In January Cycle training will return for our sixth class students. As part of our ongoing commitment to the DEIS programme, our school regularly plans, reviews, and updates a range of actions aimed at enhancing pupils' learning, wellbeing, and engagement.

We encourage all parents and guardians to check our school website regularly, where we share information about:

- Our DEIS action plans and priorities
- Supports and initiatives in place for pupils
- Updates on literacy, numeracy, wellbeing, and attendance
- Opportunities for parental involvement and school-home partnerships



"Ode to the Parents Association."

or

"Santa's Little Helpers."

Twas the week before Christmas, when all through the school,
The parents made everything seem very cool!
They'd been planning for months, for most of the year
And gathering prizes from far and from near.

They organised meetings. They wrote begging letters.
The prizes arrived, getting better and better.
The children sold tickets and online sales soared.
All records broken, as they sold more and more.

With prizes all gathered and nicely displayed,
The real guest of honour appeared on his sleigh.
The Parents Association received thanks and praise.
He'd not seen such hard work in all of his days.

No Donner, no Blitzen and no reindeer in sight.
Just Mammies and Daddies, who worked day and night.
Santa said "You're the best workers. It's clear.
You're Santa's Little Helpers, the best ones this year!"

Each class had a visit, sweet treats and great fun
Before Santa's Little Helpers' big raffle was run.
Our Parents Association are the helpers each year,
And we're always so glad of the work they do here.

They're all silent heroes, that never seek praise.
They give up their time for all of our sakes.
So we thank them sincerely, and say with delight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a goodnight."

