



St. Mary's Newsletter



April 2026

'Star of the Week' Winners this month:

R-P5

- Dearbhla
- Breacán
- June



P6- P7

- Oscar
- Nyree
- Conan

Golden Tie

R-P5-

- Lily

P6-P7

- Dáire



News and Information

Our 'x' and Facebook pages will keep you up to date on what's happening in school.

Follow us

@StMarysRathlin

Website:

www.stmarysprischat
hinisland.co.uk

facebook



Mary Currie RIP

It was great shock and sadness that we learnt of the death of our colleague and friend, Mary Currie, on Saturday 25th April. Mary was much respected among the staff, pupils and wider school community and we are all deeply saddened at her passing. Her cremation will take place on Monday 11th May and school will be closed to allow staff to attend. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis!

Community Sports Network

On Monday 13th April, we welcomed the Community Sports Network NI to our school as part of our wellbeing day. This initiative helped to encourage our pupils to adopt a more active lifestyle and develop a greater understanding of health and wellbeing. Through engaging activities and expert guidance, students learnt how to improve their physical fitness but also built confidence, teamwork skills and positive habits that will benefit them long into the future. Thanks to Danny and Peter from the network. More information on their work can be found here: <https://www.communitysportsnetwork.org/>

PTA wellbeing Event-April 2026

Thanks to the PTA for organising the recent Wellbeing Event as part of our wellbeing day in school. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part and it was lovely to see so many smiling faces as they celebrated wellbeing in such a fun and vibrant way. Events like this make a meaningful difference, supporting both the happiness and health of our pupils.

Key dates for May 2026

- 4th May- bank holiday- school closed
- 6th May- shared education day with Gaelscoil An Chaistil
- 11th May- school closed for funeral of Mary Currie RIP
- 18th-22nd May- Assessment Week and Maritime Week 2026
- 22nd May- blessing of the boats
- 25th-29th May- Half-term holiday

Summer Reminders

On warm days, please make sure pupils have applied sunscreen before coming to school and if required extra sunscreen sent into school as we will be outside as much as possible in the good weather. Please also continue to encourage your child to drink as much water as possible during the summer months.

Mr. McGuigan

School Motto:

Scoil Bheag, Croí mór- Small school, big heart!

School Holiday List 2026-2027

The school calendar for 2026-27 will be available to download from the school website in June 2026. We ask that parents use this to identify term-time dates and to avoid family holidays during the school term.

Assessment Week

During assessment week, children will complete the annual English and Maths standardised assessments. The outcomes from these allow us to track each child's progress in Maths and English and provide a basis for teachers to plan for future learning.

New website

Our new school website will be launching soon! The updated site will have a fresh, modern design and improved navigation to make it easier for students, parents and visitors to find important information.

The website address will remain the same and all existing content will be carefully migrated to the new platform. This means you can continue to access the information you need without any disruption.

Transition for P7's

As our Primary 7 pupils prepare for the exciting move to post-primary school, we are supporting them through a dedicated Transition Programme. This programme is designed by the EA to help pupils feel confident, prepared and positive about the next stage of their education.

Over the coming weeks, pupils will take part in a range of activities, including opportunities to discuss any questions or worries and sessions focused on organisation, independence and wellbeing.

We recognise that this is an important milestone, and we are committed to ensuring every child feels supported during this change. If you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact the school.



E-safety– April Updates

- Some guidance suggests **under-11s should avoid smartphones altogether** and use basic phones instead.

What this means for parents:

- Delay giving smartphones where possible
- Use parental controls and family settings if a device is needed
- Be aware of messaging apps and group chats starting earlier (P5-P7)

PE and ICT days:

KS1- P3-P4

PE- Monday and Friday

ICT- Monday

KS2- P5-P7

PE- Tuesday and Friday

ICT- Wednesday



May 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1- Forest School Friday	2-	3-
4- Bank Holiday Monday	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	10-
11- School Closed	12-	13-	14-	15-	16-	17- Confirmation 2026
18- Assessment Week Maritime Week	19- Assessment Week Maritime Week	20- Assessment Week Maritime Week	21- Assessment Week Maritime Week	22- Assessment Week Blessing of the Boats	23-	24-
25- Half-Term week	26- Half-Term week	27- Half-Term week	28- Half-Term week	29- Half-Term week	30-	31-