



St. Mary's Newsletter



March 2026

'Star of the Week' Winners this month:

R-P5

- Bréacan
- Lily
- Cian
- Lukas

P6- P7

- Oscar
- Conan
- Keavy
- Dáire

Golden Tie

R-P5-

- June

P6-P7

- Nyree



Thought for the month:

"March reminds us that change doesn't have to be sudden to be powerful—growth often begins quietly, like the first signs of spring."

Pupil Voice

This month, a letter was sent home to families about Pupil Voice in our school. Pupil Voice is an important way for our pupils to share their ideas, opinions, and suggestions about school life. It helps ensure that every child feels listened to and has a role in shaping our school community.

We encourage parents and family members to read the letter and talk with their child about the importance of sharing their thoughts respectfully and positively. Working together, we can continue to make our school a place where every voice matters.

Ireland Themed Week 2026

This month we enjoyed a wonderful 'Ireland Themed Week 2026'— one of the highlights of the school year. Throughout the week, pupils also took part in a variety of fun and educational activities linked to Seachtain na Gaeilge, the annual celebration of the Irish language.

Classes explored many aspects of Irish history, literacy and geography and it was a fantastic opportunity for everyone in our school community to celebrate Ireland and appreciate the richness of the Irish language. A big well done to all the pupils for their enthusiasm and participation despite the difficult week in terms of weather.

Visitor from Japan

We were delighted to welcome Professor Masataka Kizuka to our school on Wednesday 11th March. Professor Kizuka visited from Japan as part of his research into education in remote and island communities. Pictures of his visit are available on our website and Facebook page.

Trócaire

We are delighted to share that our school community recently raised £640 in support of Trócaire. This wonderful achievement was made possible thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our pupils, staff, and families— an incredible amount of money for a small school! Maith thú!

Trócaire supports communities around the world who are facing poverty, injustice, and the effects of climate change. It was inspiring to see everyone come together to make a difference. We would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed, and supported our efforts.

School Improvement Suggestion

Parents can give feedback on any views you have on a particular issue here. Please cut this box out and hand your idea or suggestion to the school office.

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



School Motto:

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

Tuesday Club Visit

This month we spent some time with the Tuesday club. These visits are valuable in primary schools for several educational and social reasons including:

1. Builds empathy and respect.
2. Improves communication skills.
3. Supports emotional and social development.
4. Enhances learning through real-life experiences.
5. Strengthens community connections.

Forest School Update:

On Friday 6th March we had another forest school Friday. The main themes of this one was getting the garden ready for spring and mapping our route from home to school using natural materials. Pictures of the day are available on the website and also on our Facebook page.



Visitor from Rwanda with Trócaire

We were delighted to have an online question and answer session with Jackline– a native of Rwanda– in partnership with Trócaire. She provided a valuable opportunity for our students to learn more about Trócaire's work in Rwanda and the positive impact it has on communities there.

Our guest shared powerful insights into daily life in Rwanda, highlighting both the challenges faced and the progress being made through Trócaire-supported projects. Students gained a deeper understanding of global justice, sustainability, and the importance of supporting communities around the world.

The session helped encourage us all to reflect on how we can contribute to making a difference. We are very grateful to Trócaire and Jackline for taking time to talk to us.

E-safety– March Updates

1. Possible social media ban or restrictions for under-16s– The UK government has launched a consultation about limiting young people's access to social media.
2. Stronger enforcement of the Online Safety Act. The UK's Online Safety Act 2023 is now moving into full enforcement, meaning platforms must actively protect users from harmful content.
3. New rules on AI deepfake images. Under the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, creating or requesting non-consensual intimate deepfake images became a criminal offence in early 2026.

PE and ICT days:

Hurling equipment needed for this term.

KS1- P3-P4

PE- Monday and Friday

ICT- Monday

KS2- P5-P7

PE- Tuesday and Friday

ICT- Wednesday



April 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1-	2-	3-	4-	5-
6-	7-	8-	9-	10-	11-	12-
13– Wellbeing Day 3. PTA social colour event.	14-	15– CnaB Cross Country in Limepark	16-	17-	18-	19-
20-	21-	22– KS2 funday in Dunloy	23-	24-	25-	26-
27-	28-	29– Be Proud afternoon– 1.30pm	30-			