



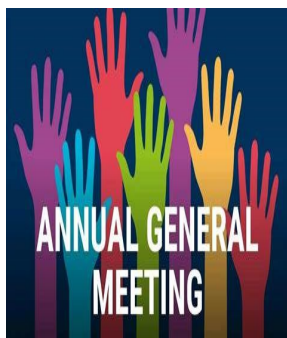
St. Mary's Newsletter



December 2025

Governors AGM

The annual AGM for the governing body will take place on Wednesday 4th February at 2:30pm in the Branston centre.



Thought for the month:

"January is a fresh page — a reminder that every ending makes space for a new beginning. Step forward with intention, hope, and gentle courage."

Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Christmas events this year. From joining us at the 'Bethlehem Bakeoff' and browsing the wonderful creations at the Christmas Craft Fair, to taking part in our School Draw and stopping by the PTA Coffee Event—your enthusiasm and generosity made our Christmas celebrations very special.

We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and festive spirit our school community brings to these celebrations. Your support helps create joyful memories for our students and strengthens the community we're so proud to be part of. A huge go raibh mile maith agat to all the businesses who supported our draw. Thank you for helping make this Christmas season bright!

Key Dates for the New Year*

Jan 7th— pupils return to school— Forest School Wellbeing Day— own clothes suitable for outdoor learning.

Jan 15th— CPC open evening for P6 and P7 pupils

Jan 26th– Jan 31st— Catholic School's Week

Jan 29th— Grandparents' Day

New Build Update

This term we should start to see some progress on the new build with the contractors hopeful to 'break sod' in the coming months. There will be periods of disruption but we will put plans in place to ensure there is minimal impact on pupils' learning. This is a very exciting chapter for this school and should ensure we have facilities that last the next generations of pupils who pass through it.

Mr McGuigan

* subject to change

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



**Nollaig
Shona
Duit**



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.

Cúpla Focal

Nollaig shona: Happy Christmas

Nollaig shona duit: Happy Christmas (to you, singular)

Nollaig shona daoibh: Happy Christmas (to you, plural)

Beannachtaí na Nollag: Christmas blessings

Daidí na Nollag: Santa Claus San Nioclás: Saint Nicholas

Muire agus Iósaf: Mary and Joseph

Na Trí Rí: The Three Kings

Aoirí: Shepherds

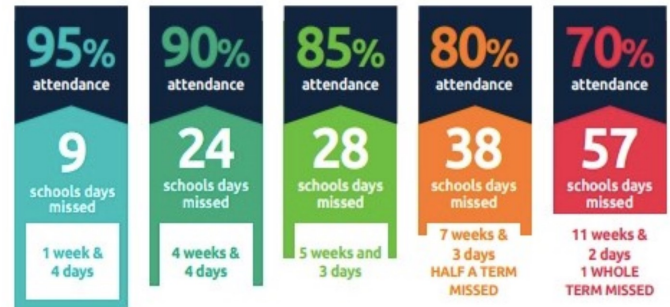
Fear sneachta: Snowman



Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for academic success, and missing class—whether through excused or unexcused absences—can make it difficult for students to keep up with lessons and stay engaged socially and academically. As per our attendance policy, if a child's attendance drops below 85% the Education Welfare Officer will be informed.

Every day in school counts...



Here are some clear, practical e-safety tips for parents over the Christmas period, when children often have more screen time and may receive new digital devices or games:

1. Set up devices safely before giving them;
2. Talk openly about online behaviour;
3. Check age ratings on games, apps, and films;
4. Manage screen time;
5. Stay aware of increased online activity;
6. Protect privacy—turn off location settings on apps;
7. Be mindful of online scams;
8. Update passwords and security;
9. Lead by example—model good behaviour with screens;
10. Create a safe space for conversations.

PE and ICT days:

KS1- P3-P4

PE- Monday and Friday
ICT- Monday

KS2- P5-P7

PE- Tuesday and Friday
ICT- Wednesday



January 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1-	2-	3-	4-
5-	6-	7- Pupils return— Forest School Day	8-	9-	10-	11-
12-	13-	14-	15- CPC open evening for P6/7	16-	17-	18-
19-	20-	21-	22-	23-	24-	25-
26- Catholic Schools Week	27-Catholic Schools Week	28-Catholic Schools Week	29-Catholic Schools Week Grandparent's Day 2025	30-Catholic Schools Week	31-	