



# St. Mary's Newsletter



**February 2025**

## 'Star of the Week' Winners this month:

### P3-P4 (KS1 Class)

- Breacan
- June
- Lukas
- June

### P5- P7 (KS2 Class)

- Oscar
- Keavy
- Saorlaith
- Daire

## 'Golden Tie' Winner for the Months:

P5-P7 Class:  
**Keavy**

P3-P4 Class:  
**Breacan**



## Thought for the month:

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."

## Mid-Year Attendance Reminder

We have now officially completed over half the school year and it is a good time to take stock of attendance figures. It is imperative that your child's attendance figure is above 85% though we should target a much higher percentage— 95%+. School attendance is crucial because it directly impacts a student's academic success and social development. Regular attendance fosters discipline, responsibility, and social connections. Currently our whole school attendance is sitting at 95.3%.

## Dates to Look out for in March

- 6th March— World Book Day
- Easter Egg raffle during lent— every Friday
- 10th-14th March— Ireland Themed week
- 14th March— in-school St. Patrick's day celebration— wear green to school that day.



## Children's Mental health Week 2025

Children's Mental Health Week 2025 took place from 3–9 February. This year's theme was, 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' and the initiative featured characters from Pixar's "Inside Out" and its sequel to help children explore and express their emotions. The week served as a platform to highlight the importance of mental health in children and young people, providing tools and support to help them navigate life's challenges.

On Tuesday of that week we took part in an online workshop by 'Little Sunflower'. Little Sunflower is an animated, interactive, digital, emotional wellbeing resource to help parents and teachers to help children understand and navigate big feelings with the help of the Little Sunflower. See <https://littlesunflower.ie/>

## Internet safety Day– 11th February

Along with thousands of schools nationally, we celebrated Internet Safety Day 2025 by talking to the pupils about safe online practices, digital responsibility, and how to protect their personal information while using the internet.

## Uniform

Please remind your child to wear the correct uniform to school and during online learning— remember **'look smart: think smart!'**  
Mr. E McGuigan

## News and Information

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

## **Follow us**

@StMarysRathlin

## **Website:**

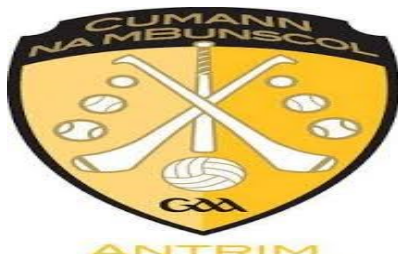
[www.stmarysprischat.hinisland.co.uk](http://www.stmarysprischat.hinisland.co.uk)

**facebook**



## Skills Days at Cumann na Bunscoil

Well done to all our pupils who attended the skills days in Dunloy GAC. Photos on the website.



## 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.



## Cúpla Focal

### Tidying up around the house

**Cuir an cupán sa doirteal-** Put the cup in the sink

**Cuir an pláta sa niteoir soithí-** Put the plate in the dishwasher

**Cuir an bainne sa chuisneoir-** Put the milk in the fridge

**Cuir an cupán sa chófra -** Put the cup in the cupboard

**Glan an tábla-** Clean the table



## Tips for Reading with your child at home.

Reading with your child at home is a great way to build their literacy skills and love for books. Here are five tips to make the experience enjoyable and effective:

### 1. Make It a Daily Habit

- Set aside a specific time each day for reading, like before bedtime or after school.
- Keep books in easy-to-reach places to encourage spontaneous reading.

### 2. Let Your Child Choose the Books

- Allow them to pick books that interest them, even if they want to read the same one multiple times.
- Mix in different genres—picture books, stories, non-fiction, and poetry.

### 3. Read with Expression

- Use different voices for characters and adjust your tone to match the story.
- Engage them by pausing to ask, "What do you think will happen next?"

### 4. Follow Their Pace

- Let them take the lead in turning pages or sounding out words.
- If they struggle, gently help them with tricky words and praise their effort.

### 5. Ask Questions & Make Connections

- Ask open-ended questions like, "How do you think the character feels?"
- Relate the story to their own life: "Have you ever felt like that?"

### Mobile Devices: Tips for Parents:

- Monitor Usage: Keep an eye on your child's phone activities and set limits on screen time.
- Open Communication: Talk to your child regularly about their online interactions and experiences.
- Educate About Risks: Teach them about online etiquette, privacy, and recognising harmful behaviour.
- Parental Controls: Use built-in parental controls on devices to manage and restrict app usage.
- Be a Role Model: Demonstrate healthy phone usage habits to set a positive example.

### PE and ICT days:

**KS1- P3-P4**

PE- Monday and Friday

ICT- Monday

**KS2- P5-P7**

PE- Tuesday and Friday

ICT- Wednesday

## March 2025

| Mon                                       | Tue                    | Wed                    | Thu                    | Fri                                            | Sat | Sun |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                                           |                        |                        |                        |                                                | 1-  | 2-  |
| 3-                                        | 4- Shrove Tuesday      | 5- Ash Wednesday       | 6- World Book Day      | 7-                                             | 8-  | 9-  |
| 10- Ireland Theme week- KS2 Ceildhe Trip. | 11- Ireland Theme week | 12- Ireland Theme week | 13- Ireland Theme week | 14- St. Patrick's Celebration- Dress in GREEN! | 15- | 16- |
| 17- School Closed for St. Patrick's Day   | 18-                    | 19-                    | 20-                    | 21-                                            | 22- | 23- |
| 24-                                       | 25-                    | 26-                    | 27-                    | 28-                                            | 29- | 30- |
| 31-                                       |                        |                        |                        |                                                |     |     |