

School News

January 2026



SAPA Update

The SAPA team met this week to plan out events for the remainder of the academic year. We'll be back to you shortly with dates for a Movie Night for kids, our Quiz Night for adults as well as a few other new and exciting activities that we are planning. A confirmed date for your diaries though is our May Fair, this year to be held on Saturday 23rd May. Our next cake sale will be a Valentine's themed one to be held on Friday 13th February. This time we are asking 1st and 3rd Class children/parents to please bake for us. Further details will be sent shortly through class WhatsApp groups messages. Before the Christmas holidays, SAPA funds raised from your contributions paid for a tennis lessons programme as well as window cleaning around the school. A bank transfer of €500 was also sent to Focus Ireland for money raised at our charity coffee morning. As always, if you have any new ways of raising funds for our school or events that you think might be interesting, please do get in touch with any member of the SAPA team.

Chess Tournament

Well done to Arthur Sheridan (6th Class), Freddie McAuliffe (5th Class) and Ramona Sheridan (2nd Class) who competed in the Junior Chess tournament at St. Conleth's College last Saturday.



Fun Friday





Around the Classes

Junior Infants have had a great start to 2026. They have been learning all about the theme 'space' this month. In play and learn they learned about astronauts, space shuttles, the space station and the planets. They made rockets using magnet tiles and junk art materials and acted out rocket launches in small world. They set up a space station in the classroom and conducted experiments in the role play area. They made their own moon sand and had great fun playing with the toy astronauts in it. They read the poem 'If I Met an Alien' and made their own clay aliens, which were both terrifying and adorable! They then moved on to the theme of 'space travel agents', where they sold holidays to different planets. In the discovery zone they made static electricity and created lava lamps using oil, water, food colouring and Alka-Seltzer. They observed what happened and talked about the bubbles and movement they could see. In maths they explored length, sequencing and number formation. In English they have continued learning their Jolly Phonics sounds, learned lots of space-related



songs and rhymes and read lots of space stories. In Irish they learned all about 'an aimsir'. They have also started Lámh, with Ali and Eoin from Fingal Prosper coming in weekly, and the children are loving learning new signs each week.



Senior Infants have had a great start back to school, and have been working really hard throughout the month. They started the new year by thinking about goals they might set for themselves, things they might want to get better at or things they might want to spend more time on this year. They have continued to work on alternate sounds in their English work, looking at 'oi' and 'oy', 'ai' and 'ay' and 'ee' and 'ea'. They are all working so hard at their reading and writing and making great progress. In maths the children have looked at the days of the week, months of the year and the four seasons. They then did some work with the number 8 before looking at spatial awareness, using their left and right and describing things as near and far away. In play and learn the class looked at cafés, with their own café set up in the classroom the children took orders and wrote menus as well as playing some café themed games! They then moved onto clothes, setting up a role play of a laundrette with a washing machine and clothes line to hang up their washing as well as making their own washing machines from paper plates. They also thought about what clothes they might need to pack if going on a winter holiday. Senior Infants were also lucky to have another visit from Mouse, he showed the children some of the amazing animals they might see in the local area. Well done Senior Infants!



There has been lots of activities happening in **1st Class** since they been back from their Christmas break. The children created some lovely pieces of art to celebrate the new year. They also added a few goals that they would like to achieve by the end of 2026. The children have been learning all about magnetism in science where they have been testing different items in the classroom to see if they are magnetic or not. They also made a magnetic chain using only paper clips! **1st Class** are currently reading Little Red Riding Hood in literacy. They have been working on character descriptions and sequencing the main events of the story. The children have been working on their descriptive language to create "missing" posters of the big bad wolf. Everyone has done a really great job! **1st Class** has also been enjoying GAA this month. We are looking forward to more fun activities in February!



2nd Class enjoyed a busy month back after the Christmas break and all the children have been working really hard. In Gaeilge, they studied more of 'éadaí', 'teilifís' agus 'bia'. In maths, a great effort has been put into their group station work with topics like fractions, 3D shapes and money being covered. In literacy, **2nd Class** have been working hard on their spellings, readers and grammar work with particular focus on how to use the homophones 'there, their and they're'. In SESE, they studied all about their community and how each role in the community has a part to play in helping society. They also did a case study on Germany learning all about the powerhouse European country from their foods, famous buildings and large cities. In P.E., swimming has been the focal point of **2nd class's** P.E. lessons. The participation and effort from everyone has been amazing. The class have also played sports like football, dodgeball and rounders. In art, they created snowflakes thinking all about that icy, frosty weather we had in the first week of 2026 whilst also creating and designing their own maps to build their own unique communities. To conclude the month, **2nd Class** studied in SPHE all about why people bully for their monthly anti-bullying topic. They provided great input, offering mature discussion on why people bully others and how they can prevent it if they experience it or see it.



3rd Class have had a wonderfully active and creative month, packed with learning across the curriculum. In maths, pupils explored tessellation, fractions and 3D shapes, and have begun investigating division and its relationship with multiplication, showing great curiosity and growing confidence. Ms. Hoffman has been reading the novel *Charlotte's Web* to the class, which has been thoroughly enjoyed by all. With so many rainy breaktimes this month, the children also had the opportunity to watch parts of the movie, sparking great discussions and excitement around the story. Music was a real highlight this month. The children sang enthusiastically and explored rhythm through songs such as *The Wellerman*, *Okki Tokki Unga* and *The Viking Song*. They also experimented with body percussion and worked together playing a range of percussion instruments, creating lively and energetic performances. In P.E., 3rd Class practised their hockey skills, enjoyed mini matches and took part in a variety of fun ball games, developing both teamwork and coordination. History lessons focused on the Vikings, where pupils created fantastic Viking longship artwork, including woven wool sails and shiplap-style longboats. In geography, they have been learning the counties of Ireland and their number plate abbreviations, proudly finishing the month by singing Ireland's



Call with great gusto. In Gaeilge, the class has been working hard on grammar and sentence structure, focusing on *An Aimsir Chaite*. It has truly been a wonderfully busy month full of learning and creativity. Well done, 3rd Class!



4th Class were all delighted to be back at school after the Christmas holidays, ready to learn, laugh and have lots of fun together. The best part of returning was welcoming our new classmate Mila May to 4th Class who has settled in brilliantly already! In English, they have been working hard on plurals, descriptive language, and persuasive writing. The children learned how to make their writing more exciting by using powerful adjectives and interesting vocabulary. They have also been busy writing their own short stories for the Story Cup competition. Their imaginations have been working overtime as they created characters, settings and exciting plots.

In Gaeilge, they focused on *éadaí* and learned lots of new words they can now use in their conversations. As a class, the children really enjoyed reading *An Buachaill Bó* by Gillian Perdue. The story kept them interested and helped improve their reading and comprehension skills. In geography, they learned all about migration and studied the amazing journey of the Brent geese. They created mini projects to show what they learned and shared them with the rest of the school. Maths has been very busy too! The children have been working hard on long multiplication and fractions. 4th Class are really enjoying GAA in P.E. They have been practising their skills, improving their teamwork, and most importantly, having lots of fun while staying active. In history, the class travelled back in time to learn about the Aztec civilisation. They discovered how they lived, what they believed in, and how their empire changed when the Spanish conqueror Hernán Cortés arrived. In art, they explored the world of graffiti art and learned about the famous artist Banksy, discovering how art can send powerful messages. The class also learned about Wassily Kandinsky, who was famous for using shapes, colours and music to inspire his artwork. They created their own pieces inspired by both artists and had great fun experimenting with colour and design. It has been an exciting and busy January in 4th Class, full of learning, creativity and fun. 4th Class can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store!



The children have been super busy in **5th Class** this January and have done loads of fun and interesting work in lots of subjects. In English (Writer's Workshop), they've been creating their own novels and learning how to draft, revise, and redraft their work, and they even designed their own book covers using Canva. They also started reading their new class novel *Wonder* and have written newspaper articles describing Auggie's first day in school. They also reflected on 2025 and the children wrote and designed their New Year's resolutions for the year ahead. In art, the children did some falling foreshortening and name perspective artwork, which turned out really well. In maths, they've been working on money and fractions and practising their problem-solving skills. In Gaeilge, they learned about *éadaí* and used their new words and phrases. In SESE, they designed maps of Malahide with keys, looked at the map of Ireland and learned the counties, and completed a case study on life in the Burren in Co. Clare. 5th Class started rugby with Steven from Leinster rugby and are enjoying learning some new skills.



January has been a busy and creative month in **6th Class** as they settled back into school life after the Christmas break. They began the new year by designing colourful Happy New Year signs and writing about their personal goals for 2026. It was lovely to see such thoughtful reflections and positive ambitions from them all. In geography, they explored the deserts of the world, learning about different desert regions and researching the fascinating animals and people who live there. They produced excellent written work, showing great understanding of how life adapts to extreme environments. Maths lessons were very hands-on as they constructed 3-D shapes using cocktail sticks, helping them visualise edges, vertices and faces in a fun and practical way. In Gaeilge, they rose to the challenge of practising particularly complex grammar rules. Their effort and perseverance were impressive, and it's great to see confidence growing in this area. Art brought lots of creativity this month with beautiful clay penguins taking shape, while English lessons featured energetic creative writing blitzes that encouraged imagination, speed, and expressive language. The children were also delighted to welcome Steven, their new rugby coach, and they thoroughly enjoyed starting rugby lessons. Finally, excitement is building as they began reading their school play *Bugsy Malone*, with the children already getting into character and looking forward to rehearsals ahead. Well done to everyone for such a positive and productive start to 2026!



January Anti-Bullying Topic

The anti-bullying topic for January was why does bullying happen, what makes someone bully. Classes explored the reasons behind why someone might engage in bullying behaviour towards others such as they might be unhappy or experiencing bullying themselves or they might be trying to get attention from others.

Assemblies

Our January assembly was led by Ms. McElhinney. She wished everyone a happy new year and spoke about the year ahead. The year ahead is like a blank page, and we can all decide what goes on that page. We can decide how we treat people, how hard we work, how brave we are to try new things and make mistakes. We cannot control everything that happens around us, but we can control how we react. Ms. McElhinney suggested deciding on one focus for the new year. Maybe that will be trying a new sport or hobby, or working harder on something in school or being kinder to others. We finished the assembly by singing 'We're so proud of our school'. This song is all about being proud of our school because it is full of such amazing people!

