

School News

September 2025



Welcome back everyone. **A very special welcome to our new Junior Infants Class and all our new families.**



SAPA Update

Welcome back to school everyone, we hope that you all had a wonderful summer!

Thanks to everyone who came along to the Sapa AGM last Thursday. Our annual accounts have now been independently audited and if any parent would like to see them just let us know.

We are also on the lookout for a new treasurer who might have an hour a month to help keep our finances in order. Please do get in touch if you might be able to help us.

Thanks also for your generous contributions this past few weeks in buying Wine Fair raffle and entry tickets. We managed to raise €1,400, a great start to our fundraising activities for this school year. We are delighted to announce that our school won two of the five €500 Gibney's vouchers on offer. Congratulations to the parents of Ruadhán O'Connor and Myles O'Sullivan. The parents of Orla Tuffy also won a bottle of fine wine.

Stay tuned for coming events as we now look to plan our future events and activities.



Achievements

Congratulations to Robert Duggan who won The Grove Lawn Tennis Club - Club Championships - Singles Boys Under 12 years of age and Singles Boys Under 14 years of age.

Robert also won the Galway Junior Tour 200 under 12 Boys Singles.



Athletics

Well done to all our athletes in 4th, 5th and 6th class who took part in the Athletics Ireland Cross Country event in St. Anne's Park. It was a fantastic day and everyone gave their best effort and enjoyed the experience. Congratulations to those who received a medal for finishing in the top 10 for their category including Max Molan, Leah McCann, Panna Kuttor, Henry Moody and Tim O'Sullivan.



Student Council

A huge well done to all the candidates who bravely put themselves forward for the Student Council elections. We are so proud of everyone who took part and send a big congratulations to the children who were successfully elected to represent their classmates this year!

The following students were elected:

6th Class: Arthur Sheridan, Tim O'Sullivan & Lily Bennett

5th Class: Marcella Jepson-Jones, Luke Quinn & Ruadhán O'Connor

4th Class: Emma Heffernan, Leah McCann & Finn O'Halloran

3rd Class: Myles O'Sullivan, Logan Keegan & Piper Magee



Thank You

Thank you to Alex McAllister for donating a beautiful piano to the school. Alex is a past pupil of our school and a grandad to a family who are currently attending our school. Already, it is proving to be a wonderful addition to our music resources.



Around the Classes

Junior Infants have had a fantastic first month in St. Andrew's, making new friends and settling happily into school life. In play and learn, the children explored the themes of school, home, and the doctor's surgery, taking on different roles, building, creating, and painting with great enthusiasm. In Irish, they learned all about Mé Féin and picked up lots of new words, phrases, and songs. The children especially enjoy using their Irish throughout the day. Story time quickly became one of the highlights of the day. The children love listening to stories, sharing their ideas, and letting their imaginations shine. A special favourite this month was *Difference is Magic* by local authors Lisa Gilmartin and Fiona Synnott. After reading, they designed their own unique giraffes inspired by Jimbow from the story. They also looked closely at their own features in the mirror and painted beautiful self-portraits. Together, the class explored their similarities and differences and celebrated the uniqueness of everyone in Junior Infants. In PE, the children learned new games and practised their throwing and catching skills with beanbags. They also spent time on fine motor activities to strengthen their hands and fingers, getting ready for all the writing they will be doing



this year. Songs and rhymes have been a big hit too, helping to prepare them for reading. It has been a busy, fun-filled first month, and the children are working very hard while settling beautifully into school life.



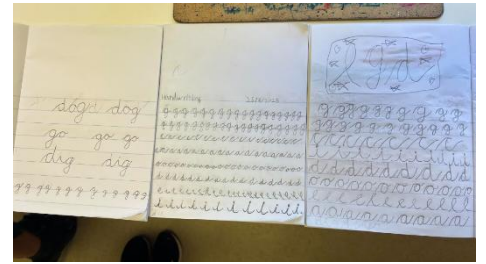
Senior Infants have had a brilliant start to the year. I am so proud of how well they have all settled in to their new classroom and new routines, it has been so lovely getting to know them all. I have also been so impressed with how hard they have all been working since they have been back at school. In English, they have been working really hard on their phonics, revising over some of their digraphs such as ng, ch, oa, oi etc., and using their sounds to help them read and

write words. They also started reading buddies with 5th Class. Each child has been buddied up, and the older children are helping the younger ones with their reading. The children are really enjoying spending time together, and it is a brilliant opportunity for Senior Infants to practise their reading 1:1. In maths they have been working on their numbers, using ten frames, counting objects and number fans to help them, as well as working on some addition and partitioning of their numbers. The theme for play and learn was 'All about me', and the children have been looking at themselves, their families, their school and thinking about jobs they might like to do when they are older. The children have produced some lovely pieces of art, they have been role playing schools, doctors and builders, as well as using playdough to think about their favourite foods! Senior Infants were also lucky enough to have their first visit with Mouse this week, who will be coming into the class once a month to help us learn all



about nature and the local wildlife. The children loved having him in, and are so excited for him to visit again. Well done Senior Infants for a fantastic first month!

1st Class have had a great start to the year! The children have settled in so nicely and are becoming more mature and independent each day. They have been really enjoying learning cursive handwriting and the children's copies are very impressive. They are learning that practice makes perfect! They have also been doing very well with learning their new spellings. In maths, they have been focusing on adding and partitioning within 10 and recently began adding up to 20. They have been enjoying games such as 'hit the button' and 'around the world' to help them learn their tables. The children also had fun taking part in a maths challenge and they made the longest paper chains possible with one A4 sheet of paper. In Irish, the children have been learning about the topic 'Ar Scoil' and have been learning lots of lovely songs. They have been really enjoying tennis with Orla too! Have a look at their 'Crazy Hair Day' self-portraits, there are many talented artists in 1st Class! Well done on all the hard work this month everyone!

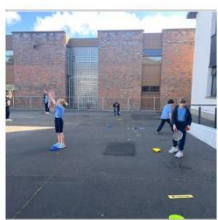


2nd Class enjoyed a bright start to the year in a new classroom with their new teacher, Mr Blake. Everyone has settled in really well to the new routines and have achieved some great work already. In maths, a revision of key topics from 1st Class was covered as well as starting to dive into more complex addition and subtraction sums. In English, the class has started their station group activities, working on their reading, grammar and comprehension skills. The effort from the class has been amazing. In Gaelige, 'scoil' and 'mé féin' were the two key topics that 2nd Class have started with this term as they start to pick up their Irish vocabulary again after the summer break. In SESE, the class has looked at their community and the world around them from their homes to their school and the surrounding locations. They've enjoyed playing quick quiz games guessing countries and continents. In history, a case study on the Giant's Causeway was studied as the class enjoyed learning about the story of Fionn Mac Cumhaill and the volcanic eruption that led to the formation of the infamous hexagonal pillars in Northern Ireland. In P.E. 2nd Class enjoyed an active start to the year with a mix of different sports such as athletics, rounders and tennis. The progress in tennis with the external coach has been amazing so far. In music, 2nd Class sang beautifully at the church assembly to start the year as well as making their own tune using a range of sounds. In art, they designed autumn trees as well as drawing their own school buses.



3rd Class have begun the new year with a blast! They're settling in to new routines, playing new games and exploring creativity. This month in PE they had great fun playing games such as Mat Ball, Star Wars and developing their tennis skills. There was music & dancing in the classroom every day with their 'Happy Songs for September' playlist. They also explored keeping a beat and sang 'My Favourite Things' and tried out singing in rounds with the songs 'Michael Finnegan' &

'This Old Man'. They made beautiful art pieces, exploring line, making colourful "Drama Llamas" and enjoyed an Art Zone workshop. This month Ms. Mc Carthy, our teaching placement student has taught some lessons with the class. They explored the Stone Age in history, plants in science and worked on their comprehension skills through visualising & inferring. In wellbeing the focus is on positive emotions and the children reflected on what goes into their own "positive emotion potions". Ms Hoffman is delighted to see lots of beautiful handwriting in the class. They will be working really hard on cursive writing this year. Well done on a great start to the year 3rd Class!



What a busy and exciting September it has been in **4th Class**!

4th Class were delighted to return to school after the summer holidays, refreshed and ready for new challenges. The class gave a very warm welcome to their two new classmates, Panna and Anayah, who have settled in wonderfully. In maths, they have been practising addition and subtraction with regrouping, putting lots of effort into understanding the steps and improving their accuracy. They have also spent time rounding numbers, which really helped sharpen their number sense. In history, the class travelled back in time to discover what schools in Ireland were like in the past, learning all about the hedge schools. In SPHE, they had important discussions about resilience - how to stay strong, adapt, and prepare themselves for any challenges they might face. They also explored the anti-bullying theme for this month, which was all about celebrating what makes each of us unique. 4th Class were very proud to present their assembly to the whole school, with a performance that shared this message in a powerful and uplifting way. Gaeilge has kept the class busy



too, with the topic Mé Féin. In PE, they've had lots of fun with different games and activities, and were thrilled to welcome our tennis coach Orla, who gave the class some fantastic lessons. Art has been a real highlight this month. They learned about the famous artist Henri Matisse and created bold, colourful block art inspired by his style. In geography and history combined, they began their research into Ancient Egypt. The class has been buzzing with enthusiasm as they learned about the River Nile, mummification, and the boy king, Tutankhamun. September also brought plenty of activity outside the classroom. They took part in the St. Anne's cross country run. It was a fantastic day filled with teamwork, encouragement, and great fun. Overall, it has been a month full of learning, creativity, and energy. 4th Class are proud of everything they have achieved already and are excited for all the adventures, discoveries, and challenges the rest of the year will bring.





September was a busy and exciting month for **5th Class**. In maths, the class worked on place value and rounding, helping them to understand large numbers and estimate more effectively. In art, they created monochromatic pieces, perspective cityscapes, and one-point perspective drawings. In Gaeilge, they focused on the theme *Mé Féin*, learning to describe ourselves and talk about our interests. Our SESE lessons were all about Georgian and tenement houses, which connected with our class novel, *The Beekeeper of Henrietta Street*. The class used this as inspiration for writing diary entries, imagining life as a child living in the tenements and also writing from the perspective of someone they admire. 5th Class started their cycling safety training and have been building up to a cycle around the village. They've also really enjoyed swimming lessons in the PSLC, where they've been making great progress. Another highlight of the month was taking part in the 1000m run in St. Anne's Park, where everyone did their best and represented the school proudly. It's been a fantastic start to the school year and 5th Class are looking forward to what October brings.



It's been a really busy and exciting first month in **6th Class** as they settled back into school life! One of the highlights was performing the Harvest assembly in the church. Everyone worked hard to prepare readings, prayers, and music to celebrate this special occasion, and the class presented the assembly with great confidence. In SPHE, the children have been exploring the concept of a growth mindset, learning how to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and remain positive when faced with difficulties. This has already helped them to approach their work with enthusiasm and determination. Science has been out of this world—literally! 6th Class has been studying the phases of the moon and learning fascinating facts about the solar system. In English, the class started their first class novel of the year, *The Goldfish Boy* by Lisa Thompson. The mystery is keeping everyone hooked, and it's sparking great discussions about empathy and the value of friendship. In maths, the class has been tackling lines and angles, using protractors and problem-solving to sharpen their geometry skills. It's hard to believe that so much has been packed into just a few weeks. 6th Class is off to a fantastic start, and the children are looking forward to all the learning and adventures the rest of the term will bring!



September Anti-Bullying Topic

Our anti-bullying topic for this month is 'It's ok to be different'. The classes explored the idea of individuality and how differences make us all unique.

Assemblies

We had three assemblies in September. Ms. McElhinney led the first assembly. She welcomed all the children back to school and talked about all the things we do every day in St. Andrew's such as being kind, showing respect, doing our best work and much more!

4th Class and Ms. Griffin led our second assembly. They focused on our anti-bullying topic of celebrating difference and including everyone.

We also had our Harvest assembly in St. Andrew's Church which 6th Class led through prayers and readings. The children brought food items to include in the Harvest collection for the Capuchin Centre.

