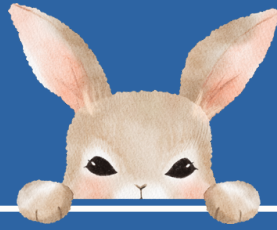




SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2025



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well.

March and April have been very busy months. Engineers Week was enjoyed by all pupils, completing different tasks and activities in class or in the outdoor leaning areas of our school. Pancake Tuesday and our St Patrick's Day celebrations were enjoyed by all.

A big Thank You to everyone involved in decorating our school and walkway for Easter and Spring. Amazing work done by pupils and Staff. Great job all!!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter and thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Kathy Waldron

FOCUS GROUP

On April 2nd some of our pupils and members of our Student Council participated in a focus group with Department of Education inspectors as part of their consultation process on the Special Needs Assistant Workforce Development Plan.

This visit was extremely positive. Inspectors highlighted how impressed they were with the fantastic presentations and preparation done by pupils and staff for their visit.

Inspectors also highlighted the positive learning environment in our school and praised the dedication of our team.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

A reminder that the school will be closed for the Easter Break and the May Bank Holiday

14th - 25th April
5th May

SMALL CHANGE FRIDAY

Small Change Friday is back!

If anyone has a jar of coins or small change lying around we are collecting loose change on Fridays for the Parents Association.

This allows the PA to help purchase things and run events for the children.





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SENSORY POD

Thank you to our Parents Association and Straffan Antiques for helping us to cover the cost of the Sensory Pod purchased for our school.

We are delighted to have this new resource in our school.

Thank you also to Straffan Antiques for their donation of a piano to our school!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Our Student Council had a very busy term, we had a lovely meeting with the ladies from the Green School Programme. We also helped to create the pupil friendly version of Bí Cineálta Anti Bullying Policy.

The Student Council were also part of the focus group who met with the inspectors during their visit, to discuss how our SNAs help us and support us.

The student council have sent home a newsletter this week.

See our website to view all newsletters

<https://www.straphaelsschool.ie/about/student-council>

'SING IRELAND'

We teamed up with Sing Ireland and Music Generation to welcome Joan and Kasia to our school. Joan and Kasia are leading musical workshops incorporating musical instruments, singing, and movement. This has been very successful with great engagement and participation from our students.

We look forward to continuing this partnership with our next workshop due to take place in May.



DONATIONS

We are so delighted to share the news that John Condron Ltd of Tullamore has made a very generous donation of 5 interactive Clevertouch boards and supporting height adjustable trollies.

This donation will have a huge impact on our students learning. We had John visit on the 8th April to extend our thanks with a card and we sang our thank you song.



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SAHARA RUN

On March 13th, staff and pupils joined Gary and his family for a walk around our 'Walkway' to wish him the best of luck on his epic fundraising challenge.

We wish Gary and his family all the best as he is currently undertaking his 250km ultra-marathon across the Sahara Desert.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!



Follow the SunSmart 5 S's to reduce your risk of skin cancer



Slip on clothing that covers your skin



Stop on sunscreen on exposed areas using factor 30+ for adults and 50+ for children



Slap on a wide-brimmed hat



Seek shade – especially if outdoors between 11am and 3pm



Slide on sunglasses

Do not deliberately try to get a suntan.
Avoid getting a sunburn. Never use a sunbed.

Be SunSmart
www.hse.ie/sunsmart



nccp National Cancer Control Programme

SUN SAFETY

We recently emailed all parents a communication about the Department of Education recommendation for inclusion of a wide-brimmed hat in primary school uniforms.

We also remind parents to apply sunscreen for pupils before they attend school during the warm weather.

😊 NEW SCHOOL UPDATE!! 😊

Project Shannon includes the following three schools moving to shared education campus in Celbridge, County Kildare: St Raphael's Special School, St Patricks National School & Celbridge Community School.

The stage 1 meeting for Project Shannon was held on the 27th of February 2025 and approval in principle was received from the Department of Education to proceed to Stage 2. It is anticipated Stage 2 activities will commence from April 2025.