



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We hope that this message finds you and your loved ones well and safe. Once again, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the difficult and extremely unpredictable times the world is facing and our continuous wish for world peace.

Before the Easter break great fun was had by pupils and staff as our school environment and walkway was decorated for Easter. Easter egg hunts were enjoyed by all.

Thank you to our Student Council and Wellbeing Subcommittee for all their work in promoting the wellbeing of our school community.

We received a grant from the Department for the replacement of some of our windows and some additional outdoor areas. This work started over the Easter break and is near completion.

As you are aware we had a SPHE inspection on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday the 23rd of April. The verbal feedback received was extremely positive. Our school was found fully compliant on Child Protection and Bí Cineálta Procedures. Thank you to our Student Council for meeting with the inspectors and with other pupils as part of the focus group representing our pupils during this inspection. Thank you to our choir for their wonderful performance.

I would like to thank our pupils and our school team for all their work and dedication.

On behalf of our pupils and our whole staff team, we would like to thank you for your on-going cooperation and support.

Kathy Waldron

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Pupils are busy preparing for their 'First Holy Communion', which will take place on Thursday 14th May.

We want to wish them the very best and hope they enjoy their special day!

SCHOOL CLOSURES

The school will be closed

from **Fri 1st** to **Mon 11th May inclusive**

Details of all school closures are on the school website:

<https://www.straphaelsschool.ie/parents/school-calendar>



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ST JOHN OF GOD ART COMPETITION

Well done to everyone who participated in the St John of God Art Competition.

We are delighted to announce that four of our pupils won prizes in their age categories. Congratulations!

SUN SMART

It's great to see the sunshine and that we can all wear lighter clothes. We respectfully remind parents of the necessity to apply suntan lotion each morning to protect their child during the summer months. Below is a reminder on how to stay safe in the sun during these warmer months.

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for 2026-27 has been finalised (see below)

WELLBEING

Thank you to our wellbeing subcommittee for organising our school céilí dance in March.

We raised €215 for the Laura Lynn charity.

We also participated in the Special Olympics fundraiser "**Laps for Inclusion**" in April raising €274.

You can donate until 30th May at the link below:

<https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/staphaelsspecialschool23>

STUDENT COUNCIL

Well done to the student council for collecting shoes for children in South Africa!





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NEW SCHOOL UPDATE

Project Shannon comprises the relocation of the following three schools to a new shared education campus at Donaghcumper, Celbridge, County Kildare:

- St Raphael's Special School
- St Patrick's National School
- Celbridge Community School

Design development for the shared education campus is currently progressing through Stage (ii) – Specimen Design for all three schools, with a view to lodging the planning application in 2026.

A Stage (ii) review meeting was held with the Department of Education and Youth (DoEY) on the 22 April 2026, DoEY comments arising from the meeting are currently being reviewed by the design team to inform the next steps in the design development process.

CREATIVE CLUSTERS UPDATE

We were delighted to welcome Kasia and Gustavo to the school as part of our creative schools project. They ran interactive sensory sound baths for groups throughout the school.

This was a very positive experience for our pupils.

SNA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As our school contributed to the Department consultation with children and young people on the Role of the SNA, an SNA from our school was invited to a meeting with ministers Hildegard Naughton (Education and Youth) and Michael Moynihan (Special Education and Inclusion).

As a follow up we have invited the ministers to visit our school.



ST RAPHAEL'S SPECIAL SCHOOL



2026 - 2027 School Calendar

August '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

-  School Closed/ Holidays
-  Teacher in-Service Day (no school for pupils)
-  Half Day (12:30pm)
-  First Day of School for pupils

