

St Mary's & St Gerards N.S.
Caring, Connection & a love of learning
SMSG Newsletter 23rd January 2026

Class News from Ms Hogan's 3rd Class

Because it is January we have been doing a lot of reading and we have been going down to senior infants for reading time, and before or after we do a game or a circle time. It's nice to go into Senior Infants to help the little ones with their reading. Reading is really good for our brains and books are very interesting. Here are some author names like Tony Ross + Julia Donaldson + Roald Dahl. We do reading in January because then we can get a fresh start of new words, new books, new ideas, and then your brain will work better!

Thea 3rd class

I have been playing in chess club for a few weeks. This is how it works: Everyone who does chess comes to our classroom (3rd class). Then we set up the chess boards and Ms Hogan tells us who we play against. Each week you go against a different player, and it's a league. Recently I played against Scott in the semi-final, and now I am in the final.

Hugh 3rd class

This week 3rd class did an Anti-bullying assembly. We talked about empathy and other feelings. In the assembly we had Thea with a big schoolbag and a few people saying mean words and each time Maeve, Ava, Ben, and Liam were putting rocks in the bag showing that she felt sad and weighed down. Then people shouted out kind words and they took the rocks out of the bag and everyone felt much better. While that was happening, Carrie and George were holding a huge paper heart and every time a mean word was said they crumpled the heart a bit. But when nice words were said they straightened it out, but there were still a few wrinkles so that showed that if you say mean things to someone it always leaves a mark.

Kitty 3rd class

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This year 3rd class is doing a Young Ecologist Programme. A few months ago we went up to Knocksink and used equipment such as pooters, pond trays, magnifying glasses, butterfly nets and binoculars. We made posters about what we did. This week we were learning about habitats and what different animals do in the winter. We talked about migration and which birds leave, stay or arrive in Ireland. We talked about which animals hibernate like hedgehogs, bats and frogs. After that we split into three groups and got these boards that showed a habitat and spare pieces to add on. Our board was a beach scene. We made it so that it was a better environment. For example we took away the motorcyclist on the dunes, and we added a protective fence and sign where the birds lay their eggs. And finally we then made bug hotels using bamboo, moss, and pinecones. We put the stuff inside wooden frames and designed the outside. I can't wait to put it in my garden.

Maeve 3rd class

January is Reading Month

Photographs on Thursday

The school uniform should be worn on Thursday for the school photograph please.

Live Music in First Class

Ms Kearney's class focus on a piece of music each week. This week, they were joined by two musicians for a live music session. The class really enjoyed listening to Michelle on the piano, accompanied by Tom on guitar. They sang their song for this month-Killeagh. There are some nice videos of this musical event on the website: www.enniskerryins.ie

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Wet Days

Thank you to our pupils for being so well-behaved this week at breaktimes. We hardly got out to play this week at all due to the awful weather. Our pupils played together in their classrooms, watched nature programmes, drew pictures, read or played chess. We really appreciate the patience and resilience that you all showed this week!

School Swim Team News

Well done to our Swim Team at the Leinster Championships last Sunday. We are very proud of the team of 23 swimmers who represented St. Mary's and St. Gerard's N.S.

The results once again show how strong swimming is in our school. Three of our swimmers qualified for the national finals. The boys u 10 team came 3rd, due to their excellent technique. Many of our team had personal bests and won medals.

The event was a long day for all concerned but the spirit of our team was exemplary. Thank you to Ms Healy ,as always for coaching our swim team and for all the work to bring about their continued success.

Grandparents Day on Friday

We cannot wait to welcome our grandparents along on Friday! The service begins at 11.15 and we will be in the hall for our refreshments at 11.45. The pupils are so excited! If you would like to share photos with us for the hall display, don't forget to put your child's name and class on the back so we can return them to you .

We would be very grateful if you could bake/send in goods for us to have for our reception in the hall. It is always a great occasion and we have to fulfil our traditions and keep standards of hospitality up!!

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Dates for the diary

Friday 30th Jan 2026 @11.15 : Grandparents Day ;All Grandparents are welcome!

2nd February:Bank Holiday.School closed

February 17th : Pupils' Art Exhibition in school hall

Thursday 19th & Friday 20th February: School Closure-Mid-Term Break

4th March: School Closure for staff training

March 26th @ 11a.m. : Confirmation Service

Sunday 19th April @11:First Penance (First Confession) for 2nd Class

Saturday 9th May @ 11a.m. : First Communion Day

27th May: School Closure for staff training

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