

St Mary's & St Gerards N.S.
Caring, Connection & a love of learning

SMSG Newsletter 9th January 2026

Tomorrow is Ladies Lunch; SMSG Nollaig na mBan -10th January!

Dates for the diary

Friday 30th Jan 2026: 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

January is Reading Month

Ditch your screens and bury your head in a book this month! We are urging all our pupils to get involved in Reading Month. The best way to feed children's imaginations is to encourage them to read. We believe reading is an essential part of childhood. We are so happy that our pupils are such interested readers already. However, the interest in reading wanes as they get older.

Parents can support their child by ensuring that screens are not distracting children and competing for their attention. Please continue to build time into your family routines for reading. Children learn what they live; if they see you buried in a book, they will follow suit. If there are newspapers, magazines and books in your house, they will pick them up and develop the attention needed to sustain the habit of reading. Your good example and your shared love of reading will help in this regard.

Our local librarian, Caitriona, is so helpful in welcoming children to the library. It couldn't be closer to us; we all pass it every day. The weekly visit to the library is a lovely ritual and will help your child to find books that interest them. January is a good time to start new habits, if you are not already visiting the library each week.

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What are you reading?

Katie and Katie from 5th Class have written an article below about all the books that our pupils are reading at the moment.

Reading News from the two Katies

We interviewed Alfie from Junior Infants. He thought that a good book to read is *The Bad Guys*, written and illustrated by Aron Blabby. Alfie said that the book was about a shark, wolf, piranha, snake and a spider that were trying to turn good. Alfie said that there was no way for them to turn good because they're stealing stuff. The story took place in a factory. Alfie liked the book because the chapters are very good.

Tommy from senior infants came out of his classroom to tell us about his book, *Little red riding hood*. The book was set in the woods. The wolf, the woodchopper and the granny were all in the woods. The other characters are the mum and little red riding hood. In the book the wolf ate the granny and waited for little red riding hood to come. Tommy liked this book because he loves red.

We interviewed Lily from first class about her favourite book. She said that her favourite book was her baby book that her mom took pictures of her when she was little. Lily also said that her mum wrote some sentences under the pictures and put some emojis on it too. Lily said she loved it because she could see herself as a little girl. The people in the book are Lily and her mom and her dad and her cousins.

Abigail from second class came out and told us about her book, *The midnight gang*. The author of the book is David Walliams and it's illustrated by Tony Ross. The book is set in a hospital. The characters in the book are George, Robin, a Nurse, a Doctor, Sally and Tom who has to wear a pink frilly dress. The book is about a man who brings people into hospital.

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Amelia from fourth class came to talk to us about the book she is reading. It is called *Reverse Skin*, the book is about a girl born by the river, her uncle is a giant fish that is trying to eat her. Amelia likes this book because the illustrations are interesting. This book is set by the river. The characters are Tess, Aunt Pegg, Uncle Darkwater, Criss, Criss' dad and lots of fish.

We interviewed Dylan from fifth class. This week he was reading *Skandar, first unicorn rider* written by A.F. Steadman. The characters are George, dragons, unicorns, A pirate called Rose and the Pelegin family. The setting is on an island. The book is about George who goes to an island and he has to battle a dragon on his unicorn. Dylan likes this book because it is interesting.

We really enjoyed interviewing everyone!

Katie & Katie.