

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

SMSG Newsletter 13th February 2026

JOIN US FOR OUR ART EXHIBITION THIS TUESDAY 1pm-2.20p.m.



Well done to Stephen and Cara for representing SMSG at the Mini Scientist Grand Final today. Their project compared DIY compost, shop compost and plant food. We value their scientific approach and their research and we are so proud of both pupils!

Internet Safety Assembly

6th Class hosted an assembly on Internet Safety yesterday. They performed multiple dramas about how the Internet can be a dangerous place as well as a positive place. 6th Class composed a catchy school pledge for the internet; "On the internet; beware, take care , don't share-Danger!"

We now know that we have to be safe on the internet and if we see something unusual, tell your parents or a trusted adult.

By Annabel, 6th Class.

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Debating in Mary's and Gerard's

We held a debate in the hall yesterday for 4th-6th Classes. Two teams from 6th were on the podium . The motion for debate was; "Tourism Does More Harm Than Good" One side was the proposition-who agreed with the motion. The other side was the opposition-who disagreed with the motion. Both teams debated against each other. Some of the points made by the opposition were ;the billions of euro generated from the tourists would be funnelled directly back into public transport and housing. The proposition argued that the sheer amount of tourists would take a massive hit for climate change.The opposition argued back , claiming that the amount of money made would be too good to pass. Additionally, they argued that tourists keep culture alive. The proposition claimed that keeping our planet safe should be the most important thing instead of money.

After a well -contested debate, the motion was carried.

By Cillian, 6th

Well done to the winning team: Íde (Captain), Annabel & Stephen & the runners up: Cara (Captain), Cillian & Michaela. We were so proud of the standard of preparation and presentation in this event. Our pupil audience was highly engaged in the discussion that followed, when the adjudicators were deliberating. Thank you to Ms Dalton, Ms Corcoran and Ms Mc Connell for your work with the pupils on this.

Please visit the website for photos of the debate.

Our School Tour this week

For our school tour we went to the Mermaid. It was a One Man Show and it was in Irish. We understood most of the words but that was because of all the props (In my opinion). He kept on saying "Déanta de" (made of , in Irish). The show was about his day. It seemed like he was a father too.

My favourite part was the background music! All the musicians were so talented , they played the cello and violin. In my opinion, they are very difficult instruments to play. After the show we went outside to have lunch. Then a seagull was circling around us. It looked like it wanted to eat our food. But then a boy in our class pretended to throw a toy at the seagull and it flew away! Overall it was a nice day.

By Amelia, 4th Class.

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Traffic

Let's all keep up walking to and from school/ to and from the Bog Meadow for park and stride, as much as possible .Please turn left as you leave the car park to ease traffic. We are monitoring how well this works.

The Bebras Computing Challenge

In October we set up a CT Club (Computational Thinking) Club at lunchtime for 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Class interested in solving offline problems using computational thinking. In November we participated in the Bebras Challenge. Last week we got an email telling us that the results were now official. We were delighted to present certificates at assembly to all the children who participated in the Bebras Challenge. We are proud of each and everyone of you and are already looking forward to more lunchtime CT Club in the coming weeks.

If you'd like to try a special Valentine's Bebras Challenge style puzzle, please see the attachment below. (Cupid's Choco Sorter)

Art Exhibition on February 17th.

Please come along on Tuesday to view the exhibits in our Art Exhibition. The exhibition will be open to parents from 1pm till 2.20 p.m.

Dates for the diary

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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National Interest Items

Internet Safety advice for parents : [Same Rules Apply - CyberSafeKids](#)

The National Conversation on Education invites everyone across Ireland to take part in an important online survey and share their views. We will be completing this with our Student Council also. Here is your link:
gov.ie/educationconvention

Local Interest

Chess Competition (See below)



East Coast Junior Chess Championships

Sat Feb 28th & Sun Mar 1st, 2026
Venue: Dr Ryan Centre, Greystones

Sections:

Girls Under 14s – Sat @ 10am - 1pm

Simul - Kavin Venkatesan (Irish Champion) – Sat @ 2.30pm - 5.30pm

Under 12s – Sun @ 10am - 1pm

Under 18s – Sun @ 2.30pm - 5.30pm

🏆 🏆 Trophies & chess books for the Top 4 places in the Tournaments 🏆 🏆

Merit prizes outside of the Top 4 places include:

- ★ Best Lady, if two or more girls enter (in the U12 & U18 open sections).
- ★ Best Player from a Chess Moves Programme.

Registration: Opens 30 minutes before every event. First come, first served.

Entry fees: 1 event = €15, 2 events = €25, 3 or 4 events = €30

Tournament Notes: 6 Rounds in total. All equipment is provided.

Time control is 10 minutes with a 3 second increment in all sections.

Limited places. Entries taken on the day. There are no rating restrictions.

Players must be under the age on Jan 1st, 2026. E.g. 11 or younger in U12s.

Supervision is provided in the playing room only. Just players & tournament officials are permitted inside the playing room during each round.

Simultaneous Exhibition Notes: The event is open to anyone, including adults.

One game per player. Game time is up to 2.5 hours, with a 30 min Q&A session afterwards.

Limited places. Family members of participants will be allowed to watch.

Kavin Venkatesan is a FIDE Master and the current Irish Chess Champion.

If travelling by car, please use the St. Laurence's School large car park. Eircode: [A63 Y6P9](#)

Further details: chessmovesireland@gmail.com

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