

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

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 26/6/ 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we end our year in school, I would like to say how proud I am of all of our pupils. I am very happy that each room is full of busy, engaged pupils who are happy in their relationships with their friends and teachers. I see kindness in our classrooms and yards each day. Our pupils have a strong sense of what is expected of them and are able to work with each other on their learning activities. Our pupils have a voice and are active in their school life. They trust their teachers and know that they are cared for in their class.

We have a busy and vibrant school and every year we bring in some new additions while retaining our long-standing traditions. This year marked the award of our 10th and final Green Schools Flag. We are immensely proud and at the same time very curious about what we can do next so as to keep this message embedded in our teaching and learning. We took our Christmas Show for 3rd to 6th and moved it to our Summer Show in June. We added a Christmas Carol Service in December. We held our Parent Teacher meetings earlier so that we could address any issues earlier and give feedback to parents. We did not have Class meetings as the school was not ready for this after the build in the Summer. We went on a group School Tour for 3rd -5th to Clara Lara. We did not do Laudete with the Choir but went to The Big Sing instead. These are just some examples of how we always try to adapt and be the best school that we can be each year.

Thank you to Ms Mc Connell , Deputy Principal for your shared leadership of our school. Thank you to the In-School Management team; Ms Malone, Ms Healy and Ms Seoighe for the many initiatives that bring so much colour to our school life. Each of our teachers always gives their best for our pupils. Our staff work so well together and we share the same pride in our school. Thank you to all our teachers; you are amazing. Thank you to our SNAs for their care and support for our pupils.

As always; Peter and Annette, thank you for your willingness, kindness and hard work. Thanks to Igor and Lizzy for being great cleaners.

To our Parent volunteers who have helped us in the classrooms, you were great! To our Parents' Association , led by Arleen and Fiona; go raibh míle maith agaibh! I am very sorry to share that Fiona and Arleen will be stepping down from their role as shared Heads of

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the P.A. in September. We are so grateful to both Arleen and Fiona for their enthusiasm, inclusivity and massive contribution to our school. I know these are big boots (or sandals) to fill but please do consider this role , which will be filled at our A.G.M. in September. Indeed, we need new and returning parents for the many activities that our P.A. support. Do get involved - you will enjoy it !

I am very grateful to our BOM , led by Eugene O'Mara, for their commitment over the past year , as always.

Thank you for your support this year. It is a privilege to lead our school.

I wish all our pupils, staff and our school community a lovely Summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September!

Warm Regards,
Deirdre Morgan

Summary of Teaching & Learning Areas of Focus this year

Literacy

- Implemented a new spellings scheme for 1st-6th Class
- Oral language; debating introduced 4th- 6th
- Writing: Write -A - Book in 3rd. Writing books as gaeilge 1st-3rd.
- Updated our novels for middle and Senior Classes
- Updated resources for Infant literacy

Maths:

- New maths resources for each class to encourage playful approach
- New programme introduced in 2025 and 2026 (following review)
- Maths Journals introduced
- Traffic lights/self-assessment
- Counting aloud each day in all classes
- Using concrete manipulatives for problem-solving & sharing of strategies

Well-being

- Creative Schools Day
- Circles Approach embedded in most classes
- Welcomed new pupils over the year, now fully integrated

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- Well being week
- Active Schools week
- Code of Behaviour and Values; restorative approach to build relationships
- Anti-Bullying/BíCinealta policy embedded
- Anti-bullying surveys on-going
- Green schools, Creative Schools, Student Councils; pupil voice and agency

Creative Schools this year :

- New Committee embedded
- New Creative Schools Day embedded on our calendar
- Art Exhibition added to our calendar

School Development

- Staff CPD
- Forest Schools/ Fridays introduced in two classes
- Debating introduced , debate team formed
- Our traditional music group (Grúpa Trad) has been established and is thriving
- Extra-Curricular: Speech and drama back, active kids, artzone, music, irish dancing,
- Chess club re-established
- Chess tuition , 10 weeks , in 3rd-6th class
- Violin tuition in 3rd class
- Lego Club extended
- Outdoor Classroom in use
- Braincalm happening in purple cabin (+SNA)
- ESD Trees Grant
- Yard storage -Summer 2026
- Yard Equipment bought
- Outdoor seating and benches for both yards
- Creative Schools grant and activities
- Bike shelter in front yard for reading & board games

Marys & Gerard's ; a Community

- Many classes go to the library weekly
- Parent volunteers in school daily
- Christmas Concert-Juniors and local playschools
- School assemblies each fortnight

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Caring, Connection & a love of learning

- Science Fair
- JEP Workshop day
- Buddying in every class for maths games, reading, school walks
- Trips to Dublin, Knocksink, Newgrange, Fernhill, St Stephen's Green
- Bog Meadow: attended the opening, weekly trips down to for tennis, sport , playtime (term 3), school walk each term.
- Our pupils participated in Sports, athletics ,track and swimming events at local ,provincial and national level
- Support for Community games
- Links with other schools, playschools, second level schools
- Visits to /from Curtlestown NS ; debates & quiz
- Easter Egg hunt , Cake Sales, dress up days, no uniform days
- P.A events: Spooky Walk,Ladies Lunch, Communion and Confirmation Class Parties.
- Workshops : Nature , art ,local experts
- Choir :visits to elderly locally, Nursing Home and at sacraments
- Visiting authors , online Author zooms
- Art-themed class zooms