

# St Mary's Convent Primary School

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**Imlitir 16**  
**17 June 2025**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the end of another busy school year, I want to congratulate our students on their achievements this year. We have had great sporting successes in particular with **the girls winning rounders and camogie finals** in the past week. The rounders final was very exciting and for a long time the result looked in doubt but the girls' resilience paid off in the end against a determined Kentstown NS team. Well done and particular thanks to Ms Maguire and Ms Coakley for all their work. Then on Saturday, all roads converged on Trim GAA grounds when our girls overcame very strong opposition in Kilmessan. This was a tremendous performance by the girls who brought home this cup for the first time in 19 years. In what was difficult weather conditions the girls played fantastically and won well in the end. It was a very proud moment for the school when Katelyn accepted the cup. All credit to Mr Savage and Ms Munnelly for their work. The Westmeath and Limerick tactical combinations worked very well! Congrats also to Ms Nally and her team of girls on getting presented with the **Gaelbhratach** last week, We will have a ceremony to raise the flag on Tuesday 24th @ 2pm.

**Sixth Class:** A special acknowledgment goes to our 6th class students at this time of year as they prepare to take the important step into secondary school. This marks a major milestone in their young lives. We hope that their time at St. Mary's has been filled with learning, personal growth, and lasting friendships. As they move forward to new schools, we send them our very best wishes for continued success and happiness. We have every confidence that they will flourish in their new school settings. **Our graduation will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June @ 7pm**

**First Class:** Our first-class boys are now moving into second class, congratulations on your progress and achievements this year. We are excited to see you continue your journey at St. Michael's. Your transition marks the beginning of a new chapter filled with exciting learning opportunities and experiences. **The boys will celebrate their graduation on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June @1pm.**

**School Reports** If you have not received a report for your child please contact the office. We include in this newsletter an explanatory note about understanding standardised tests which we hope you find useful. There is also a short guide on the report themselves.

**Amalgamation:** We had a very exciting year and one element which created a lot of discussion was our amalgamation discussions with St Michael's. Thank you for your engagement and attendance at meetings with regard to this development.

The report compiled by the appointed facilitator Elizabeth Sheridan was issued to the Patron sometime after Easter and he has consulted with the Department of Education on the matter. The Department is now seeking further information from the schools on - elements such as present physical structures, use of classrooms and administrative areas, staffing details, pupil details, special education provision, financial records and much more besides. I presume they are assessing compatibility and logistics at a high level.

Both schools are compiling this information at the moment for sending on to the Department next week. We will keep you informed as to any further developments in this area. We also thank you for your responses to other surveys such as our wellbeing, maths and Bi Cinealta anti-bullying surveys during the year.

**Summer projects:** We expect the school to be busy spot during the Summer. The Department of Education are embarking on works to our special class which was sanctioned last year, we are looking at replacing some old carpets and install more modern flooring while our school garden and sensory room have undergone recent improvements. We are having a ceremony to highlight our lovely school garden on Friday 20th @ 11.45pm.

Our accomplishments this year are a direct result of the dedication and passion of our staff. Each child benefits from their encouragement and guidance, helping them to flourish. Thanks to our teachers, SNAs, support staff, and especially to Rebecca, Lara, and Frank for their tireless efforts and dedication. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Ms. Nally, our Deputy Principal, whose support is as always, invaluable. I would also like to thank you, the parents and guardians, for your continued interest and involvement in school activities. Your partnership with the school has greatly contributed to the success and happiness of our students. I would also like to thank the Parents Association who give sustained support to the school in all they do. They are also a valuable soundboard for school policy and procedural changes.

Kind regards,  
Fergal Kelly  
Principal





## Understanding Standardised Tests

### Information and Supports for Parents/Guardians

#### What Are Standardised Tests?

Standardised tests measure how well your child is doing in reading and maths, and how much progress they have made. These skills are important because they support learning in all areas of school. It's important to remember that standardised tests are just one part of how teachers assess your child's overall learning.

#### When Do Tests Happen?

- They take place in May or June.
- They are required in 2nd, 4th, and 6th class.
- Many schools choose to test from 1st to 6th class.

#### What Subjects are typically tested?

- English (reading comprehension and vocabulary).
- Maths (problem-solving, number work, and understanding concepts).
- Irish (in some schools).

#### What are Standardised Tests used for?

- **Keep track of your child's progress** – Teachers use the test results to see how each child is doing and to spot any areas where they might need extra help.
- **Plan teaching** – The results help schools decide how to adjust lessons to better support the children
- **Keep parents informed** – The scores give parents a picture of how their child is doing compared to other children in the class and across the country.
- **Improve the school** – Schools use the results to review how well they are doing and find ways to make teaching even better.

#### Exemptions from Standardised Testing

- Some children may be exempt if they have a physical or learning disability that makes it difficult for them to take part in a meaningful way.
- Children who have had less than one year of learning through English or Irish may also be exempt.
- The school principal decides whether a child should be exempt, based on what is best for the child and their individual needs.
- In some cases, the principal may decide that a child can take the test if special supports are provided.

#### Schools must report test results to:

- Parents/Guardians.
- Boards of Management.
- Department of Education and Youth.

#### Sharing Test Results with You

- Your school will share a written report with you explaining your child's test results.
- Reports are sent before the summer holidays, so you have time to talk to the teacher or principal if needed.



# ACTIVE NEWS

**Active Wellbeing Week** was a great success last week and it was lovely to see the younger children enjoying playing with the bubbles, chalk and our new sandtray (thanks to Mr Higgins' carpentry skills for that.)

Ms Minogue helped all the infants chill out while doing yoga in the sensory room and garden with her while Leona McDonnell brought the older children on a mindfulness journey in the library helping them to relax and breathe deeply!

Eoin Scott from FAI coached soccer to all our first and third class pupils and Mr Carmody put the infants through their paces on a purpose built obstacle course. Our 5th and 6th classes availed of escorted tours of Trim Castle while 2nd class visited Blackfriary Dig to explore the archaeological artefacts there.

Pitch and putt was enjoyed by 4th class and Ms Munnelly shared her camogie and hurling skills with all the first class girls and boys. Third and 4th classes loved doing Tie Dye art with Ms Maguire, turning plain white t-shirts into colourful works of art!

Ms Carr tested the senior class's general knowledge during a table quiz in the hall followed by a 'Just Dance' session led by 5th and 6th class girls who choreographed their own dances performing with great skill and enthusiasm. Well done, girls.

There was tennis, hockey, skipping, hopscotch and athletics going on as well during the week punctuated by trips to the school and town playground. A big thanks to Suzanne and Annette from Trim Badminton Club for coaching 4th-5th classes. also.

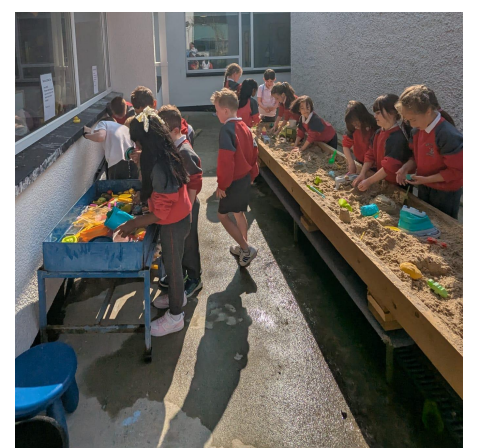
The week's activities ended with Sports Day on Friday with the Red Team raising the trophy before the 6th class did their best to 'trash' the teachers at the traditional afternoon rounders match. Unfortunately, for our departing 6th class girls, they were deprived of their glory but definitely gave the teachers a run for their money!

All in all, it was a fun and busy week and huge thanks are owed to the teachers who volunteered and facilitated all the activities above. Míle buíochas.





# WELLBEING WEEK





# SPORTS NEWS



## CAMOGIE

Last Saturday, our school camogie team took on Kilmessan in the Cumann na mBunscoil division 1 final. This is the first time St.Mary's were in a camogie final since 2011. The girls showed great determination by winning previous games against Baconstown, Rataoth, Cannistown and St.Paul's Navan which lead them to the finals.

The final game was played in St.Loman's Park, Trim. Skill levels were high throughout the game as the girls brought the game to Kilmessan. The backs led by Saoirse Barry repelled all attacks, while in midfield Katelyn McLoughlin and Amy Watters battled for every ball. The forwards kept the scoreboard ticking over with Lexi Corkish very energetic, ably assisted by Sherika O'Moore and Molly and Ava Flattery. Trim had a healthy lead at half time and despite the incessant rain throughout the game, they built on this lead, with a mighty display by Spirit of the Final winner, Aisling Canty. Heroic defending by Olivia Forde, Isabel Ryan. Zoe May Cashell and Amelia O'Connor limited Kilmessan to points, as Ruby Hughes made some fine saves in goals. The girls made history by winning for the first time in 19 years.

All the 6th class girls were introduced to the field to bring it home. Eleanor Fox, Saibh McMorrow, Grace Coogan and Millie Morgan, played their part to bring the cup home to St.Mary's. Mr.Savage and Mrs.Munnelly were extremely proud of the team. There was a panel of 31 girls, who showed great commitment since January, who will get the chance to represent St.Mary's in the future.

**So congratulations to St Mary's camogie team for securing the title of Camogie Champions in Cumann na mBunscoil 2025!**



# SPORTS NEWS



## ROUNDERS

**Huge congratulations to the St Mary's rounders team on becoming Division 1 Meath's Rounders Champions for 2025!**

They played a tough game last Wednesday against Kentstown NS and came out on top. The rain stayed away for the duration of the game and the girls put their plan into action from the first throw of the sliotar. Batter after batter stepped forward and every one of them had looks of determination across their faces. It was a tough and close battle, but St Mary's never gave up! We thank the dedicated coaches, Ms. Coackley and Ms. Maguire for all their hard work and commitment throughout the year. What a team effort and what an inspiration for the rest of the school! Bunscoil Mhuire Abú!



## LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Trim Athletic Club is developing new sportsgrounds and in particular is aspiring to a new indoor arena. This is a brilliant concept and is an investment in the future of Trim and the surrounding areas. They are holding a walkathon on the 28th June from 8am-8pm starting at the Castle Arch Hotel and have a go fund me page for subscribing. If you would like to get involved please contact the organisers at this email address [patandnoeleen@hotmail.com](mailto:patandnoeleen@hotmail.com)