GREEN NEWS

As we close the book on another school year, we would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and green summer. So much Global citizenship work has been done over the year across the curriculum and in our everyday practices at school, it would be a shame if it didn't carry beyond the school gates and into the lives of the pupils as they disperse for the summer holidays.

We have been concentrating on Food and Biodiversity with a global perspective. We have examined the importance of eating native produce which is in season and the impact of food miles on the environment. Many classes have sown vegetables, herbs and other plants which are important for pollination. In this the first year of hot lunches at school, we were very conscious of food waste and composting. Our Biodiversity survey showed that many pupils were unaware of how people are connected with nature and how we all depend on each other as global citizens. Our Green Flag programme helped raise awareness about the importance of Ireland's biodiversity and our role in protecting it. Every class studied an aspect of biodiversity and displayed projects on their classroom doors. We all unearthed and earned lots of interesting facts!

The pupils from Miss Dunne's class performed a gorgeous song at an Assembly to remind us of the precious world we are part of.

One of the highlights of the year was our participation in the St Patrick's Day Parade. We teamed up with Trim Climate Action Group and proclaimed our Eco warrior message loudly through the streets of Trim.





We would like to commend the girls in Room 14 who headed up the Picker Pals programme and kept great care of the school yard everyday. A special mention to the leaders, Kasey, Louise and Úna.

All that remains now is to wish everyone a wonderful break over the summer. Be green and be aware of your role in protecting our biodiversity. We look forward to future projects next year as we embark on year 2 of our Food and Biodiversity theme.

GREEN NEWS

This year, the girls in **Room 14 have learned about biodiversity.** They took part in activities such as engaging with a series of Agri Aware videos, which taught them all about the different types of farming in Ireland, followed by interviews with the farmers. This was the inspiration to plant and grow a variety of fruit and vegetables including pole beans, onions, lettuce, scallions, potatoes, carrots, turnips and strawberries. Some plants grew better than others. The strawberries grew brilliantly and the girls were able



to use them to make a smoothie. Well done Mia!

The girls also performed an assembly on biodiversity and led the whole school in saying the Biodiversity Pledge.

Some girls from Room 14 have also been involved in the Litter Picks Programme. After break, they would pick up any litter that has been left in the yard. Well done Kasey for all your hard work!



Finally, the girls convinced Frank not to mow the grass outside our classroom for the entire month of May! This was part of the "No Mow May" strategy because many wildflowers bloom in May providing food and shelter for the bees and insects which helps them to pollinate.

The **kids from Room 17** also did their part in promoting biodiversity all year by planting garlic, beans, lupins, violas, and hyacinths.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2025-2026

Return: Wednesday the 27th of August

October Midterm: Monday the 27th - Friday the 31st of October (1 week)

School closes on Friday the 24th of October and reopens on Monday the 3rd of November

Christmas Holidays: Saturday the 20th of Dec – Sunday the 4th of Jan (2 weeks)

School closes on Friday the 19th of Dec and re-opens on Monday the 5th of Jan 2026

St Brigids Day: Monday the 2nd of February

Feb Midterm: Thursday the 19th & Friday the 20th of Feb 2026 (2 days)

March 17th: St Patricks Day (Bank Holiday Tuesday)

Easter: Monday the 30th of March – Friday the 10th of April (2 weeks)

School closes Friday the 27th of March and reopens on Monday the 13th of April

May Bank Holiday: Monday the 4th of May 2026 – Friday 8th 2026 (1 week)

June Bank Holiday: Monday the 1st of June

School closes for summer break on Thursday the 25th of June 2026

Nath na Seachtaine: Comhghairdeachas! Maith sibh! (CONGRATULATIONS! WELL DONE!)

Seanfhocal na Míosa: Is glas iad na cnoic i bhfad uainn.

Scenes from daily life at St. Mary's





























<u>Influenza Vaccination Programme</u> 2025/2026 for Children

Flu vaccination is strongly recommended for all children and young people aged 2 to 17 years to:

- protect them against infection with flu and the risk of serious complications
- reduce the spread of flu within our population

The 2025/2026 HSE seasonal flu vaccination programme will offer the free nasal spray flu vaccine to all those aged 2 to 17 years.

Choosing a provider

To ensure that as many children as possible have the opportunity to get the flu vaccine in primary school, HSE vaccination teams, GPs and Community Pharmacists will provide nasal spray flu vaccines in primary school settings in 2025/2026. HSE vaccination teams will provide flu vaccines to all primary age special education sector schools.

HSE vaccination teams, GPs and Community Pharmacists are already planning for the 2025/2026 flu vaccination programme, and may contact your school to offer vaccines to students. You can chose to work with one of these providers to offer vaccines to students in your school.

We request that if you choose to participate in the flu vaccination programme that you only accept one vaccine provider to administer vaccines in your school (i.e. either a HSE vaccination team, a GP or a Community Pharmacist).

The vaccinators will be asked to offer the nasal flu vaccine to all children in all class groups in each participating school.

It is the responsibility of the clinician/vaccinator who is providing the nasal spray flu vaccines to ensure that:

- the parents have given informed consent for vaccination
- all consent forms are reviewed in advance of the vaccination clinic in the school
- there are sufficient staff attending the vaccination clinic
- children are identified correctly before a vaccine is administered

To ensure the delivery of a safe and high-quality vaccination programme, we will be advising vaccinators not to accept consent forms given to them on the day of vaccination. This is because this does not allow sufficient time for review.









