

Newsletter – February 2025

*St. Mary's C.B.S*

*Scoil Mhuire na mBráithre*

*Irishtown, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary*

Phone 0526121594 Email stmaryscbsns@yahoo.ie Roll No. 16728Q

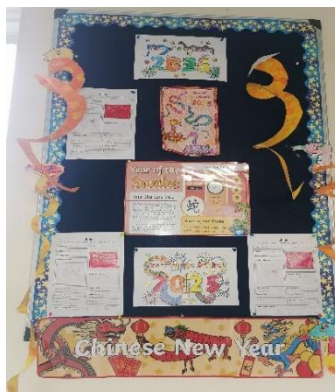


NUACHTLITIR –

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2025

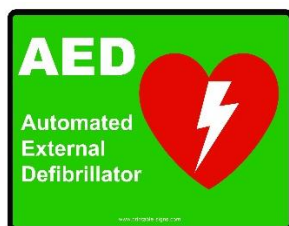
**Welcome note**

Welcome to our February newsletter, we hope everybody had an enjoyable mid-term break. January and February have been very busy months for the boys. The senior classes have been involved in a lot of outdoor activities including rugby, soccer, cycling and rowing while the junior classes and Cherry Blossom pre-school have been showcasing their creative sides by producing amazing pieces of art work for St. Brigid's Day, Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year. Our corridors are awash with colour and vibrancy.



3<sup>rd</sup> Class Chinese New Year Art Work

\*We would like to bring to your attention that a defibrillator is now available at **St. Mary's CBS**, located just inside the main door. Please remember this in case of an emergency in the locality\*.



### **Holy Communion Preparations**

The boys in second class attended an Adoration mass on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February with Ms. Powell and Mr. Ryan. The boys are making a great effort to prepare properly for their Holy Communion Day on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025. On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February the boys attended a “Do this in memory of me” mass in St. Mary’s Parish Church. Their 1<sup>st</sup> Penance, Sacrament of Reconciliation, will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 7:30pm in St. Mary’s Church. We would love to see as many parents and family members as possible in attendance at this celebration.

### **Confirmation Retreat**

Mr. Morris and the boys in 6<sup>th</sup> class attended a retreat with the Holy Mission Family at Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. The boys went to Confession, took part in a quiz, played group games and enjoyed a game of soccer. The boys really value this important day of prayer and reflection in advance of their Confirmation Day on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you to Annette and all the staff and volunteers at Glencomeragh House for facilitating this day out.

The Service of Light will take place for the Confirmation candidates on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm in St. Mary’s Parish Church, Irishtown. Your presence and support at this special occasion would be greatly appreciated.

### **MS Readathon Success**

A big congratulations to everyone who took part in this year’s MS Readathon! We are delighted to share that an impressive total of €1512.90 was raised for the charity. Thank you to all our students, parents and staff who supported this meaningful initiative and made it such a resounding success.

Mr. Morrissey rewarded the children who collected the most money in each class with a home work free pass.

### **Visitor Reminder**

All visitors must report to the office upon arrival at the school. Unauthorised personnel are not permitted in the corridors. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all.

### **Safer Cycling Programme**

The 5<sup>th</sup> class boys started the year off welcoming back Donal and Ollie from the Waterford Greenway to our school for the Safer Cycling Programme which commenced on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January. Cycle Right is the National Standard for Cycle Training. This five-week initiative helped the boys sharpen their cycling skills whilst learning vital lessons about road safety. It was a fantastic opportunity for the boys to gain confidence cycling and become responsible road users. Míle Buíochas Donal and Ollie.



**6<sup>th</sup> Class Rowing Initiative with Clonmel Rowing Club**

The 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils were thrilled to participate in a rowing initiative in collaboration with Clonmel Rowing Club. Over several weeks, the pupils developed their rowing skills and were fortunate to explore a sport that has produced champions like our past pupil, Daire Lynch. This was a wonderful chance to experience the excitement and discipline of rowing while staying active!



**Peace Proms Concert**

The boys from choir performed with the cross-border orchestra of Ireland at the Peace Proms Concert in the SETU arena on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January. The choir, under the direction of Ms. Powell and Ms. Collins, put in an exceptional amount of hard work and dedication learning songs and dance moves in the run up to this event. All their efforts paid off as they had an absolutely fantastic time performing with many other schools on the day. It was a truly magical experience and one the boys will treasure forever.

**Credit Union Quiz**

Huge congratulations to our two quiz teams for their wonderful performances in the Credit Union Schools' Quiz 2025 which took place at the Talbot Hotel on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you to Mr. Williams for his guidance and help in organising this fun and interesting event. The U11s came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and the U13s came in second place. Well done boys, we are all very proud of you. Pictured at the prize giving are Mr. Williams (Teacher), Ms. Kathleen Halpin (Clonmel Credit Union) and Mr. Eamonn O'Mara (President Clonmel Credit Union).



Under 13s



Under 11s

**A Visit from Cian O'Mahony**

We were delighted to welcome back past pupil Cian O'Mahony on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Cian, a Transition Year student at Rockwell College, joined assembly to talk to the boys about his recent trip to Kolkata where he volunteered with the HOPE foundation. Cian gave an insightful presentation into the life of an orphan attending one of the schools run by the HOPE charity. The staff and boys were really interested in all that Cian had to tell them. The money raised (€300) on our non-uniform day on 24<sup>th</sup> January went to the HOPE foundation. Thank you for your support.



**Lá Fhéile Bríde / St. Brigid's Day**

***Collaborative Art Project***

In celebration of St. Brigid's Day (1<sup>st</sup> February) marking the beginning of Spring and honouring Ireland's first female patron saint, second class designed and created a beautiful Brat Bhríde or cloak which is on display in the school sacred space. One of the traditions associated with St. Brigid's Day is to leave a cloth outside overnight on St. Brigid's Eve. It is said that St. Brigid blesses the fabric and it can then be used throughout the year for healing and protection.



**Rugby Sessions with Munster Rugby Coaches**

Joe Sheehan and his team of coaches from Munster Rugby returned to the school in the New Year to kick off a six- week block of rugby sessions with the boys from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes. These sessions are a fantastic way for our pupils to develop their rugby skills, teamwork and fitness. We are thrilled to have such expertise guiding our boys.

**Congratulations to Dara Ryan!**

A huge congratulations to our teacher, Dara Ryan, who has been awarded South Tipperary Junior Hurler of the Year for 2024! This is a fantastic achievement, and we are all very proud of him. Well done, Dara!

**Ground Hurling Blitz – Thank You!**

A big thank you to GDAs for Tipperary GAA Tom Fitzgerald and Davy Byrne for organising a fantastic Ground Hurling Blitz for our Second Class boys on Wednesday, 26th February, at the AstroTurf in Fethard Town Park. We witnessed some great performances, and the boys had a brilliant day.

**News from Cherry Blossom pre-school**

**Wedding Bells**

A huge congratulations to Ms. Sullivan on her recent marriage from everyone in St. Mary's. We wish you and your husband a future filled with happiness and love.



Ms. Henckert and Ms. Sullivan's pre-school classes are taking part in a 6-week block of trampoline jumping and activities at World Jumping Clonmel with instructor Edyta Dullin. We hope they have lots of fun.

**Upcoming Events and Important Dates**

**Soccer Success:**

## Newsletter – February 2025

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March we will send two soccer teams to Cahir Park for the 5-a-side Tipperary soccer blitz. Special thank you to Mr. Morris for all his efforts in organising, training and guiding the teams. Best of luck boys.

### Seachtain na Gaeilge

We are looking forward to celebrating the Irish language during Seachtain na Gaeilge. This year's festival will run from 1-17 March. Each class will be busy with activities and competitions. If you would like more information on Seachtain na Gaeilge please see the website [www.snag.ie](http://www.snag.ie) You can take part in the festival online by using the #SnaG25 hashtag

### World Book Day

World Book Day takes place in Ireland on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025. To mark the occasion, we are encouraging the boys to dress up as their favourite book character. There will be a prize for the best costume in each class. If your child decides to dress up we would encourage you to try to make costumes from clothes and accessories found at home, we do not expect anyone to purchase a costume for this event.

### Gaelic Football

We excitedly await the return of Brian White, our Gaelic Football Coach to the school. From the 28th February, Brian will be coming in each Friday to coach and help improve the boys' skills on the football pitch.

## WEEE Ireland Schools Battery Competition is back!

Entering its 12th year, the country's largest e-waste and battery recycling scheme is once again calling on primary and secondary students throughout Ireland to participate in this vital initiative, which also supports LauraLynn Children's Hospice. Please remember to bring in all your used batteries. We have to collect at least 10 full 5kg boxes to enter the competition - we are nearly there! <https://www.weeeireland.ie/household-recycling/lauralynn-partnership/>



### Absences

If your child is absent from school, please let us know via Aladdin Connect. It is extremely important to keep the school informed of reasons for absence

### School Uniform

A reminder to please ensure that your child's belongings, especially jumpers and coats, are clearly marked with your child's name. If your child inadvertently brings home the wrong jumper or coat, please return it to the school.

If anyone has old uniforms they wish to donate to the school, we would be most grateful.

### Healthy Lunches & Hot Meals

## *Newsletter – February 2025*

We are delighted to now provide a hot lunch for every child in our school. However, children should still bring a snack for break time. We encourage healthy choices, such as fruit or a sandwich.

As part of our Healthy Eating Policy, we promote lifelong healthy eating habits. The following items are not permitted in school:

- Chewing gum
- Fizzy drinks in bottles or cans
- Any drinks in glass bottles
- Crisps of any kind
- Cereal bars, chocolate, or sugary snacks

Children may bring a small treat on **Fridays**. Additionally, due to allergies, the following are strictly prohibited:

- Peanut butter
- Nuts
- Nut-based products (including Nutella)

### **The Importance of a Balanced Lunch**

It is essential that children bring a nutritious and balanced lunch to school. Recently, we have noticed a decline in the quality of lunches, which can impact concentration and learning. A healthy lunch directly supports your child's progress.

### **The Lunch Bag Programme**

- If you would like your child's name removed from the Lunch Bag programme, please let us know.
- Pupils will no longer be allowed to swap lunches.
- Please review the menu options with your child and update your plan on the Lunch Bag app as needed.
- If your child is not happy with their hot lunch, they should bring a packed lunch instead.

### **Drinking Water & Reusable Bottles**

- Drinking water is available in all classrooms.
- We encourage the use of reusable water bottles to reduce waste.

### **Tom McCullagh RIP**

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Tom McCullagh. Tom was a tremendous support and a guiding influence for countless gaelic footballers who attended St. Mary's CBS. His dedication, loyalty, and service to our school were truly valued and appreciated.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family during this difficult time.

May he rest in peace.

### **Information on Local GAA Clubs for Children**

Clonmel Commercials Gaelic Football Club is looking for new members:

- U9s train on Thursdays at 18:00 in the Poppyfields for one hour. Contact: Matt Hogan (086 194 1962)
- U11s train on Thursdays at 19:00 in the Poppyfields. Contact: Tom Ó Ceallaigh (087 243 3101)

St. Mary's Hurling Club holds training sessions on:

- U9s and U11s – Saturday mornings in the Sports field on Western Road: Contact Barbara on 0879512470 or Andy on 0872820027

Both clubs provide a great opportunity for children to get active, make friends, and develop their skills. If your child is interested, please feel free to reach out to the relevant contacts for more details.

### **School Calendar - rest of 2024/2025**

## *Newsletter – February 2025*

- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March School is closed for St. Patrick's Day
- Confirmation Day: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 11am
- Easter Holidays: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April school closes at midday and re-opens on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April
  
- May Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- Holy Communion Day: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 11am
- June Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025
- Summer Holidays: Closing Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 12.00 noon

### **School Calendar 2025/2026**

School will open on:	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Mid-Term Break:	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
Christmas holidays:	Closing on Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 12.00 noon
Re-opening on	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
February Bank Holiday:	Closed Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2026
Mid-Term Break:	Closed Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
St. Patrick's Day:	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Easter Holidays:	Closing on Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March at 12.00 noon
Re-opening on	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
May Bank holiday:	Closed Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
June Bank holiday:	Closed Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
Summer Holidays:	Closing Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon