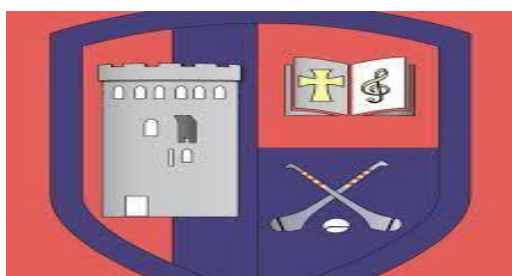


St. Marys Primary School



www.stmarysprimary.ie

info@stmarysprimary.ie. Term

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Newsletter



Celebrating Our 4th Year of Gaelbhrtach!



This year, we are delighted to mark our fourth year participating in the **Gaelbhrtach initiative**, a fantastic program that encourages schools to promote and celebrate the Irish language in daily life. Gaelbhrtach is not just about learning Irish in the classroom, it's about creating a culture of Gaeilge throughout our school community. The program involves setting goals, organising activities, and fostering an environment where everyone is encouraged to use and enjoy the Irish language.



Here is our Gaelbhright Coiste for 2024/2025. The Coiste plays a vital role in leading our Gaelbhright activities, brainstorming creative ideas, and ensuring that Irish is heard, seen and spoken throughout the school.

As we continue into our fourth year, we're more committed than ever to keeping Gaeilge alive and thriving in our school. We look forward to another fantastic year of speaking, learning, and celebrating Irish together!

Go n-éirí linn!



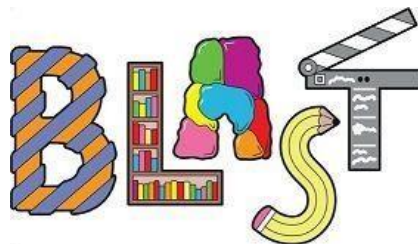
BLAST Programme

This September, St. Mary's Primary School, Nenagh was one of 425 schools who were successful in their application for a BLAST residency. BLAST aims to provide pupils in schools all over the country, time and the space to work with a professional artist/creative practitioner on imaginative and joyful projects. The initiative is a key

Department of Education initiative of the Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027 which aims to foster creativity in schools and to provide young people with opportunities to learn and develop the key skills and competencies of collaboration, critical thinking, problemsolving, and innovation.

In St. Mary's the innovative BLAST residency was designed and developed between the artist Ms. Fionnuala McKenna, teachers Ann Marie O'Sullivan and Christina McAvinchey, sixth class students and the school community under the coordination of the Limerick Education Support Centre.

Always cognisant of their award winning commitment to Green Schools (having been awarded their tenth Green Flag in June) and their strong commitment to the promotion of development education and sustainability (recognised as School of the Year in 2022 by Dept. of Foreign Affairs), the focus for their creative body of work was fast fashion. The pupils researched the ethical questions surrounding sustainability, consumer choice, environmental impact and the rights of workers. The culmination of their work saw the production of a body of work entitled "Dressed to Impress or Dressed to Destroy?" Their work included the composition of songs, poems, letter writing, report writing and impressively, the repurposing of discarded clothes into new articles of clothing. Very kindly, the charity shops in Nenagh agreed to display their work.



Green Schools News



We are delighted to be partaking in Green Schools again this year. We are working on our eleventh Green Flag on the theme of Primary Climate Ambassadors. Climate education empowers both students and teachers. We want everyone to feel the benefits of being closer to nature. Our school will be a place which will inspire climate action for the whole community.

As part of our seasonal programme of activities, we held our very successful recycled Christmas Decoration Competition. We had hundreds of entries. This competition encourages us to make a Christmas decoration from recycled material only. The standard was really high as always. We held an exhibition in the school hall so that all classes could see and admire our hard work. Everyone who took part was awarded a certificate. It is wonderful to see the creativity in the school. A huge thank you to all of the parents for their support. It is very much appreciated.





Peace Proms

Our two Third classes in St. Mary's are proud participants in this year's annual Peace Proms initiative which will take place in U.L Sports Arena, Limerick on Sunday, 2nd March, 2025 at 7pm.

The musical programme is tailor made to ensure it is fun and engaging for children, is very rewarding to teach, and the end performance is an inspirational and thrilling experience for choirs, teachers, parents and audiences alike!

Our pupils will join with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland in a nationwide celebration of music, youth and unity. They will join a chorus of 35,000 children from all over Ireland and Northern Ireland, coming together as the Children's Peace Choirs. These young voices will join forces with the 100 member internationally acclaimed Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland in what promises to be an unforgettable celebration of youth, music and talent on an epic scale.

The children are extremely enthusiastic in their preparation for this exciting opportunity and look forward to sharing the experience with their families in the coming months.



Knitting Club

Fifth Class have been busy practicing how to do a knit stitch and more recently, making their own headbands. It is fantastic to see everyone enjoying learning a new skill and showcases sustainability in action in our fifth class.



After School Board Games Club Nov 2024

Our after school board games club is proving a huge success. Children are getting the opportunity to showcase their skills while enjoying spending more time with their friends! The children are also learning new games on a weekly basis. We have also introduced card games and it is lovely to see so many children that play card games at home with parents/grandparents. Ms Ryan and Mr Shanahan love to see new children joining.

We are running it on Wednesday from 2.45 to 3.45.

We will be handing the children flyers with details before the Christmas holidays.

Secure your place early to avoid disappointment.



Soccer Team

Our school soccer is back! Close to 70 girls are playing a lunchtime league every Thursday. We hope to play the final of the league in front of the whole school and as you can imagine we expect the atmosphere to be electric! In February we hope to enter the Spar5 Aside Soccer competition in St. Kevin's football club!



Cineáltas Initiative

In St Mary's we focus on all things positive! You will see our new Cineáltas flag flying high outside the school. Our Cineáltas initiative is all about kindness and catching the children in random acts of kindness such as helping other children without being asked, picking up something belonging to another child, including others in our games and much much more! Every week the teachers and staff in our school are looking for someone special to give a kindness award to. These names are then put up on our Cineáltas board in the hall for everyone to see.



Dance

Dance lessons with Megan Meagher are scheduled for Seniors, Second, Fourth and Sixth. They run in the Institute every Tuesday. The girls are really enjoying the lessons so thanks to Megan for making this such a memorable and fun experience in St. Mary's.



Chess

Our school have entered the Ficheall chess competition this year for the first time. We are currently looking to fill 8 places on our chess team. Colm our chess teacher comes in weekly to help children perfect their moves. We also run a chess league every Wednesday in our board games club.



Grow It Yourself Update

Ms. Comerford's 4th class have been busy this term taking part in the GIY Grow It Yourself programme. We prepared our polytunnel for planting garlic and onion bulbs. We researched the website www.giy.ie for tips and tricks in preparing the soil bed, tending

to the bulbs and maintaining the polytunnel. We look forward to harvesting our garlic and onions in Springtime and also to receiving our next delivery of seeds for our spring planting!

School Celebration of Christmas

We are really looking forward to our Christmas Celebration Service. It will take place in St Mary's Church on Thursday 19th of December at 7:30pm. Everyone has worked so hard to put it all together. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils, parents and staff for the wonderful work done by all to make sure that the evening will be one to remember. We look forward to seeing you there!



Thank you

Thank you to all of the parents/guardians of our pupils for all of your support and cooperation this year.

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas & New Year. School will reopen on Monday January 6th 2025. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back then.



