



St. Declan's National School

Bourne Avenue, Ashbourne, Co. Meath - A84KT02
Charity Number: 20201057
Phone: 01-8350594



Email: info@decsash.ie

www.decsash.ie

Twitter: @decsash

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2026



Catholic Schools Week

Last week we celebrated the gift of Catholic Schools and of Catholic Education. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2026 was Normal Lives called to holiness. Our pilgrim walk for our 5th classes took place last Friday the 23rd of January. St. Mary's NS and Gaelscoil na Cille walked to our school and we started here. Father Micahel was unable to be with us but Father Jinse joined us. The children were very well behaved. Our 3rd class pupils are due to go to mass next Tuesday to celebrate the feast of St. Brigid. The children have made lovely St. Brigid crosses and will bring them to mass.

Quiz Team

Round One of the Credit Union Quiz Competition for Schools will take place on Friday the 6th of February in the Pillo Hotel at 7pm. Schools from Ashbourne and the surrounding areas will take part in the quiz. Well done to the children involved and we wish them the best of luck. Thanks to Mr Quinn who is preparing the children for the quiz.

Junior Quiz Team- Cara Kelly, Anna Mc Mahon, Conor Owens and Shane Curran

Senior Quiz Team - Aaron Keane, James Delaney, Konrad Mc Mahon and Hannah Crowe.



St. Declan's National School

Bourne Avenue, Ashbourne, Co. Meath - A84KT02
Charity Number: 20201057
Phone: 01-8350594



Email: info@decsash.ie

www.decsash.ie

Twitter: @decsash

Attendance Drive

We are continuing our work on improving attendance as part of our school improvement plan. This is an objective shared by the Department of Education and Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) as 1 in 5 children are missing a month or more of their school year. Our Attendance Team (Ms. McEnroy, Mr. Quinn, Mrs. Collier and Mr. Kearins) are leading this important work and are greatly supported by all the teachers/staff, our Student Council and of course you as parents. During the month of February we will be running our Attendance Drive again this year. Last year it was a huge success and had a very positive impact on attendance and punctuality. In fact March 2025 was the month with the highest percentage attendance for the whole school year of 2024/2025. We have been planning for our February Attendance Drive at recent Attendance team meetings, In-School Leadership and Management meetings and staff meetings.



So what will happen during this Attendance Drive?

Weekly Raffle

Week 1 (3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Feb) "Show for Four"

Week 2 (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th Feb) "Strive for Five"

Week 3 (16th, 17th, 18th Feb) "Try for Three"

Week 4 (23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th Feb) "Strive for Five"

"In the line, for quarter past 9" - every child who is in the line for 9:15am will receive a raffle ticket (stickers in junior classes) and be entered into a weekly draw. The draw will be held on a Friday (or Wed 18th Feb) and a winner from each class level will receive a prize (e.g. voucher for Chez Emily shop)

If your child has a medical/dentist appointment in the morning and you notify the school of this, your child will still receive a raffle ticket when they come in late.

Obviously, if your child is sick they should not be sent to school (please follow advice on the [Health Protection Surveillance Centre](#) or your GP)



St. Declan's National School

Bourne Avenue, Ashbourne, Co. Meath - A84KT02
Charity Number: 20201057
Phone: 01-8350594



Email: info@decsash.ie

www.decsash.ie

Twitter: @decsash

Bumper Breakfast

Back by popular demand! The class with the highest attendance percentage during each week in February will receive a *Bumper Breakfast*. This was hugely popular last year and we are sure this will go down a treat again!!

Please continue to monitor your child's attendance closely via your Aladdin Connect page. We look forward to this exciting initiative and encourage everyone to support and get involved.

Odd Shoe Day 19-01-2026

Thank you to Ms Leggett for organising Odd Shoe Day for Blue Monday, on the 19th of January, and to all families who donated on the day. The money donated €600 will go towards a local charity, Ashbourne Suicide Awareness and Prevention (ASAP).



Well Being Wednesdays

As part of our SPHE curriculum we have been focusing on Well-being this month. On Wednesday the 7th of January, all classes took part in a ten minute Friendship Break, where students sat with their friends for a friendly chat. 5th and 6th classes enjoyed some relaxing reiki with Eimear Shaw (Fiadh and Fionn's mum).



St. Declan's National School

Bourne Avenue, Ashbourne, Co. Meath - A84KT02

Charity Number: 20201057

Phone: 01-8350594

Email: info@decsash.ie

www.decsash.ie

Twitter: @decsash



Ms Conway's Senior Infants enjoyed a trip to Ashbourne library for Storytime. On Wednesday the 14th of January, all children wore their comfy pyjamas to school for our Pyjama Day. The 4th classes enjoyed a yoga session with Denise and the 2nd classes enjoyed some relaxing meditation and reiki with Ciara Gallagher (Cian and Joey's mum). Ms O' Doherty's Senior Infants enjoyed a trip to Ashbourne library for Storytime. On Wednesday the 21st of January, teachers led a five minute Mindful Moment in their classrooms. 1st and 3rd classes participated in dance workshops with Yas. Ms McQuaid's Senior Infants enjoyed a trip to Ashbourne library for Storytime.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all parents for your attendance at our Parents Teacher Meetings this week. Parents and teachers can work together to support their child's academic, social and emotional development. We always encourage parents to link in with their child's class teacher if any concerns arise.

Congratulations

Well done to Ellen Delaney (3rd class Room 21) and James Delaney (6th class Room 8) who both won gold medals in the 50 metres breaststroke All Ireland Minor Schools Championship recently. What an achievement !

Well done to Robyn Kelly from Ms Conway's Senior Infant class, Room 29 who won a recent colouring competition for Dublin Airport. Super colouring Robyn !



St. Declan's National School

Bourne Avenue, Ashbourne, Co. Meath - A84KT02

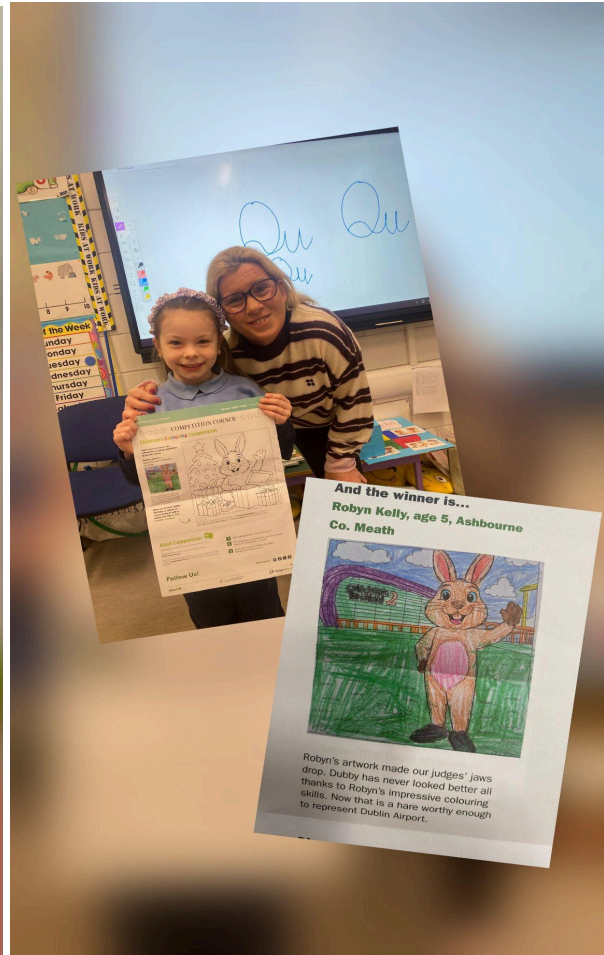
Charity Number: 20201057

Phone: 01-8350594

Email: info@decsash.ie

www.decsash.ie

Twitter: @decsash



Dates to remember

We are closed next Monday the 3rd of February 2026. Mid-term break is Thursday the 19th and Friday the 20th of February 2026.

All our newsletters are available on our school website www.decsash.ie