



# St. Declan's National School

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



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All our newsletters are available on our school website [www.decsash.ie](http://www.decsash.ie)

## March Newsletter

### Sacraments



### Confirmation 28-02-2026

Congratulations to all the children in 6th class who made their Confirmation on Saturday the 28th of March in Ashbourne Church with Bishop Tom Deenihan and Father Michael and Father Jinse. Thank you to Mrs O' Rourke, Ms Molloy, Ms Little and Ms McGee who worked throughout the year to prepare the children for the day. Thank you to our Parents' Association for providing goody bags for the children on the Monday after Confirmation. They were also treated to a cone when the ice-cream van called. Have a look at them in all their finery.

<https://youtu.be/Hmh2mwcESvs?feature=shared>

### Science Blast Room 24 04-03-2026

Ms Little's 6th class, Room 24 took part in 'ESB Science Blast 2026' on Wednesday the 4th of March. The children had to investigate the question 'Does Practice make Perfect?' and they had to present their results and conclusions to a panel of judges at the RDS. The children joined hundreds of children from all over Ireland to enjoy a day of experiments, shows and interactive activities. Well done to all the children and thank you to Ms Little for her hard work preparing and presenting the project. Thank you to Ms Downes for accompanying them on the day. The children loved the day out and got to see lots of other experiments from primary schools all around the country.



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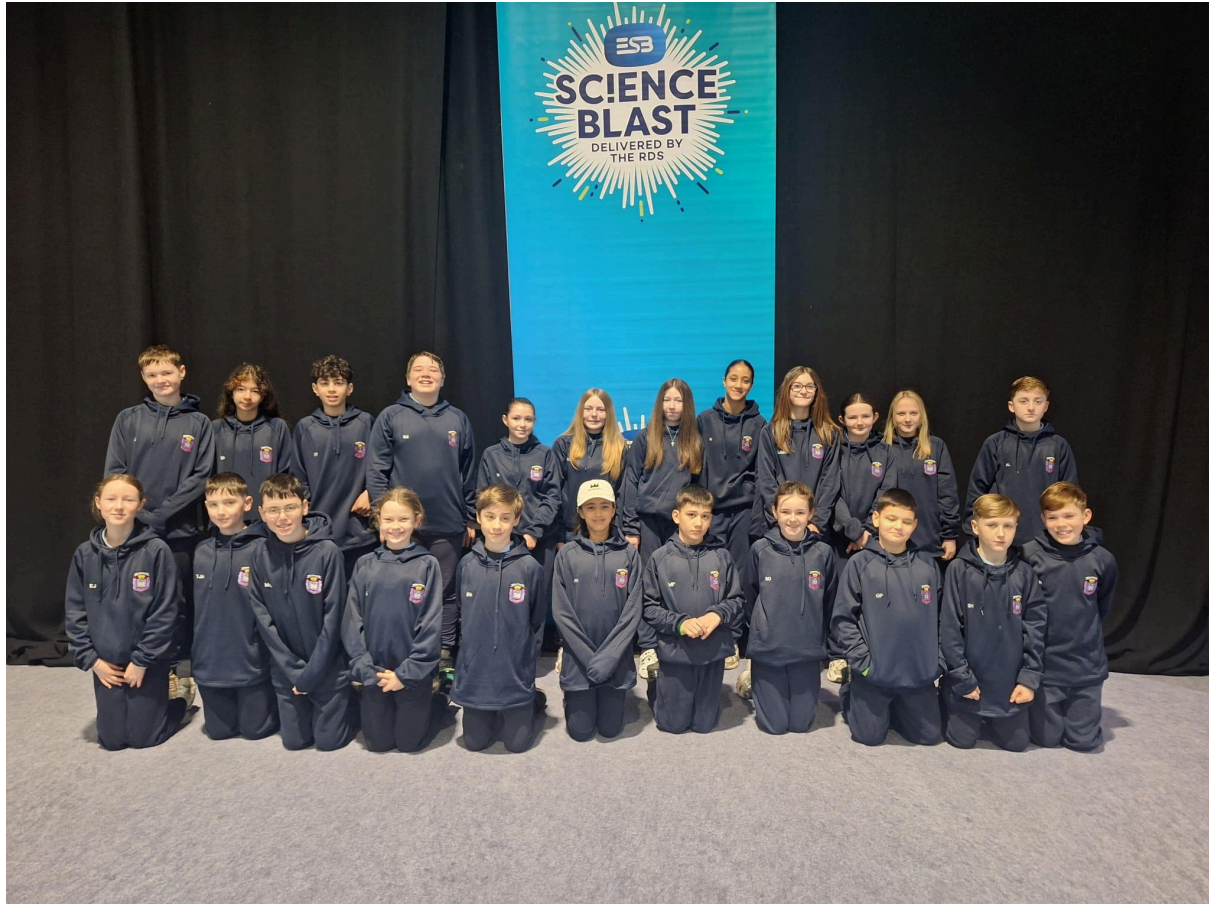
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## **Córfhéile 04-03-2026**

Well done to all 5th Class pupils who performed with gusto at Córfhéile na Scoileanna on Wednesday the 4th of March. Córfhéile is about developing confidence and performing before an audience in a non-competitive setting. The children gave a fantastic performance of three songs. Special well done to Mrs. O'Rourke (piano). Mr. McKeown (guitar) Mr. Szpara (guitar) and Ms Gallagher (conductor).

<https://youtu.be/xZedtcd6fLY?feature=shared>

## **World Book Day 05-03-2026**

We had a super day in St. Declan's for World Book Day on the 5th of March. The children and some of the teachers dressed up as their favourite character from a book. The children got book vouchers to spend in certain book shops.



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We had a parade in the hall and winners for best costume from each class. Thank you to Ms Lydon for organising the day.

Junior Infant Winners- Jaxson McLoughlin Room 26, Archie Sweeney Room 12 and Rian Bolton Room 13.

Senior Infant Winners- Lucy Richardson Room 27, Robyn Smith-Lynch Room 28, Dylan McManus and Nichita Cosarca Room 29.

1st Class Winners- Darcie Carolan Room 14, Ellie Duffy Room 15 and Chloe Riordan Room 16.



2nd Class Winners Ashling McHugh Room 17, Joey Tobin Room 18 and Charlie Hughes Room 19.

3rd Class Winners Logan Dillon Room 11, Oisín Bolton Room 20 and Shane Curran Room 21.



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4th Class Winners Callum Borland Room 5, Emelia Rudwick Room 9 and Erin O' Donoghue Hernandez Room 10.

5th Class Winners- Zara Carey Room 2, Maci Graham-Blanes Room 3 and Molly Donohue Room 4.

6th Class Winners Julia Pakosiewicz Room 7, Laura O' Donohue Room 8, Angela Maria Noble Room 24 and Anais Tayouo Room 25



## **Senior Quiz Team**

Congratulations to Konrad Mc Mahon from Room 24, Hannah Crowe from Room 4, Aaron Keane from Room 25 and James Delaney from Room 8 who represented St. Declan's in the Lakeside Manor Hotel in Stage Two Chapter Round of the Credit Union quiz competition 2026 on the 6th of March. They didn't progress to the next



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round but they gave their best effort and represented St. Declan's with pride and came in 3rd place after a nerve-wrecking tie-breaker. Thank you to Mr Quinn who prepared the children for the event.

## **Seachtain Na Gaeilge 2026**

We had a fantastic week in St. Declan's for Seachtain Na Gaeilge. All classes decorated notice boards, created art and were practising Irish poems, songs and phrases for the week. On Thursday the 12th of March our talented teachers took to the stage for a Ceolchoirm for all the children. We had Mr Quinn on accordion, Ms Kelly, Mrs Mc Cormack and Ms Mc Quaid on flute, Mr Mc Keown on guitar and banjo, Mr Szpara on the guitar, Ms Crowley and Ms Benville on the violin, Mrs O' Rourke on the keyboard and Ms Lydon on the concertina. We were joined on the day by Mr Dunne, Mr Timmons, Ms McGill and Ms Ní Mhurchadha. We had a selection of Irish Dancing from the children who attend Ms Jenkinson's after school class. We are so lucky to have such a talented bunch of teachers in our school. The children really enjoyed the performances. Have a look at some of the fun we had.

[https://youtu.be/pLErBtgZfXw?si=DSZHYo26oKp\\_ez1a](https://youtu.be/pLErBtgZfXw?si=DSZHYo26oKp_ez1a)

<https://youtube.com/shorts/6zjavlw66y8?si=JzeADr5eoeQcp0aj>

<https://youtu.be/PQYyaHEPN80?feature=shared>

<https://youtu.be/jRWfeDPRorY?feature=shared>

Fifth and sixth classes had a Tráth na gCeist in the hall. All classes performed a song/dance/poem in the hall in Irish. We ran a "SIOPA " for the week and the children could buy their items by speaking to the shopkeeper in Irish. It was great fun. There was a Junior and Senior Ceili in the yard with dances such as Shoe the Donkey, Siege of Ennis and Damhsa Mór featuring. We had Lá Glas on the 13th of March. A big thank you to all the parents and children who went to such a huge effort with costumes, face paints, wigs and accessories. The children looked fantastic and there was a super atmosphere in the school all day long. We had a parade as part of our celebrations. Classes third to sixth lined the parade while Junior Infants, Senior



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Infants, first and second classes got to walk through the parade. It was great fun and the children really enjoyed it. A huge thanks to Ms Kelly and Ms Mooney for coordinating the week.

<https://youtu.be/PmAeCJ6QLxQ?feature=shared>

## **Sports Update**

It has been a very busy month in St. Declan's in all sporting codes, with both the boys and girls football teams competing in the Fingal League Campaign. In GAA the boys Senior team have won and lost a game. The girls Senior team won their first game against Holywell ETNS in Swords yesterday. In Soccer, the boys team went through to the next round of the School FAI tournament but were beaten in a penalty shoot off on Wednesday. The girls soccer team missed out on qualifying last week, as they lost their play off 1-0. Well done to all teams involved, there were some great performances. March also saw the return of the Meath Basketball league competition. This year, we have entered both a boys and girls team which consists of pupils from 6th class. The girls basketball team won their first game. The boys lost by one basket against Duleek this week.

Best of luck to James (Room 8 6th class) and Ellen Delaney (Room 21 3rd class) who are representing St. Declan's in Swimming in the All-Irelands this weekend.

Well done to Savina Elebert (6th class) who was competing in the Gymnastic National competition Level 4 u13 last weekend. She placed first on the floor and first in her all around. Well done to all the children partaking in team sports. Thank you to all the sports teachers for their time and effort training the various teams

Our three first class are currently attending swimming lessons in Gym Plus Ashbourne and have lessons this week and next week.

Our three fourth classes are currently participating in cycling lessons with Cycling Ireland.



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## Let's Learn with Lego (Meta Grant)

Ms. Leggett applied for Lego Education sets which will be used across all class levels. The grant application was successful and we have been granted **€11,257** to purchase these resources for the school. The project will provide all students - from junior infants to sixth class -with inclusive, hands-on STEAM learning experiences that nurture curiosity, creativity, and confidence. By engaging every class level, it will reinforce the school's role as a hub for innovative, equitable education in Ashbourne. We look forward to using the sets in the near future! Thank you to Ms Leggett for all her hard work in the application process.

## **Attendance**

As part of HSE Talking Health and Wellbeing Podcast, host Noreen Turley explores Every School Day Matters: Supporting Attendance with Áine O'Keeffe, National Lead, Tusla Wellbeing Project and Director of TESS, and Dr Abigail Collins, National Clinical Lead, Child Health Public Health / National Healthy Childhood Programme (NHCP). Áine explains why we all have a role in promoting regular school attendance and reducing absenteeism, highlighting that missed days add up and children can miss out on learning, friendships and development when they are not in school

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6BrS5i3EJHaeTg7EkCR59R?si=hCzvw4z3QYCA9EhNYAr8AQ&nd=1&dlsi=ce11f989d11d4d5f>

Following the success of our recent Attendance Drive, the Attendance Team is continuing the initiative to encourage and celebrate excellent attendance in our school. At the end of each month, until the end of the year, one week will be selected to monitor attendance in classes. Any class that achieves full attendance during that week will be entered into a draw to win an Ice Cream Party for the class. Well done to Mr Mulroe's class who was one of the classes entered into the draw to win. The other classes in the draw were Ms McQuaid's class, Mr Melia's class, and Ms Conway's class. Mr Mulroe's class really enjoyed the ice-cream party !!!



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## **Standardised Testing**

We will be undertaking standardised testing in Reading and Mathematics with classes from 1st to 6th Class during the week commencing the 11th of May. The tests we will be using are called the Drumcondra Primary Reading test and the Drumcondra Primary Mathematics test. In addition, children in 1st, 3rd and 5th Class will be undertaking standardised tests in Spelling. We want to reassure parents and pupils that standardised tests are just one of many tools teachers use to inform the teaching and learning process. Test results may vary from year to year for individual pupils. The results can help teachers to identify areas of the curriculum where all pupils need additional support and to provide more bespoke support for individual pupils. Teachers will be encouraging the children on the day of testing to do their best. We will reassure them that they may not know all of the answers and that this is to be expected and is not a problem. Results of the tests are communicated to parents via the End-of-Year school report which we send out in late June.

## **First Confessions 28-03-2026**

Good luck to the children in 1<sup>st</sup> class who will be making their First Confessions this Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March with Father Michael and Father Jinse. Thank you to their class teachers Ms Hernon, Ms O' Beirne and Ms Benville for preparing them.

## **Dates to note**

All children will go home at 2pm on Wednesday the 22nd of April to facilitate a staff meeting.

We are closed Friday the 1st, Monday the 4th and Tuesday the 5th of May, for the May Bank Holiday

We close today for a half day for our Easter holidays. We return to school on Monday the 13th of April 2026. We wish all our families a nice relaxing Easter break.

