

SCOIL SAN CARLO SNS NEWSLETTER

School Newsletter 2025/2026 : Edition 8 - April & May 2026



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As we move on through to the final stretch of the school year, and as we look forward to all that the summer has to offer, it is also important to look back and reflect on what has come and gone throughout April and May. Since the Easter Holidays in early April, we have had busy, vibrant and productive months across our school community. With longer days and brighter weather, there has been a renewed energy among students and staff alike, reflected in both the classroom and beyond in our extra-curricular activities.

Over the past seven weeks, our students have engaged enthusiastically in a wide range of activities, from projects, planting and assessments to sporting events, Wellbeing Week, and our 40th Anniversary Celebrations. It has been especially encouraging to see such strong participation, teamwork, and resilience demonstrated by our students as they continue to challenge themselves and support one another each day when they come to school.

We have also been delighted and energised by a number of achievements during this period. Our Senior Boys Football team, under Mr. Davitt's stewardship made the County Final for the first time in quite some years, representing the Scoil San Carlo jersey with great pride and enthusiasm in Newbridge. We also spent a full week celebrating 40 years since the school was established. It was a heart-warming week, allowing many of us to reflect on the past four decades of Scoil San Carlo Senior School, taking stock of the school's growth and development since then, cherishing memories made over the many years since the school's foundation and also providing opportunity to look forward to the next decade with renewed ambition and purpose.

As we approach the end of term, we extend our sincere thanks to our staff, students, and parents for their continued commitment and contribution to school life. We look forward to Active Week and the School Tours that June presents. Together, we continue to foster a positive and supportive environment where everyone can thrive. Here's to a great final four weeks of the school year!

Cian Forde
School Principal



We had a fantastic week celebrating 40 years of San Carlo Senior School in May!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Active Schools Week:

Tuesday 2nd June 2026 - Friday June 6th 2026

5th Class School Tour - DCU:

Tuesday 9th June 2026

6th Class School Tour - Baltinglass Adventure Centre:

Friday 12th June 2026

Rescheduled Sports Day:

Confey GAA (Provisional)

4th Class School Tour - Kilruddery House Adventure Centre:

Friday 19th June 2026

3rd Class School Tour - Causey Farm

Tuesday 23rd June 2026

School Reports To Be Released:

Monday 15th June 2026 (Provisional)

6th Class Graduation:

Thursday 25th June 2026 at 1pm

Summer Holidays:

Tuesday 30th June 2026 at 12:30pm

2026/2027 Academic Year Commences:

Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 9:20am



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40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

We celebrated 40 years of Scoil San Carlo Senior National School throughout the school from Monday May 18th until Friday 22nd 2026. As we celebrated and reflected on the past 40 years of the school's history, the school became a hive of activity for the week.

On Monday, the children got the opportunity to engage in a 'Walking Art Gallery' as they toured the school and got the opportunity to look at some of the amazing, themed Art Work and Project Work completed by fellow students at each class level, that marked this significant milestone in the school's history.

On Tuesday, the students engaged in a 'Drumming Workshop' with a guest musician. It allowed the children to really create some noise and helped to build an atmosphere of energy and celebration through the corridors and hallways all throughout the school.

On Wednesday, Fr. Gregory said a beautiful mass for the whole-school community. We were very fortunate to have Ms.McDermott's Choir sing for us at the mass, and for all school stakeholders to be represented at the mass through various readings and processions.

On Thursday, Josh & Mia hosted a whole-school assembly, with all our students and staff, invited guests including our Board of Management, our Parent's Association, local principals and former staff members of the school. The assembly filled the wall with beautiful music from various class groups and the choir, and it also allowed for the first school principal Mr. Gerard McHugh, to address the school community.

On Friday, our students took centre stage with their themed non-uniform day of 'Anything but a bag'. Their creativity and enthusiasm for exchanging their schoolbags for anything but was exemplary and added a great sense of fun and joy to the final day of our celebrations. The day was of course completed by a visit to the ice-cream van, which was kindly looked after by our Parent's Association. If that wasn't enough for one week, the PA hosted a celebratory disco in the hall too that evening!

It was a wonderful week of celebration & a sincere thanks to the organising committee, who worked tirelessly to make it such a success.



Our front of house team, welcoming guests to our whole-school assembly.



Our 'Wall of History', allowing staff and students alike to reel in the years.



Our amazing students had their class photographs taken by our back-wall mural.



SCOIL SAN CARLO SNS

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS





SCOIL SAN CARLO SNS

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

A gentle reminder to all students and parents that the uniform that we wear in Scoil San Carlo Senior National School comprises of the following items;

- **Navy School Jumper**
- **White Polo T-Shirt**
- **Navy Cotton Tracksuit Bottoms**

These items can be purchased in Bernard Owens on the Main Street in Leixlip. Alternatively, you can purchase the uniform elsewhere, and acquire a school crest to 'iron on' from the school office. The PA regularly run uniform sales, and it is always worthwhile to pick up uniforms from their stand.

During the warmer, summer months, students are of course welcome to wear shorts to school. However, it is imperative that the shorts your child wears to school, as part of their uniform are **navy cotton shorts**, that are not branded, and do not contain a logo of any description.

The reason why we have a school uniform in our school is to ensure that every child comes to school in the same clothing, and so that everyone can feel as if they look and can be treated the same as their peers. Your co-operation and support with this is greatly appreciated.



2026/2027 BOOKLISTS & RESOURCE FEES

Last week, Diane & Kay, in the office sent home an overview of the resource fee and the school resources required for the next academic year via Aladdin Connect to all parents and guardians. Attached with this correspondence, you will also have received an overview of the schoolbooks and copies that will be provided to all students under the DEY Free Schoolbooks Scheme. A sincere thanks to Ms. Róna Quinn, Kay & Diane for their hard work in ensuring that all students will be ready to hit the ground running in September.



ATTENDANCE CUP

Congratulations to **Ms. English's 5th class**, who won the March Attendance Cup, with an excellent attendance of 95.6%. In April, another of our 5th classes topped the attendance charts, **Ms. Sirr's** class recorded an outstanding 98.4% rate of attendance. More recently, **Ms. Whelan's 3rd class** won the May Attendance Cup with another excellent 96.6% attendance outcome amongst the students in the class for the month. Let's see who comes out on top in June!

March Attendance Cup:

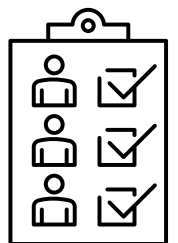
- 1st Place - Ms. English's 5th Class (95.6%)
- 2nd Place - Ms. O'Brien's Autism Class (95.4%)
- 3rd Place - Ms. Campion & Ms. Burchéal's 3rd Class (94.7%)

April Attendance Cup:

- 1st Place - Ms. Sirr's 5th Class (98.4%)
- 2nd Place - Ms. O'Brien's Autism Class (98.1%)
- 3rd Place - Ms. Whelan's 3rd Class (96.7%)

May Attendance Cup:

- 1st Place - Ms. Whelan's 3rd Class (96.6%)
- 2nd Place - Ms. English's 5th Class (95.7%)
- 3rd Place - Ms. Sirr's 5th Class (95.5%)





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UNDER 13 BOYS FOOTBALL CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL FINAL

Over recent months, our Under 13 Boys Football team, amongst other school teams have performed admirably and have represented the school with great pride and character in their respective competitions. Under Mr. Michael Davitt’s stewardship, the boys commenced training last December. Since then, the boys went on to win three group games in the Cumann na mBunscol Competition, beating Cappagh, Rathcoffey and Gaelscoil Nás na Ríogh. This qualified them for a home semi-final, where they had a magnificent performance by beating St. Patrick’s National School, Celbridge. They were final bound!

On Tuesday May 26th, the boys travelled to Hawkfield Centre of Excellence in Newbridge, with great support from family, friends and colleagues to take on familiar foes from the group stages, Cappagh. On a blistering hot day, the boys performed incredibly well, ensuring that our school motto of ‘Samhlaíocht, Saothar agus Cúram’ was evident in all that they did on the field. They worked incredibly hard all over the pitch, they showed great flair and creativity in how they expressed themselves when in possession and finally, they showed great responsibility in how they represented San Carlo Senior School and the parish of Confehy. After a pulsating, end to end, two halves of football, the game finished in a dramatic draw. Due to the heat, the match had to be decided by a ‘Golden Score’. Unfortunately, the boys lost out to Cappagh by a solitary point. While it was a disappointing result on the day for Mr. Davitt and the boys, we know that this experience will stand to them as they look forward to long and stellar careers in sport. We’re hoping it will give them added incentive to go along and win the ‘Local Leagues’ final, which they have also qualified for. This will take place in the coming weeks. All in San Carlo Senior School are so proud of the boys efforts in making a county final. Thanks Mr. Davitt for training and mentoring the boys so diligently over recent months. Well done boys!





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UNDER 13 BOYS FOOTBALL CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL FINAL





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SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS



Under 13 Girls Camogie Team

Well done to all of the girls and to Ms. Aishling English & Ms. Niamh Geoghegan's U13 Camogie Team, who played two great games against Rathcoffey & Clogherinkoe in recent weeks. It was wonderful to see so many girls represent the school for the first time, and for many, it was their time playing a competitive camogie game. Maith sibh cailíni! Lots more to come!

Under 13 Girls Football Team

Well done to all of the girls and to Ms. Kellie Carr, Ms. Helen O'Shea, Ms. Mary Burcheal, Ms. Catherine Vallely, Ms. Anna Lyons & Ms. Sharon Kelly on two excellent campaigns in the Cumann na mBunscol Competition and the Local Leagues. The girls had some outstanding wins along the way, and a few very narrow losses. Their skillsets developed so much from the early morning training and they showed outstanding commitment all throughout their season. The future of San Carlo & Confey LGFA is very bright!



Under 10 Girls Football Team

Well done to all our younger girls and to Ms. Caroline Whelan, Mr. Conor Duignan and Ms. Niamh McCabe for their outstanding performances to date. The girls have been on fire, winning games against Gaelscoil Uí Fhiach, Maigh Nuad, Scoil na Mainstreach, Celbridge and Prosperous National School. The girls now have a home semi-final in the weeks ahead. Here's hoping their outstanding form to date will continue and may give them the possibility of another county final this year for the school!





SCOIL SAN CARLO SNS

SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS



Under 10 Boys Football Team

Well done to all our younger boys and to Mr. Conor Duignan, Ms. Caroline Whelan and Ms. Niamh McCabe for the brilliant campaign they had representing the school recently. The boys played extremely well in all of their games, picking up a fantastic win in their opening game. Their continued commitment, positive energy and dedication to training over the coming years will ensure that there are plenty more good days ahead for the boys! San Carlo Abu!

Noel O’Sullivan Memorial Tournament

Well done to our 3rd and 4th class camogie and hurling players, who represented the school under Mr. Eoin McCreary and Mr. Michael Davitt’s stewardship in Ardclough GAA on a beautiful summer’s day. The children had a great day out, playing hurling and camogie on combined teams of boys and girls against other local schools. It was extremely special and significant to be invited to Noel’s Memorial Tournament, a past principal of the school, who instilled such a wonderful tradition of GAA in the school for so many years. Well done to Seán and Ella Mei for picking up their awards as top players in the tournament.



Sheila Keogan Memorial Tournament

Well done to our 5th class boys and girls from Mr. Eoin McCreary and Ms. Aishling English’s classes, who represented San Carlo Senior School in Kilcloon in recent weeks. We were delighted to be offered the opportunity by Mr. Ken Keogan, a great friend of the school, to play against his own school, Kilcloon and Oldcastle in a memorial tournament to remember Ken’s Mum and our own student, Christopher’s grandmother, Sheila. The children had a fantastic day out and thoroughly enjoyed crossing the border into the Royal County!



SCOIL SAN CARLO SNS

SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS

School Athletics & Cross-Country Team



What a busy year it has been for our Athletics & Cross-Country team in the school, who have represented the school remarkably well at all their meets and events this year. The students have been in safe hands under Mr. Niall Sherlock's expert guidance, along with many more staff members, who have very kindly accompanied them on many occasions, come hail, rain or shine!



Our students have won a huge number of individual and collective team medals this year. It is testament to their fitness levels, athleticism and desire to be their very best. On many occasions, the school came away from the Dublin Meets as the top school. Here's hoping there are many more exciting days out for the Athletics Team once again next year.





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THE BIG SING



Our 4th classes rocked the National Stadium on Thursday 23rd April with their energy, their enthusiasm and their outstanding singing and dancing. They learned and sang along to some throwback hits, that even their parents might know! The children also performed some very popular, current songs by some of their favourite artists. A huge well done to all the boys and girls for their excellent behaviour and their amazing efforts on the night. Reports say that we were the best school on show!

A huge depth of gratitude and thanks to the staff members involved in preparing the students for their 'Big Sing; Ms. Mary McDermott, Ms. Laragh O'Leary, Ms. Bláthnaid Connolly, Ms. Ríona Quinn, Ms. Jessica Perkins and Ms. Geraldine McKiernan. We can't wait for next year's event already!



BIODIVERSITY WEEK AT INTEL

Our three 5th classes participated in Biodiversity Week during the month of May. Intel kindly invited Ms. Sirr, Mr. McCreary and Ms. English's classes to join them in the wilderness that surrounds their huge facilities. They kindly bussed the students to and from the school to Intel. The children participated in a variety of bush activities, that allowed them to make links between their learning in the classroom and the wild outdoors. They had a brilliant day out. A sincere thanks to all at Intel for extending the invitation to our classes.





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NEW SCHOOL JERSEYS

On behalf of all in the San Carlo Senior School Community, a huge depth of gratitude and appreciation is extended to Mr. Cathal O'Shea and the wider O'Shea Group for their very kind sponsorship of two new sets of school jerseys. As you can imagine, we have had so many teams in action over recent months, and having two beautiful new sets of jerseys goes along way towards ensuring that we can continue to support our students in representing the school and developing their skills.

They got their first outing in the Boys Final last week. Here's hoping that they see many more county final days over the many years to come!



PIRLS TESTING

Two of our 4th classes recently took part in the PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) assessment, an international study that evaluates reading comprehension among primary school pupils. The children approached the experience with great enthusiasm and focus, demonstrating their strong literacy skills and positive attitudes towards reading. We are very proud of how well they represented our school and commend both the students and their teachers for their hard work and preparation.

Thanks to Ms. Connolly, Ms. O'Leary & Ms. Quinn for all their efforts in facilitating this opportunity.

PRIMARY AQUATICS WATER SAFETY

Our students recently participated in an engaging and informative seminar delivered by Primary Aquatics Water Safety. The session highlighted the importance of staying safe in and around water, equipping children with essential knowledge and practical tips.

With the summer holidays approaching, it is vital that our pupils are well informed and confident about water safety, helping them to enjoy their time near water in a safe and responsible way.



DIOCESAN VISIT

We were delighted to welcome Sister Maureen to our school as part of a diocesan visit on behalf of the Archbishop's House in the Dublin Diocese. During her visit, Sister Maureen spent time observing school life and engaging with staff and pupils, with a particular focus on how the Catholic ethos of our school is lived out in daily practice. We are proud to share that her visit affirmed the strong sense of faith, community, and values evident throughout our school.





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BLOOM FESTIVAL

Our 5th Class recently enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Bloom Festival in the Phoenix Park, having won this exciting opportunity. The children travelled by train, adding to the sense of adventure, and spent the day exploring the beautiful gardens, exhibits, and interactive displays. They enjoyed a relaxing picnic together and made the most of the wonderful atmosphere. It was a memorable day filled with learning, fun, and plenty of smiles.

A huge thank you to Ms. Rhona Sirr, Ms. Julie Holmes and Ms. Geraldine McKiernan for facilitating such a lovely opportunity for the 5th class students.



SCHOOL WORKS

Over recent months, there has been lots of fantastic work ongoing in the school. A sincere thanks to the Board of Management, who have supported and funded these projects for the benefit of all those within our school community. Over the past number of months, we have had sliderobes installed in all our classrooms, we have had our front doors replaced, and a lobby area created, we have had our PE Store Room upgraded, a new storeroom created to store school resources, and an upgrade completed to our staffroom. It has made a huge difference throughout the school and it has been a fitting way to celebrate 40 years of Scoil San Carlo Senior National School.

