



SCOIL SAN CARLO SNS NEWSLETTER

School Newsletter 2025/2026 : Edition 6 - February 2026



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we come to the end of February, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been another busy and positive month here in Scoil San Carlo Senior National School.

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it has certainly been full of learning, activity and community spirit. Our pupils engaged thoughtfully in activities to mark Creative February, St. Brigid's Day, exploring Irish history and traditions while welcoming the first signs of spring. It was wonderful to see the creativity and pride displayed in classrooms throughout the school.

We also marked Safer Internet Day, providing valuable opportunities for students to reflect on responsible online behaviour, digital wellbeing and the importance of kindness in all interactions, both in person and online. These conversations are essential for our senior primary pupils as they grow in independence and confidence.

Friendship and inclusion were key themes across the month. Through class discussions and collaborative activities, our students demonstrated the respect and care that make our school community so special.

A sincere thank you to our dedicated staff for their hard work and commitment, and to our parents and guardians for your ongoing support. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in the success and wellbeing of our children.

As we look ahead to March, we anticipate another very busy, productive and engaging month of learning and school events, ahead of the Easter Holidays.

Wishing all our families a restful and enjoyable start to spring, and hopefully some spells of sunshine very soon!

Cian Forde
School Principal



Some of our successful athletes who performed extremely well at the Indoor Relay Championships in the National Sports Campus earlier in the month

DATES FOR THE DIARY

School Book Fair:

Friday 27th February 2026 - Wednesday 4th March 2026

6th Class Confirmation:

Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Childline School Visit & Engineering Day:

Wednesday 4th March 2026

World Book Day:

Thursday 5th March 2026

School Photographer Visit:

Monday 2nd March 2026

Coicís na Gaeilge:

Monday 2nd March - Friday 13th March 2026

Lá Glas:

Friday 13th March 2026

School Closure - St. Patrick's Day:

Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th January

Official Opening Of Autism Class & Sensory Corridor:

Tuesday 24th March 2026

Easter Holidays:

Friday 27th March 2026 at 12:30pm
(School closes for two weeks)

Term 3 Commences:

Monday 13th April 2026 at 9:20am



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CONFIRMATION

Our 6th class Confirmation Candidates have been very busy over recent months in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. Their Pledge Ceremony and Service of Light took place on Thursday 12th February 2026. The children represented themselves and the school in an admirable fashion and have been widely praised throughout the parish for their commitment, dedication and demeanour on their faith journey to date.

We wish all of the candidates the very best ahead of their Confirmation Service on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 11am in St. Charles Borromeo Church. All in San Carlo hope that it will be a very memorable day in the lives of all of our candidates. A sincere thanks to Ms. Kellie Carr, Mr. Michael Davitt and Mr. Martin Flatley, alongside Ella Doran for their hard work in assisting the children with their Confirmation preparations. Thank you to Ms. Mary McDermott and her school choir for providing the music for the Confirmation Service.

Go n-eirí an t-ádh libh go léir!

HOT SCHOOL MEALS

Many thanks to all for their patience and understanding of the delay to the commencement of our Hot School Meals Programme. We are hoping that the initiative will start in both the Junior and Senior Schools simultaenously over the coming weeks. Please keep your Aladdin Noticeboard Notifications on, as we will notify all parents of the commencement date via this correspondence, as soon as we get the green light to start!

A huge thank you also to all those who have registered their child on the Nourish & Green Portal, so that they are prepared and ready to go, once the meals are ready to commence. If you are having any difficulty in registering your child on the portal, please contact Nourish & Green directly on the below email address;

info@nourishandgreen.ie



SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Our School Book Fair will take place from Friday 27th until Wednesday 4th March in the GP Hall. This offers an extremely valuable opportunity to promote a love for reading and for picking up a book amongst our student population. In an ever evolving world, where technology has become more and more prominent in our daily lives, encouraging children to read, to grow their imaginations and to fall in love with a book is becoming more important than ever. This is why we are opting to facilitate the fair and why we have also have re-commenced library visits for all classes to our local Kildare County Council Library.

As ever, with the School Book Fair, there is a huge benefit to all school stakeholders in supporting the initiative, as Scholastic offer a donation of books back to the school, to supplement our class libraries, based on the the number of books that we sell at our fair. We would greatly appreciate if you could take the opportunity to call into the school over the coming days, at the allotted times, to support the book fair and to come in and visit us in the school.

Please see the attached schedule for the Book Fair;

Friday 27th February 2026 -

Students will visit the Book Fair during the school day, with an opportunity to create a wish list of books they would like.

Monday 2nd March 2026 -

Students & Parents are welcome to purchase books from 3pm - 4pm in the school hall.

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 -

Students & Parents are welcome to purchase books from 8:30am - 9:30am & from 3pm - 4pm in the school hall.

Wednesday 4th March 2026 -

Students & Parents are welcome to purchase books from 8:30am - 9:30am in the school hall.

A huge thank you to Ms. Rhona Sirr for her organisation of this exciting school event. Thank you also to the Parents Association for their continued support in helping to facilitate the event over the coming days.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day will take place school-wide on Thursday 5th March 2026. As always, a huge emphasis on reading and literacy activities will be promoted at all class levels to encourage and support a lifelong love of reading and books amongst our student population.



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GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Our Green Schools Committee, comprising of lots of our 5th class students and a team of staff have been very busy over recent months, having commenced the process of attaining our next Green Flag. The next flag we are hoping to obtain is the ‘Travel Flag’.

On Thursday 12th February, our committee organised the ‘Big Travel Challenge’ for the whole school community, promoting active and sustainable travel, as a means to trying to reduce carbon emissions and to slow down climate change. In spite of the poor weather conditions on the day, students and staff throughout the school used public transport, cycled, scooted, car pooled and walked, where possible, to get to school. It was great to see such a collaborative school effort to taking on the ‘Big Travel Challenge.’ A huge well done to all who participated!

Subsequent to this, Mr. McCreary’s 5th class, Green Schools Committee carried out a ‘Walkability Audit’ outside the school grounds last week to assess the suitability of the infrastructure in the local environment, for pedestrians walking to school. From this study, they are going to feedback their observations to An Taisce and Kildare County Council, as to how they can improve our footpaths, pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures to ensure the community of San Carlo, Confey have the option to walk safely to and from school each day.

A huge thank you to all of our staff and students for their outstanding work on these projects to date. We can’t wait to see your continued hard work over the coming months. We hope that, as the Spring and Summer months come, that more and more students will choose sustainable and active travel options to get to and from school.

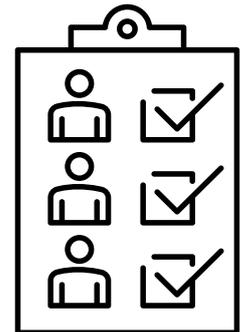


Some of our students showing us their sustainable travel choices during the ‘Big Travel Challenge’

ATTENDANCE CUP

Congratulations to **Ms. McDermott’s 4th class** for winning the January Attendance Cup! It is fantastic to see the improvement in attendance amongst their class group since September. Thanks for your continued support with our Attendance Strategy. Attached are attendances for the month of January;

- Room 1 - 92.6%
- Room 2 - 93.2%
- Room 3 - 93.2%
- Room 4 - 92.6%
- Room 5 - 93.8%
- Room 6 - 96.4%**
- Room 7 - 95.6%
- Room 8 - 95.3%
- Room 10 - 90.4%
- Room 11 - 88.5%
- Room 12 - 90.8%
- Room 14 - 93.6%
- Room 15 - 88.3%
- Room 16 - 90.6%



RE-TURN FRIDAYS

Our Parent’s Association, in conjunction with our Green Schools Committee are re-launching ‘Re-Turn Fridays’, as a fundraising initiative that will hopefully allow us to upgrade our outdoor spaces and playground. Each classroom will have a recyclable can & bottle bin in their classroom, where children can bring in used plastic bottles and cans from home, to re re-turned to our large orange bin at the front of the school. The class who re-returns the most cans and bottles between now and June will be in with a chance of winning a special prize. Thanks in advance for supporting this fundraising initiative!

CÓR NA NÓG

Ms. McDermott and the school choir, of over 40 students have been busy preparing for the Córfhéile na Scoileanna event on Friday March 6th in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght. They will be singing at the 10:30am time slot and tickets are available at the door for any parents who wish to attend and support. It has been wonderful to hear the beautiful singing throughout the school. Wishing everyone involved the very best at the event next week, representing the school



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SCHOOL ATHLETICS TEAM

On Thursday 12th February, a team of over 50 boys and girls travelled to the Indoor Track in the National Sports Campus in Abbotstown, Dublin to participate in the Indoor Relay Championships. Over 40 schools competed on the day and Scoil San Carlo Senior School were the outstanding school, amongst all, with all of our boys and girls teams, at all class levels making their respective finals. Many of our teams succeeded in securing podium places and winning medals. They represented both themselves and the school tremendously and all members of the athletics team should be extremely proud of their efforts on the day!

Their attention now turns back to Cross Country action on Tuesday 10th March, where schools throughout Dublin will be well aware of our school's athletic prowess and will be keeping a close eye on us! A huge thank you to Anna, Ms. Carr and Mr. Sherlock for preparing the children for the event. Keep up the great work!





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SENSORY CORRIDOR & SPACES

In recent weeks, there have been lots of advancements made in developing our sensory spaces in the school, to support regulation and movement breaks for children in our mainstream classes and for the students in our autism classes. Our amazing team of Special Needs Assistants in the school have taken on some of these projects to ensure that the students under their care and stewardship are guaranteed the very best possible school experience here in Scoil San Carlo Senior School.



We now have a lovely, soothing calm space equipped with a lava lamp, dark den and a ball pit, as a safe space for our students, when they need to access this room. We also have a fabulous sensory corridor, that is nearing completion, all designed in-house by our team of Special Needs Assistants, and the support of our teaching staff. We cannot wait to see the finished product, on completion of the project. Watch this space!



Check out some of our new Sensory Spaces that have been developing throughout the school in recent weeks.



FÓRSA SCHOOL JERSEYS

A sincere thanks to Fórsa and to Senan and Shane Lambert for their support of the school, by donating a new set of jerseys for San Carlo Senior to wear. As sporting activity ramps up over the coming weeks, with the return of GAA and Soccer teams, the jerseys will certainly see plenty of action on the playing fields!



LEGO SPIKE

As part of our ambition to integrate Coding and STEM-Based learning into our daily teaching and learning school-wide, many classes throughout the school have been learning to code using Lego Spike over recent weeks, as we have the lend of the wonderful resources from Kildare Education Centre. A sincere thanks to our Digital Learning team and to Ms. Bláthnaid Connolly for facilitating this opportunity for our students!

AUTISM CLASS OFFICIAL OPENING

Our new Autism Class, which was finally completed back in late October will officially open on Tuesday March 24th

Our students in our two Autism Classes will be visited by some of our local politicians and former principal, Ms. Clare McHugh, to officially open the new facilities. There might even be time for a special party for our Autism Classes too!



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CREATIVE FEBRUARY

Creative February was a great success throughout the school over recent weeks, as all our class groups delved into the Arts Curriculum, exploring lots of different strands and methods of demonstrating their creative flair.

The whole student body of the school combined to make a collaborative art piece to make a school tree, with a leaf representing each child in the school and their contribution to the school community. A huge thank you to Ms. Riona Quinn for organising this initiative.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

As part of our 'Say Yes to Languages Initiative', and as we begin the process of incorporating Modern Foreign Languages into our curriculum, as part of the New Curriculum Framework, Spanish has commenced in the school.

5th and 6th classes are receiving Spanish lessons as part of their language learning. Last year, our students received lessons in Irish Sign Language and the year previous, they were in receipt of French lessons. These combined language experiences offer an opportunity for a variety of languages to be tried and tested, ahead of a full commitment to a language in the children's second level education.



Our school winners from Ms. English's 5th class representing San Carlo Senior at the regional finals in Blanchardstown

INTEL MINI-SCIENTISTS

A huge congratulations and well done to our 5th class students, Millie, Aileen, Ollie and Cian for representing the school so well at the regional finals of the Intel Mini-Scientist Competition in Blanchardstown this month. They were able to discuss the physics and scientific background of how they designed their water powered boat with the judges, when visited and left a fabulous impression on all of those, who visited their stall. Thanks to Ms. English, Ms. Sirr and Mr. McCreary for all the hard work they completed with their classes on this wonderful initiative.

BREAK & LUNCH TIMES

Throughout January and February, we have been trialling new recreational times school-wide to understand what will best suit the evolving needs of our school. Resulting from this, our first break will now commence at 10:45am until 11:00am and our second break will now be from 12:50pm until 1:15pm

COICÍS NA GAELIGE

As we look forward to celebrating St. Patrick's Day on March 17th nationwide, we also commence Coicís na Gaelige in San Carlo Senior School from March 2nd. Throughout this fortnight, lots of fun Irish Language learning activities will take place, Céilí dancing, traditional Irish Music and our Lá Glas, where children dress up in green on Friday March 13th. A huge thank you to Ms. Geraldine Campion for organising this event school-wide.