

Ashbourne CNS Newsletter

June 2026



Principal's Address

Dear members of our school community,

It is difficult to believe that we are drawing near to the end of another school year at Ashbourne CNS. It has been an incredibly positive year with so many highlights and learning memories for our pupils which will undoubtedly help shape their future.

At ACNS we strive to create a positive school culture where the holistic development of all our pupils is key to all decision making. We want all members of our community to feel seen, heard and respected.

My key highlight of the year was our Intercultural week, and the joy felt by our pupils in welcoming their parents and guardians into their classrooms to share their wonderful knowledge of the countries they had been learning about.

I would like to thank our Parent's Association for their support and commitment over the course of the year and for all the exciting initiatives they have organised. I would encourage all our parents to get involved or even attend one of the Parent's Association's coffee mornings. To our Board of Management and patron body, LMETB, a sincere thank you for all your support and guidance as always.

Finally, to the real heroes at ACNS, our staff, your commitment and dedication to the pupils under our care is nothing short of remarkable. It is inspirational to see our school values of Care, Creativity, Courage and Collaboration being brought to life by your actions every day.

I hope everybody has a relaxing Summer break.

Le meas,

Príomhoide Eoin.

Student Council News

Our Student Council has had a brilliantly busy and successful term! The team worked incredibly hard to raise funds for a much-loved ice cream van visit, which brought sweet treats and big smiles to the whole school. They also did a fantastic job acting as leaders and welcoming our newest pupils and their parents at the recent Junior Infant Open Day. Finally, they continued to inspire us all by proudly reading out the weekly Growth Mindset Awards at our school assemblies, celebrating everyone's resilience and effort.

We want to say a massive thank you to every single member of the Student Council 2025/2026. Your outstanding hard work, continuous efforts, and fantastic school spirit make a huge difference to our school community every day. We are so proud of you all!



Extra-Curricular Activities at Ashbourne CNS

Rugby

This term, the tag rugby team had an absolutely fantastic time, working extremely hard in training, visiting Ashbourne Rugby Club to do a local schools blitz, getting the opportunity to play in the Aviva stadium and starting an annual Ashbourne Schools Tag Rugby competition with St. Declan's NS.



Tag Rugby in the Aviva Stadium, by Patricia Petri, 6th Class.

This year we have been doing tag rugby with Múinteoir Cian and Múinteoir Grace. We were very lucky to be invited to play at the Aviva Stadium on April 22nd. We travelled to Dublin by bus and when we got there, we warmed up on the Lansdowne Astro pitch.

After that, we ran through the tunnel. It was so cool. We got to play four matches against other schools, on the pitch. Later, we met Paul O'Connell, Kevin the carrot, Katie Farrell-Mc Cabe, Josh Van der Flier and more.

This was my best memory of 6th class, because we got to represent our school and wear the school jersey in the Aviva Stadium.



Sin Mar Atá

Sin Mar Atá was a community-based Music and Arts project, (funded by Meta), that took place over the course of this academic year. Múinteoir Áine and Múinteoir Aaliah's 5th class were lucky enough to be selected to take part in this project, alongside the 5th classes in Gaelscoil na Mí and Ashbourne ETNS. During this Project, the Transition Year students from Coláiste De Lacy taught our 5th class pupils music and art.



This work accumulated in a showcase in Ashbourne Library in which a tapestry was created and displayed. A music video was also premiered, with music produced by Philip Magee and videography by All Black Everything. The video can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/rQpyjAXxjvA?si=ZNIGka9uxePPpQBq>

A special thanks to Coláiste De Lacy and the teachers involved for including our school in this incredible experience.



Extra-Curricular Activities & School Celebrations

Cycle Safety in 5th Class

During term 3, Múinteoir Áine and Múinteoir Aaliah's 5th class took part in the school's Cycle Safety initiative.

During this time, children learned all about riding a bicycle safely, which included learning about helmet checking, weather checking, stopping distance, turning and signalling.



While there was a lot to learn, they also made time for some games with the bike, one of the favourites being the Slow Bicycle race.

A special thanks to the instructor Tommy, who made the experience extremely informative and valuable yet enjoyable for the 5th class children!



Intercultural Week at ACNS

Our annual Intercultural Week ran from the 25th-29th of May this year and proved to be a great success.

During this time, children had the opportunity to share and learn about the many diverse cultures that exist within our school community.



During this time, each class chose a country to study and explore. Class visits took place in which classes had the opportunity to visit other classrooms to learn about their country of choice and view their projects.



At the end of the week, parents were invited in to view the incredible projects and artwork completed by the children. Additional activities took place including a table quiz, organised by 6th class, an Intercultural Assembly, in which children wore their country's colours or traditional dress and a food fair, which was organised by the Parent's Association. Overall, this was a fantastic week and a very rich and enjoyable learning experience for all members of our school community.



Class News

Junior Infants – Múinteoir Sadhbh

What an exciting last term we've had in Junior Infants! From hands-on learning, outdoor play, school tours, active week and sports day we've been kept very busy. In April we explored the theme of 'The Farm', we learned all about the different animals and their babies. We were so lucky to have Eva's family bring in a cow and calf from their farm for us to see.

In May, we learned all about food. We had lots of fun playing shop, using money, weighing different food items and collecting data on our favourite food, which provided lots of opportunities for active learning. We created art pieces based on the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. During the month, we also learned about Italy. We learned some Italian words, sang 'That's Amore', and created lots of artwork. We showed our fabulous learning to our parents during Intercultural Week.



We took part in station teaching with Múinteoir Ellen's class, working on our reading, writing and letter formation. It has been lots of fun getting to work with our friends in another class. We enjoyed a fantastic sunny day in Puddenhill for our very first school tour. Everybody had a great time! Our last few weeks have been spent partaking in play activities and enjoying our school's active week.



We've had a wonderful first year in primary school and are looking forward to moving on to Senior Infants in September!



Junior Infants – Múinteoir Ellen

Term 3 has been a wonderfully busy and exciting time in Junior Infants. We explored the theme of the farm, learning about animals, food and where it comes from. We planted and grew cress, enjoyed water and sand play, learned about money, created patterns, and started reading our very first words. A very special highlight was a visit from a real cow and calf, which helped us understand farm life even more.

As part of Multicultural Week, we learned all about Spain and proudly invited our parents in to see our fantastic work. Our school tour to Puddenhill was full of summer fun as we met lots of farm animals and played in the sunny playground.

During Active Week, we enjoyed all things sporty—trying gymnastics, taking part in Sports Day, and cooling down with a delicious ice cream from the ice cream van. It really felt like summer had arrived.

It has been a joyful, energetic and memorable term in Junior Infants. After such a busy first year of school, we are all looking forward to our well-earned summer holidays.



Senior Infants – Múinteoir Cian M

Senior Infants have had a wonderfully busy and exciting term as we come to the end of a brilliant year. Our school tour was a huge highlight — the children had a fantastic day filled with fun, adventure, and plenty of smiles. We've also been getting active during Active Week, enjoying gymnastics, movement activities, a trip from the ice cream man and preparing for our energetic Sports Day.

In the classroom, the children have continued to work hard, making great progress in maths, English, and Gaeilge. Their curiosity has been shining through during our science experiments, where they explored, questioned, and discovered new things that sparked a real sense of wonder.



As part of Intercultural Week, we learned all about Japan. The pupils were fascinated by the traditions, food, and stories from a culture different from their own. We were especially delighted to welcome parents into our classroom to share in the learning and celebrate the richness of our diverse world.

Now, as we begin to wind down, we are reflecting on a wholesome, joyful, and memorable year. Senior Infants have grown in confidence, kindness, and independence — and they are more than ready for the exciting step into First Class.



Senior Infants – Múinteoir Síle

Senior Infants have really enjoyed term 3. We had a great time at Puddenhill for our school tour. We got to play in the soft play, learn about different animals, pet a rabbit and play in the playground outside.

We have been very active during Active Week! We had a fun run and an ice cream van on Monday. On Tuesday, we did gymnastics with CGC gymnastics club. On Wednesday, we had Wacky Wednesday. Some of us dressed up in wacky colours and did our hair in wacky hairstyles. One girl even had socks on her hands! It was a very wacky day.



During World Autism Day on Friday April 24th we got to play with Oobleck and had an enriching sensory experience.



First Class – Múinteoir Amy

1st class had a busy term 3. They had their school tour to the zoo and enjoyed exploring and learning about the animals.



We have been learning about healthy eating and how to take care of our teeth. In science, we carried out an experiment to show the effects that different foods and drinks can have on our teeth if we don't take proper care of them. Everyone enjoyed making predictions and observing the results.



Our class favourite Gaeilge buddy, “Bonnie an Bó”, came to visit. We have been learning about bia (food) as Gaeilge and she brought some yummy treats to try, piobar (pepper) agus sú talún (strawberry). Some students never tried these foods before and bravely tasted them for the first time. Well done everyone!



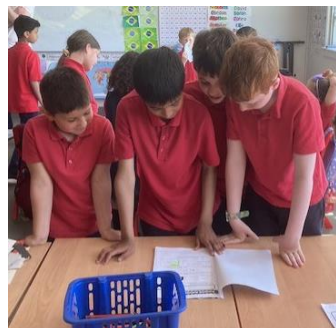
Well done everyone for an amazing year in 1st class. We are extremely proud of you all for your hard work and enthusiasm.

First Class - Múinteoir Rebecca

We have come to the final week of 1st class and we can't quite believe it! During Intercultural week, we welcomed children and parents to our class, to show them what we had learned about Brazil. We decorated the class, we tasted some delicious food from Brazil and we even got to try out some very cool Samba Drums!



The rain stayed away so that we could have a wonderful trip to the zoo. We saw lots of cool animals and we even dug for dinosaur fossils!



Active Week was filled with lots of activity, finishing with a delicious treat from the ice-cream van!



We have had a super year in 1st class and we are ready for some rest and relaxation for we head into 2nd class in September!



Second Class - Múinteoir Geraldine

On May 19th, our class had a fantastic trip to Dublin Zoo! We took a big yellow bus and arrived early in the morning. The weather was cloudy perfect for seeing animals. We saw lions, giraffes, elephants, zebras, ostriches and even the snow leopard! We learned that animals from all over the world live at the zoo and how important it is to protect them.



We had a wonderful Intercultural Day on May 29th. Our class learned all about Turkey! Fifth class helped us compile our research into projects and we really enjoyed visiting Senior Infants, 4th/5th Class and 6th Class to learn all about their chosen countries.

We also loved the Intercultural Week Quiz run by the 6th Class. They asked fun questions about different countries. Everyone clapped and laughed, and we all learned something new.

It was a term full of fun, friends, and learning. We can't wait for more adventures in Third Class!



Third Class – Múinteoir Cian F

Third Class have had a wonderfully active and engaging few weeks in school. One of the highlights was **Intercultural Week**, where the children took great pride in becoming the teachers for a day. They loved welcoming their parents into the classroom and sharing activities, games, and traditions from around the world. It was a special moment of confidence and connection for everyone involved.

Our **school tour to Navan Adventure Centre** was



another unforgettable experience. The class threw themselves into every activity, with go-karting and archery proving to be firm favourites. Their

enthusiasm, teamwork, and encouragement for one another made the day even more enjoyable.

During **Sports Week**, the children learned the basics of hurling and showed fantastic energy and determination on the pitch.

They also experienced a calmer side of movement through a relaxing yoga session with Múinteoir Síle, where they embraced “zen mode” beautifully.



Third Class – Múinteoir Ciara

What a wonderful year it has been in Third Class. During **Intercultural Week**, our study of Pakistan was a real highlight, especially when parents joined to share traditions, stories and food.



Our **school tour** to Navan Adventure Centre was full of excitement with go-karting, archery and foot golf.



Swimming lessons at Gym Plus brought great progress and confidence, and the children looked forward to every session. On sunny days, we moved learning outdoors and enjoyed lively **maths games** that encouraged teamwork and creative thinking. The class showed kindness, enthusiasm and a brilliant attitude all year, creating memories we will treasure.



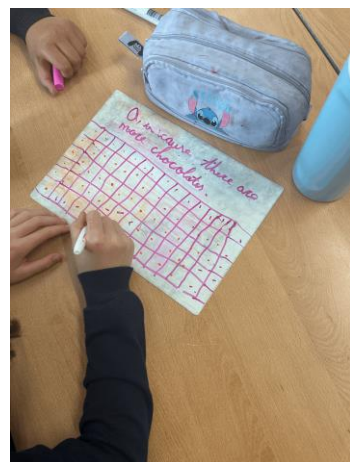
Fourth Class – Múinteoir Lana

This term, our class has been engaged in a variety of meaningful and enjoyable learning experiences across the curriculum. As part of Intercultural Week, pupils completed a project on China, exploring its culture, traditions, landmarks and daily life. Through research, discussion and creative activities, pupils developed a greater appreciation of cultural diversity and global citizenship.

In Mathematics, pupils have been developing their problem-solving skills through the consistent use of our whole-school RUDE strategy. They applied this approach to a range of word problems, carefully identifying key information, selecting appropriate operations and explaining their reasoning. It has been encouraging to see pupils' growth in confidence and independence when tackling mathematical challenges.

In English, pupils participated in comparative adjective stations, engaging in a range of collaborative and hands-on activities to reinforce their understanding of comparative language. Through games, sorting activities and discussion tasks, pupils actively applied their learning in both oral and written contexts.

Throughout the term, pupils have demonstrated excellent creativity, teamwork and enthusiasm for learning. We are very proud of their efforts and look forward to continuing to build on these successes in the weeks ahead.



Fourth & Fifth Class – Múinteoir Aaliah

Fourth and Fifth Class have had a fantastic final term. In Maths, we used our problem-solving skills to solve the “Problem of the Week.” We learned how to use different strategies to solve challenging word problems.



In History, we learned about the Great Famine and created coffin ships in Art to show our understanding of this important time in Irish history. We are very proud that our class received the Green Schools Award for our hard work looking after our bins and helping to keep our classroom environmentally friendly. We also celebrated the completion of our project with Coláiste De Lacy and enjoyed a special visit from an ice cream truck. We invited our parents and guardians in to look at our project on Australia for Intercultural week.

During Sports Week, we took part in a variety of fun activities and enjoyed working together as a team. To finish off a wonderful year, we went on our school tours. Fourth Class had an exciting day at Navan Adventure Centre, where they enjoyed a range of outdoor activities and challenges. Fifth Class had a fantastic time at the Crystal Maze, working together to solve puzzles and complete tasks to celebrate all of our hard work throughout the year and create lasting memories.



Fifth Class – Múinteoir Áine

Term 3 has been our busiest yet best term yet! Our term got off to a great start with having a student teacher, Múinteoir Sarah, join our class for three weeks. During this time, we engaged in many fun and active activities and lessons. We also had a lot of fun with Múinteoir Simon as he taught us during the last month of school.

We took full advantage of the Summer weather, doing plenty of outdoor learning, however, the highlight was the Cycle Safety lessons. During this time, our instructor Tommy taught us all about bike safety, signalling, turning and road safety- it was a lot of fun.

We also had some exciting weeks for learning in the school including Sports Week and Intercultural Week. We chose Thailand as our country to study but also had the chance to visit other classes and learn about the country they explored. Many exciting activities happened during Active Week including hurling, yoga, ice-cream and, of course, Sports day!



Finally, perhaps the highlight of term 3 was our school tour to the Crystal Maze in Cavan, where we engaged in plenty of team-building games and won a trophy. We even got to jump in and walk through a river! Term 3 was a blast overall, roll on 6th class, our final year at ACNS!



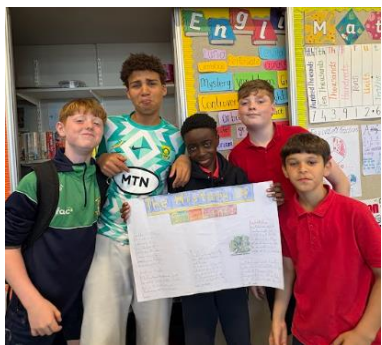
Sixth Class – Múinteoir Grace

This term 6th Class have been working hard with the students in An Gairdín. During our GMGY lessons on Children's Rights, the topic of inclusion came up. WE decided as a class we wanted to be more inclusive and make friends with all the wonderful students in An Gairdín. The children began learning Lámh and planning P.E lessons to teach the students.

We had so much fun working with all the classes in An Gairdín and teaching them the colour parachute song using Lámh. We especially enjoyed the P.E lessons with Múinteoir Moya and Kirsty's classes.



Intercultural week was definitely one of the highlights of this term. 6th Class worked extremely hard in organising a 'Countries of the World' quiz as part of the celebration. The quiz was extremely well organised and the rest of the school had lots of fun working together in the quiz. In 6th class we choose to focus on Sri Lanka for our project work, as our lovely Zaina is from Sri Lanka. Zaina told us some fantastic stories of when she lived in Sri Lanka. We completed some amazing project work based on different aspects of the country. The children also decorated our classroom in traditional Vasek decorations, in preparation for all the parents coming to visit on Intercultural Day. It was a fantastic week that celebrated the diversity and uniqueness in our school community.



Sixth Class – Múinteoir Caoimhe

Term 3 has been a busy and fun filled term. The hard work, respectfulness, and enthusiasm that this class have shown has been rewarded with many achievements and wonderful memories.

To mark the end of the year, and the end of our class's time here at Ashbourne CNS, we held a 'Bring Anything but a Bag Day' which was followed by a brilliant water fight.

We hope some of these fun activities will add to the positive memories we all hold during our last week of school.

As our final school term comes to an end, I would like to congratulate all the pupils in 6th class on graduating from Ashbourne CNS. Every pupil brought something unique and special to our class, and I have loved being your teacher this year!



An Gairdín- Múinteoir Kirsty

What a fantastic and busy term it has been in Múinteoir Kirsty's class! In our classroom, the children have had many opportunities to learn, explore, and have fun together.



This term, we enjoyed several exciting trips in our local community. Highlights included visits to Melt Gelato, the local GAA club, the skatepark, and the playground. These outings provided wonderful opportunities for developing social skills, independence, and confidence while enjoying new experiences.

We have also greatly enjoyed working alongside the 6th Class students during station and circuit activities. The pupils loved participating in these sessions, building friendships, developing teamwork skills, and learning from their older peers.



Outdoor learning has been a major focus throughout the term. The children have enjoyed spending time in nature while planting and caring for sunflowers, parsley, cress, and a blackcurrant bush. One of the biggest highlights of the year was Active Week. The class enthusiastically took part in a variety of activities including gymnastics, yoga, and fun fitness stations. To top it all off, we were delighted to receive a visit from the ice-cream truck, which brought plenty of smiles and excitement for everyone.

An Gairdín- Múinteoir Caitlin

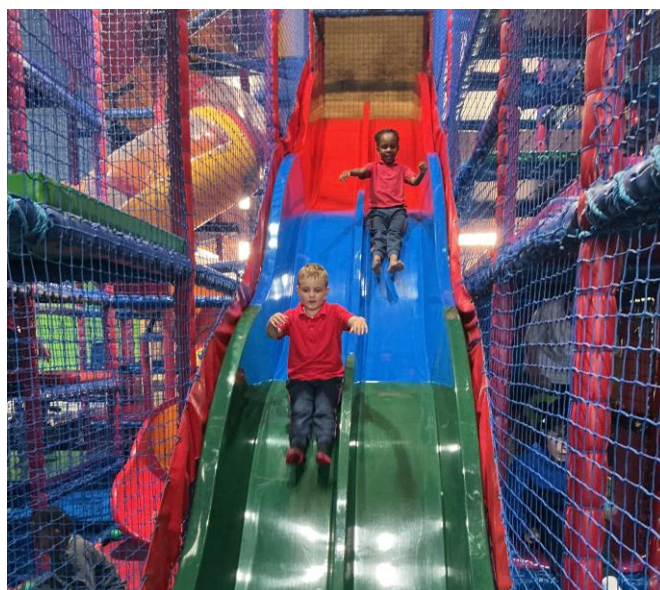
We have had a fantastic term full of fun, learning, and exciting experiences! We spent lots of time outdoors enjoying the lovely weather and exploring through sand and water play. We had great fun playing and learning alongside our friends from the other classes in An Gairdín.



One of the highlights of our term was our school tour to Puddenhill. We had an amazing day climbing up high, exploring, and zooming down the big slides. Everyone had so much fun, but we were tired on the way home!

To make the term even more special, the ice cream van came to visit our school. We were all so excited to choose our treats, and the ice cream was delicious.

We are very proud of all our hard work this year!



An Gairdín- Múinteoir Christina

We have had a fun filled final term in An Gairdín! This term we explored the themes of food, minibeasts and summer. Everybody worked so hard on all of their schoolwork, and it was great to see the progress everyone made over the course of the year.

In April we celebrated World Autism Day with a rainbow day and a week full of school-wide activities! We went on our first ever school tour to Puddenhill, it was so exciting to get to travel by bus and a brilliant day was had by the whole class! Everyone had lots of fun climbing and going down the big slides.

We even got to visit the animals on the farmyard! We have had lots of fun in the sun with water and sand play this term as well. During active week we were lucky enough to get to do a gymnastics lesson with CGC gymnastics, and we also got to visit the ice-cream van for some yummy ice-cream!



An Gairdín- Múinteoir Moya

What a busy term three it has been in Múinteoir Moya's classroom! Our final term began with all four special classes playing together in our PE hall. We had a great time! We were also delighted to take part in PE activities organised by Múinteoir Grace's sixth class alongside Múinteoir Kirsty's class. The sixth class pupils prepared a variety of PE stations, encouraging participation and teamwork.

We were very lucky to visit Melt ice-cream shop! The outing provided pupils with opportunities to practise communication, independence, and community-based skills while enjoying a special treat.

Finally, our school tour to Puddenhill Soft Play Centre was the highlight of our year! We had a brilliant time exploring the soft play area, playground and petting the farm animals.

We look forward to making many more happy and memorable memories together in the next academic year!



Promoting a Growth Mindset

. As we reach the end of another successful school year, our Growth Mindset display board is filled with photographs of pupils from every class who have been recognised through our weekly Growth Mindset awards. The board is a wonderful celebration of how our pupils have embraced challenges, shown resilience, persevered when learning became difficult, and demonstrated the “Power of Yet” in action.

Throughout the year, pupils have been encouraged to understand that progress takes time and that mistakes are an important part of our learning. By recognising effort, determination and a positive attitude, we continue to foster a culture where children feel confident to take risks, try new approaches and keep going when things do not come easily.

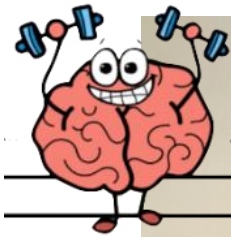
Looking at our completed display, we can see a school community full of learners who understand that success is not about being able to do something immediately, but about believing that, with practice and perseverance, they will get there.

Congratulations to all of our pupils for their valiant efforts throughout the year. We are immensely proud of the resilience, determination and positive attitudes they have shown in their learning journey.

Our Growth Mindset Award Winners

Congratulations goes to the recipients of this term's Growth Mindset awards:

Aimee Moore, Yu Xuan Guo, Marlie McDonnell, Nathan Germane Irwin, Ryan Ndebele, Timotei Pop, Fabian Dzieladziak, Jessica Murray, Darcy McMahon, Mila Lynch Loftus, Beni Valeanu, Luke Coleman, Vlad Cazacu, Amos Tache, Izabella Odia, Emily Patridge, Tim Gillanders, Donald Igbagba, Emanuela Rusu, Ethan Chimbera, Nikesh Sudarkarthik, Valentino de Paor Inci, Matteo Rosca, Alma Deb Hishma, AbdulBasit Obakoya, Obai Alzoubi, Abdulmajeed Atanda, Ahmad Derbas, Dimitri Poplavskii, Ryan Aggarwal, Nicoletta Melinte, Ugo Nnannah, Elqueen Ndaya, Razvan Melincescu, Chloe Prinsloo, Norah Magee, Nicolas Luca Costea, Paula Barbu, Dylan Pankotai, Sophia Ivory, Darren-Lee Mooney, Maria Depu, Zach Gargan, Michaela Breahna, Dan Charls, Damir Valuskins, Sebastian Cazacov, Zoe Kean, Sai Kalapu, Rebecca Barbu, Rares Alexandru Nuhaui, Danny Kuchana, Rose Balluas Neylon, Hana Mahmoud, Solomon Barbu, Aashvi Deep, Marvellous Egbenoma, Charlie Malee, Quddus Hussein, Fatima Ikhtyar, Haiqa Butt, Eman Alsadi, Beatrice Balanuta, Stacy Ezewuiké, Jennifer Abey, Iasmina Rusu, Sophia Anavberokhai, Oakley Murphy, Syeda Aeliya Hussain, Olivia Pohlodkova, Yurii Babiak, Ben Talbot, Ana Barbu, Ryan Farrell, Eleanor Hernandez, Christian Van Nierop, Sara Barbu, Amna Fayyaz, Horiya Alo, Damian Bielecki, Mostafa Farahat, Emilia Melincescu, Yahia Al Halbai, Evelyn Tache, Harvey Malone Prince.



A Fond Farewell to our 2026 Graduates

As we draw to the end of the 2025-26 school year, we would like to make a special mention to the wonderful children of our 6th classes. As you finish your journey in 6th class and prepare to begin secondary school, we want to wish you every happiness and success in the exciting years ahead. You have grown so much during your time with us, and we are incredibly proud of all that you have achieved. Take with you the friendships, memories, and lessons you have made along the way. Embrace new opportunities with confidence, kindness, and curiosity. We will miss you dearly and wish you the very best as you begin this wonderful new chapter.



Our Graduation stage was set for our 6th classes.



The children created many fantastic pieces of work to decorate our school hall.

Green Schools Update

The Green Schools Committee plays a vital role in making our school a cleaner, greener and more environmentally friendly place. Through their dedication and hard work, they encourage everyone in the school community to take responsibility for protecting the environment. One of the most important contributions is promoting good waste management practices. The committee helps students understand the importance of reducing waste, recycling correctly and disposing of rubbish responsibly.



The committee also deserves great praise for organising litter-picking activities around the school grounds. By regularly collecting litter and encouraging others to keep the school tidy, they help create a cleaner and more pleasant environment for everyone. We are very grateful for the hard work of the Green Schools Committee and their ongoing efforts to make our school a healthier, cleaner and more sustainable place. They are striving towards our next Green Flag for next year.



Important Dates for your Diary

Summer Break

The school will be closed from Monday 29th June and it will re-open on Tuesday 1st September.

Follow us on Social Media

Please scan the QR code to follow us for more news from us throughout the year.

Happy holidays to all!



June 2026