



St. Michael's Times

September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the Board of Management I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our children, parents, guardians and staff back to school. I would like to extend a very special welcome to all our new pupils. We are very proud of our school and the high standards that we strive to attain. We would like to remind you that we have an open door policy, so please feel free to contact us when the need arises. In order to set aside time, a prior appointment would be the best course of action, but in urgent cases, please phone or call to the school. I am very grateful to our pupils, parents, guardians and staff for their co-operation in ensuring such a smooth start to this school year. I wish one and all a very enjoyable and productive year.

Mise le Meas,

Brid Gorry,

Gaeilge

We have registered our school for the Gaelbhhratach. Our work starts now! The Gaelbhhratach scheme was established in response to the need to create natural opportunities to speak Irish outside of the formal classroom setting. The scheme officially began in the 2012/13 school year at primary level and at secondary level the following year. In the years since, the scheme has worked with every kind of school in all corners of the country – from both urban and rural schools seeking to breathe new life into Gaeilge, to Irish-medium and Gaeltacht schools where it is spoken as the main language every day. The work will be led by Ms. Burke and a committee of students elected.

As part of this work, we have all started to learn and use a Nath na Seachtaine (Phrase of the Week) and a Briathar na Seachtaine (Verb of the Week). This week we are currently learning:

Nath - Fáilte Romhat (You are welcome)

Briathar - Dún (To close)



Student Council

The Student Council for 2024/2025 continues its great work in St. Michael's. The Student Council acts as a medium of communication between the pupils, staff and management of St. Michael's. It aims to afford our pupils a greater voice in the decision making process of our school.

The Student Council members wear specially designed badges for easy identification. They will take a seat on the council for the duration of the school year and will attend regular meetings which will be facilitated by Ms. Daly.

Members of our Student Council will:

- Promote friendship and respect among students
- Help organise school events
- Collect ideas and suggestions for council meetings which may subsequently be brought to staff meetings for discussion.

We look forward to working with our Student Council this year.

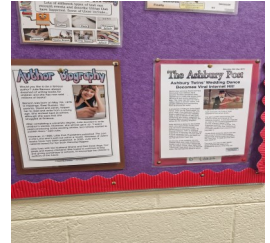
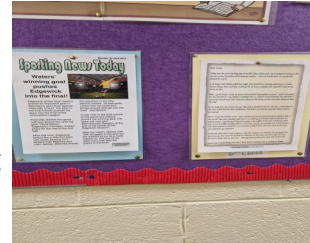


Writing Genre

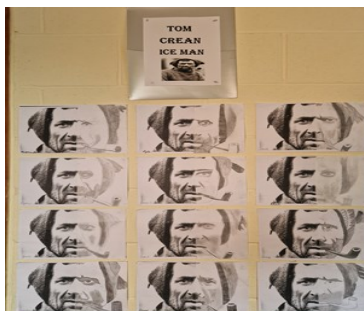
All classes have completed a piece of Recount Writing. This genre of writing focuses on the retelling of an event or series of events in chronological order. The primary purpose is to inform or entertain the reader by sharing personal experiences, historical events, or factual information. One example of Recount Writing from each of our classes pieces is currently displayed on our Writing Wall.

After completing recount writing, all classes are moving on to narrative writing. This genre of writing focuses on storytelling elements like character development, plot, and setting.

We look forward to seeing these pieces on display in a couple of months!

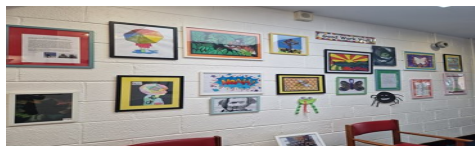


Classroom Displays





Well done to all pupils who have received Student of the Week certificates and Principal's awards this month. Congratulations to all pupils who have their work displayed on our Good Work Wall.



SSE

The staff of St. Michael's are continuing their SSE cycle 2022—2026. School self evaluation is a collective, inclusive and reflective process of internal school review. The process involves gathering information from a range of sources about the quality of teaching and learning in our school and then making decisions.

Under departmental guidance and that of OIDE, we will continue to target physical wellbeing.

The three targets in our School Improvement Plan for this year are:

- To implement the new wholeschool PE plan, incorporating the Move Well, Move Often programme
- To develop the pupils' physical literacy and in turn help to improve their physical wellbeing
- To enhance participation of all pupils in PE lessons

In September we covered the strand **Outdoor and Adventure** and the fundamental movement skill **Walking**. This month we are covering the strand **Athletics** and the fundamental movement skill **Running**.

SSE updates will be published on our school website and in our newsletter as necessary.



GAA

This year's Cumann na mBunscol division one shield is well under way. The boys have four games played so far, with two victories over St. Joseph's the Mercy Navan and Gaelscoil an Bhradáin Feasa, and two defeats to an impressive Gaelscoil Tulach na nÓg side and Athboy. There is one game left to play against Enfield and we wish the boys the best of luck!



Child Safeguarding

As part of our annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment we delivered a child safety survey to our pupils asking them if they feel safe in school and to state why or why not. The results show that 91% of our pupils feel safe and 9% of our pupils don't feel safe.

We endeavour to ensure that all our pupils feel safe in St. Michael's and we continue to work to achieve this.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is on display in our front hall and is also available in the Downloads section on our school website.

We value your feedback.



Dates for your Diary

- **Bookfair:** 12th - 18th November, 2024
- **Children's Used Book Sale:** Friday 18th October, 2024
- **Parent Teacher Meetings:** Week commencing 25th November, 2025
- **Confirmation Day:** 31st January, 2025
- **Communion Day:** 24th May, 2025

