



St. Conleth's N.S.,  
Derrinturn.

May 2015

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## SKIPATHON

Our skip-a-thon raised €400 for the Irish Heart Foundation. Well done to all the skippers. Everyone enjoyed the skip-a-thon and as well as raising much-needed funds, the children improved their own heart health and fitness. Thanks to Mrs. Kenny for organising the event at school. It was brilliant fun and gave us a chance to help others.

## *St Francis Celebration*

As you are all aware the new school cross has brought us great joy this year. The Cross of San Damiano was the cross at which St. Francis prayed when God called on him to rebuild His church. During the year the children have shown great interest in and devotion to the cross. Earlier we had a visit from Sr. Anastasia, a Franciscan nun based in Knock. Sr. Anastasia lent to us a first class relic of St. Francis of Assisi. Not a day has passed without requests for the relic from within the wider community. Ms. Dempsey has been taking care of the relic and she is astounded by the route it has travelled as it passed through the hands of those in need. The relic seemed to take on a life of its own and navigate its own path. It may have been borrowed in order to bless a sick relative or friend, but always went to others as well, leaving great calm and serenity in its wake. The children in school were all fascinated by the relic too. They had studied St. Francis. Mrs. Colleary's fifth class had learned the canticle of the sun and prepared art work based on this. Somewhere along the way, the idea was conceived of having a special school Novena to St. Francis. The daily prayers were displayed on the noticeboard outside school and recited each day by the children. The next logical step was the Mass, which took place in the parish Church on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Our fifth class presented their art work and sang 'Brother Sun and Sister Moon.' Lots of the classes attended Mass. After Mass Fr. Fitzpatrick blessed parishioners with the relic.

We are all quite amazed at the journey we have taken in the company of St. Francis since the school cross arrived. We thank Ms. Dempsey for sharing with us all and leading us in prayer. We are glad that the cross has made itself such an important part of school life.



# First Holy Communion

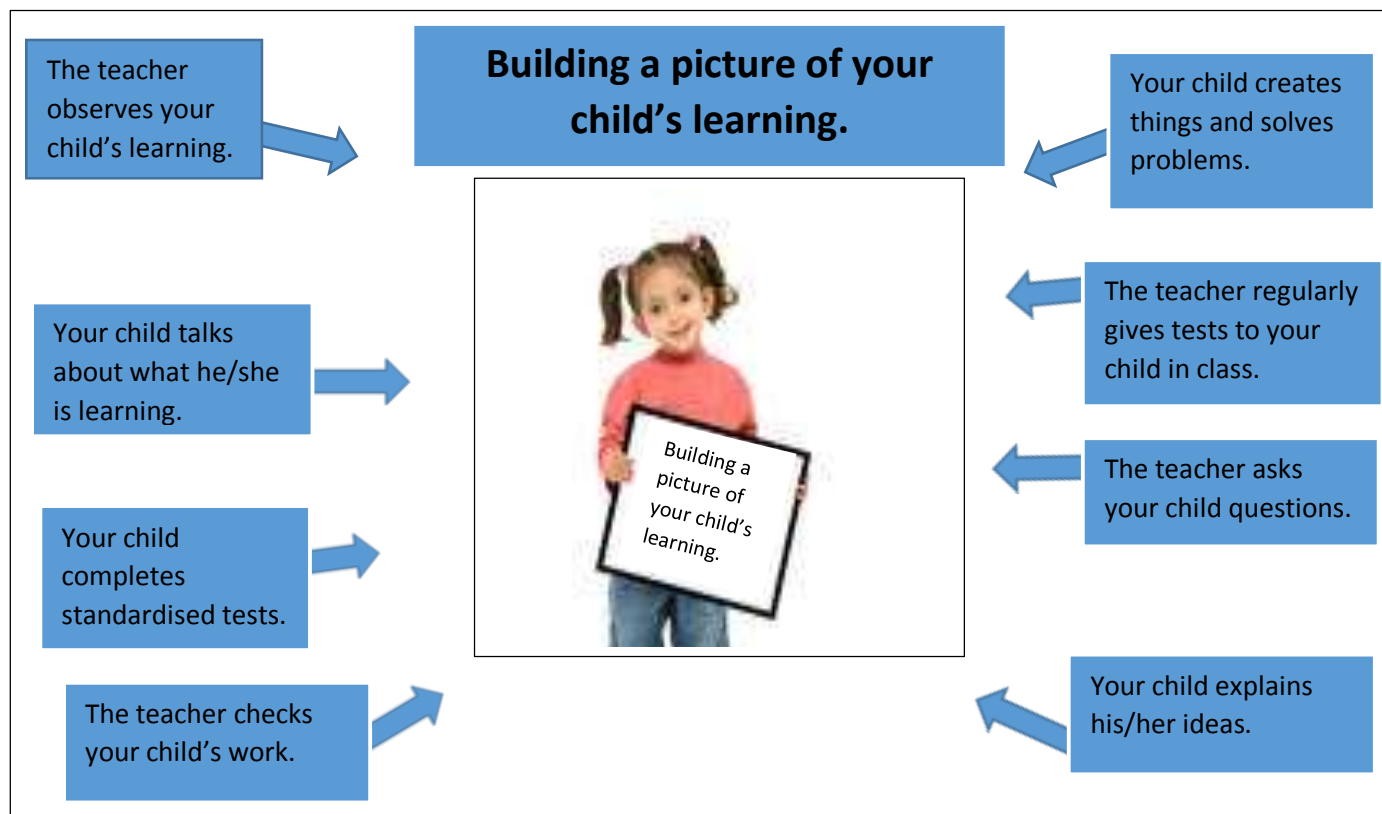


The children from Mr. Farrell's class and Ms. Keown's class celebrated their First Holy Communion on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2015. We were really proud of all the children. They were beautiful on the day and they received the sacrament with reverence and respect. Fr. Fitzpatrick and Fr. Murphy celebrated the Mass, which was made even more special by the fantastic choir. The musical talent was evident as the choir sang us through the ceremony, ably accompanied by Brian Shanahan on the organ. Mrs. O'Donoghue and Ms. Curley conducted and trained the choir and we thank them sincerely. After Mass everyone was invited back to the school for a little celebration and a few refreshments. It was a wonderful chance for the children to have a chat with their classmates. The Parents Group had prepared a lovely surprise with balloons, party favours and treats. Mag and Millie had kettles boiled and the tables set immediately after the Mass. Everyone got to mingle and chat. Each child was presented with a little keepsake. We are very grateful to the parents who volunteer to help prepare the children for the sacrament. They give very generously of their time and effort and even on the big day, when preparations at home were so important, they were on hand to set up the special celebration. It was a comfortable, cosy, community celebration of such a special day. Thanks from everyone at St. Conleth's. Congratulations to all the children. We hope to see their photos on the school website, [www.stconlethsns.ie](http://www.stconlethsns.ie), soon.



## End of Year Tests. Reports due in June!!

At the end of each school year children from first class upwards complete standardised tests. The tests used are the Sigma-T Maths Test, the Micra-T English Test and in senior classes, the Drumcondra English Reading Test. Standardised tests in English reading and maths measure your child's achievement compared to other children in all schools at the same class or age level. School test results are submitted to the Department of Education at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. Standardised tests are not the only way of gathering information about a child's learning. The diagram below shows how the teacher uses many different ways to build a picture of your child's learning during the year. The teacher uses the information gathered to celebrate your child's achievements and to plan the next steps needed to build on progress made.



People often wonder what the scores in standardised tests mean. The scores recorded are **STen Scores**. The teacher used STen scores to tell you how your child did in the tests. STen scores go from 1 to 10. The table below describes what the different STen scores tell you about your child's achievement in the tests.

STen Scores	What does the STen Score mean?	Proportion of children with this score.
8 – 10	Well above average	1/6 or almost 17%
7	High average	1/6 or almost 17%
5 – 6	Average	1/3 or almost 34%
4	Low average	1/6 or almost 17%
1 - 3	Well below average	1/6 or almost 17%

If your child's STen score is between 5 and 6 for example, you will know that his/her performance on the test is average. The table shows that about one in every three children in Ireland have STen scores in this range. You can also see that some children have STen scores above and below the average. Scores for children with English as an additional language may not always reflect progress being made in class. Similar care is needed when interpreting scores for children with special educational needs. As with other tests your child does in school, the score on a standardised test can be affected by how he/she feels on the test day or by worry or excitement about a home or school event. This means that each test score is an indication of your child's achievement. Remember that you play an important role in encouraging and supporting your child regardless of test results.

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) has developed some online resources to help you to support your child's learning in primary school. Many of these are available in various languages and new resources are regularly added to the parents' page at [www.ncca.ie/parents](http://www.ncca.ie/parents).



## Desk to 3K Challenge

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Class students had a fantastic day when they finished their “Desk to 3K Challenge.” They were joined by parents and community members as they ran completed the Slí na Sláinte route. We had runners, joggers, walkers and strollers. Several high-speed baby buggies were seen as well. Congratulations to all the participants.

## Sports Superstars

The cross-country county event was held recently and Mrs. Colleary escorted our team on the day. We are incredibly proud of Tadhg Murphy O’Leary who cruised into third place, outrunning seasoned athletes and effortlessly producing a sprint finish. Well done, Tadhg! Maria O’ Reilly was crowned All-Ireland Champion recently. Two of Maria’s classmates went to Dublin to support Maria. She is pictured below with her fans. We are very proud of our sports stars and we are confident that there will be even more success in the future.



Monday June 1 <sup>st</sup>	The school will be closed for the June Bank Holiday.
Wednesday June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stepping Over to Secondary programme for 6 <sup>th</sup> Class.
Friday June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day (Weather Permitting!)
Wednesday June 10 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Class tour.
Thursday June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Infant tour
Friday June 12 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Class tour and Síolta & Síoga tour
Thursday June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. Farrell’s & Ms. Keown’s Class tour
Friday June 19 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Class tour
Thursday June 25 <sup>th</sup>	The school will close for the summer holidays.