

# Bush Post Primary School Newsletter Happy New Year

January 2026

www.bpps.ie

We have hit the ground running at Bush Post Primary for the New Year and new term.

Lots of exciting clubs, sports and activities happening daily, alongside our teaching & learning. Competition success, in school workshops, visits out, visits in and sport events, it has been a busy month!

### Taking to the Stage



Congratulations to 5th year student, Zoe McShane who recently had the opportunity to work backstage at the 3 Arena. Zoe worked with the sound engineers at the sold-out Biffy Clyro gig on Saturday, Jan 10th. She got to see how a show is put together, worked at the sound check and integrated with the band. An amazing opportunity for Zoe, who hopes to pursue a career in the Music industry. Well done Zoe!

### Bush Trad Orchestra performing at Féile na Tána 2026



### Green School Badges



### St Vincent de Paul Cheque Presentation



Mr. Murphy's religion class were busy preparing for St. Brigid's Day! Together they researched the day's pre-Christian origins, the mythology surrounding the saint, and the local traditions associated with the day itself. The students also got a chance to create their very own St. Brigid's cross!



# Bush Post Primary School Credit Union Art Competition

January 2026

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The Art Department are delighted to celebrate the fantastic success of our students in this year's Credit Union Art Competition, with an outstanding standard of creativity and imagination showcased across all age categories. A number of our students were recognised at Cooley Schools level, and we are especially proud to share that Harry McGrath (1st Year) has progressed to the Chapter stage of the competition.

## Chapter Art Presentation

Harry will represent Bush Post Primary School in Category B at the Chapter Art Presentation on Friday 16th January.

We wish Harry the very best of luck as he advances to the next stage. An incredible achievement.

## Bush Post Primary School Results

### 11–13 Years

1st Place: Clara Keelan, 2nd Place: Eibhlin Dearey, 3rd Place: Ellie Behan

Category B – 1st Place: Harry McGrath

### 14–17 Years

1st Place: Arwen Novak, 2nd Place: Eabha Davidson, 3rd Place: Veronika Zbigley

Highly Commended: Taiskia Turjanica

## Overall Cooley Schools Results

### 11–13 Years

1st Place: Clara Keelan, Category B – 1st Place: Harry McGrath

### 14–17 Years

1st Place: Arwen Novak, 2nd Place: Eabha Davidson, 3rd Place: Veronika Zbigley

Congratulations to all our talented students on their well-deserved success. We are immensely proud of every one of them.

**Congratulations to the Junior Cycle Students 2025 who received their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement.**



## Shared Education for Positive Innovation



TY students Lara du Plessis and Éimear Mortimer Finnegan took part in the SEPI (Shared Education for Positive Innovation) final in Armagh City on January 22nd. They presented their design solution called Ecoquest to a panel of three judges and hundreds of students in the arena. The programme brings students together from the border counties to collaborate on an environmental project with the opportunity to develop their problem solving, communication and leadership skills in a fun and engaging process. Congratulations to Lara and Eimear on representing the school with distinction.

## First Aid & Manual Handling Course

5 & 6 Riverstown students successfully completed their First Aid & Manual handling certification from local company Health Co. Well done to all involved.



## Working in the Dail



Well done to TY student, Evan Hearty, who recently completed an extra week's work experience in Dáil Éireann. As 1 of only 20 students from around the country selected for this work experience programme, Evan presented to committees, met with local politicians and gained an insight into the workings of the Oireachtas. As a result, Evan has been invited back to work with Erin McGreehan's office for more experience. We are most grateful to both Erin McGreehan and Ruairi O Murchu for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet with Evan.

## The Other Side of Life

Conor Harris from 'The Other Side of Life', delivered a gripping and honest presentation to our Transition year and Leaving Certificate Applied students about his personal struggles with addiction.

## Barista training

TY students enjoyed a practical experience where they learned how to use commercial espresso machines. This will prepare them to work in the hospitality sector.



# Transition Year News

## Engineering Trip to AMTCE

January 2026

[www.bpps.ie](http://www.bpps.ie)

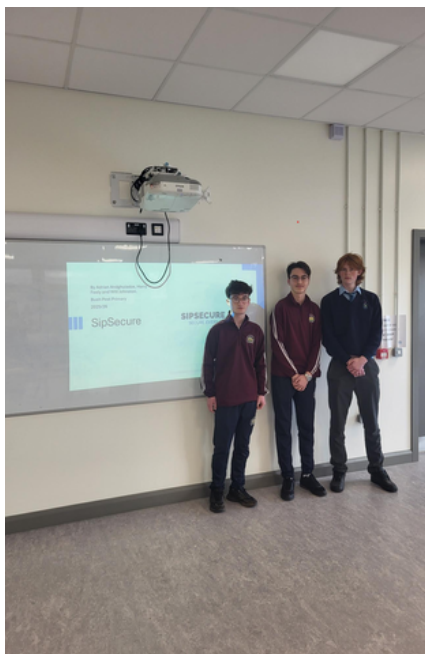
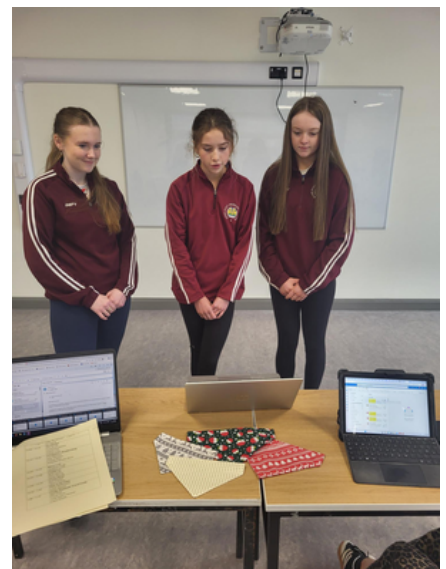
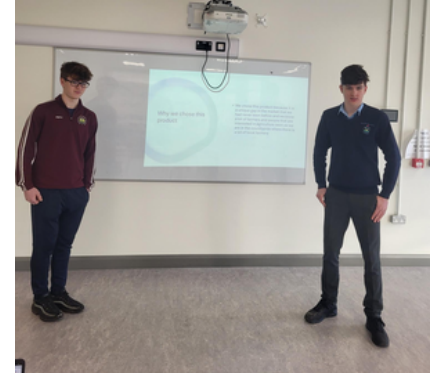
On Friday 30th January, both our TY Engineering classes attended a site visit to AMTCE in Dundalk. We were given a very interesting and informative tour of the entire premises and were excited to see all the range of manufacturing equipment and technologies been used in industry. Students were inspired by the visit and got to try virtual reality, interactive welding, 3D printing and also met the centre's very own robotic dog! Well done to all our students who represented Bush Post Primary School.



On January 29th, 24 TY mini companies pitched their company ideas to the Dragons Ms. McKevitt and Ms. Campbell. They really impressed the dragons with their presentations and ability to communicate their ideas passionately. Some companies even brought along some delicious samples of their product! Best of luck to each mini company in the school final. The three winning companies going forward to the County Finals in March in The Fairways Hotel will be announced soon!

Companies competing this year - Lacey Loops, Cocoa & Crumbs, Carlingfresh, Pic n' Pop, Forever Paws, Brownie Lab, Bark Boutique, Shoreline Frames, Sip Secure, Aurora Cases, Bauble Bites, Boot Bag Buddy, Casefy, Assassin, Pulse Prints, EuroPocket, Gentlemen's Woodworking, Barry's 2.0, Cookie Co., Crown Wear, Pane in the Glass, Cooley Peninsula Travel Guide, Rian Na Farraige and Soapy Shells.





# Transition Year News

## Business & Science trip to Dublin Zoo

January 2026

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On Tuesday February 3rd, the Transition Year group visited Dublin Zoo as part of their Business and Science Curriculum. The students engaged in an interactive workshop on 'Sustainability' and 'Fast Fashion'. They learned about how they can become a more ethical consumer in their choices and the damaging effects of poor choices on the environment. They were then taken on a tour of the animals and enjoyed learning more about the sea lions, red pandas, penguins, rhinos and gorillas. It was such an enjoyable and interesting experience. Thank you to Ms Campbell, Ms McKeivitt, Ms Hand, Ms McDonald and Mr Jordan for accompanying the students.



## Transition Year Key Dates 2026

February 3rd - Dublin Zoo Trip  
 February 9th - 13th Work Experience week 2  
 February 26th - Parent Teacher Meeting  
 March 5th - Grand Opera Theatre, Belfast - To Kill a Mockingbird  
 April 20th - 24th Work Experience week 3  
 Kavanagh Centre Monaghan visit  
 May  
 Summer Exams

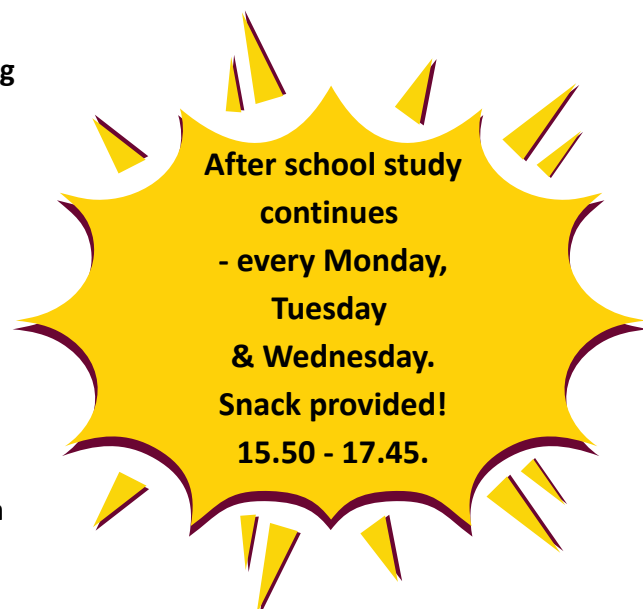
\*\*\*\*\*Exact dates to be confirmed for some trips.



We would love to know about any achievements and hobbies outside school! Send us a photo (bushpp@lmetb.ie) and let us know about your son/daughter's interests and achievements and we can publish in our monthly newsletter and social media!

### Important Dates coming up.....

TY Trip to Dublin Zoo - Tuesday 3rd February  
 BOM Meeting - Tuesday 3rd February at 3.45pm in New Meeting Facility  
 Online Safety webinar (Paula O'Connor) for parents/guardians - 3rd February  
 Paula O'Connor - Tuesday 3rd February to speak with 2nd and 5th year students  
 JCSP Maths Trip to GR8 Social - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of February  
 TY Work Experience - 9th - 13th February  
 TY PTM - Tuesday 24th February  
 TY Barcelona Trip - 26th - 28th February  
 JCSP - 3rd year Final profiling deadline - Wednesday 25th March



## Parents' Courses

We are planning on running a number of parents' courses and workshops in the spring/summer months. A new Parents' Survey has been issued to all parents and we would greatly appreciate your feedback. Your responses help us to better understand the supports and programmes needed to continue supporting our students and families. Thank you to students, parents, and staff for your ongoing Support.

## Attendance Matters – The Final Stretch!

With just 65 school days left out of 166, we've already completed over 60% of the school year. As we approach the final months of school, every day in school really counts for learning, progress, and confidence. We encourage all families to aim for 100% attendance for the remainder of the year wherever possible and help students finish strong. We would kindly ask that when parents/guardians book holidays they are not taken during term time.

## ★ Top Tips for Excellent Attendance

1. Early nights = better mornings
2. Get some exercise in the evenings to promote good sleep
3. Consistent bedtime
4. No screens at least one hour before bedtime
5. Uniforms ready, bags packed, lunches organised
6. Aim to arrive before the bell to start the day calmly
7. Only stay home when truly unwell



## Food Allergies

We would like to remind families that there are a number of students within our school who have different allergies, some of which can be severe. We kindly ask all parents and carers to be mindful of this when preparing food and please refrain from sending food into school containing nuts. Your cooperation helps us maintain a safe and inclusive environment for all students. Thank you for your understanding and support.



## Careers News

With UCAS now closed, the Guidance Department are delighted to announce that over 50 applications were sent from the class of 2026.

Third year students will sit their CAT4 assessments on Friday 6th February.

## Second Year Parent Teacher Meeting



## Scholars Award from UCD



Congratulations to Sean Thornton, our past pupil and head boy, who was awarded the Scholars Award from UCD. We continue to be very proud of Sean and wish him the best on his onward educational journey.

## Mock Examinations 2026

Best of luck to our third and sixth year students as they complete their Mock Examinations this week.



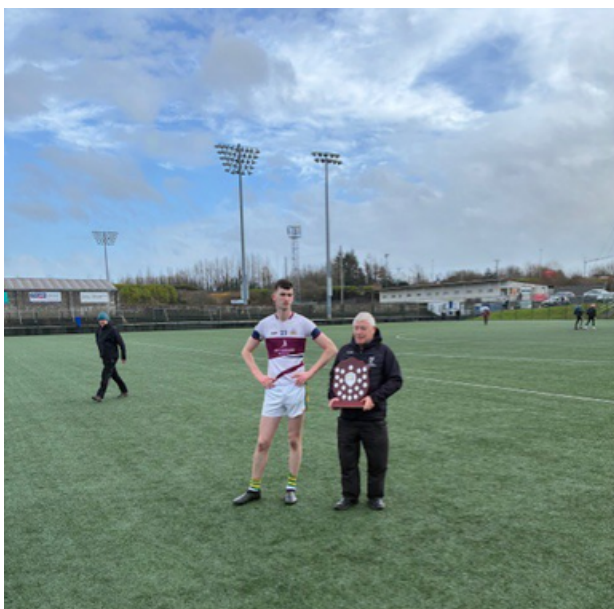
A fantastic turn out for our recent second year Parent Teacher Meeting. Thank you to our staff, parents/guardians, second year students and student volunteers on the night. Your support, collaboration, and commitment make all the difference as we guide our students through this school year. We truly value your insights, questions, and encouragement, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you throughout the year.



Congratulations to our Under-16 girls, who secured an impressive victory over De La Salle Churchtown in the first round of the Bank of Ireland Leinster Girls Schools Junior Cup. This talented group continues to go from strength to strength, having also retained their North Leinster Rugby 7s Championship title for the second year in a row. A fantastic achievement and a very bright future for girls' rugby in Bush.

Bush Post Primary school battled storm Chandra travelling to Mullingar to take on Banagher from Offaly in a North Leinster final.

In a very close encounter which ended and flowed, the Bush boys came of age in extra time to win on a scoreline of 1-15 to 0-13. The team will play Mountmellick (winners of the south Leinster competition ) in a Leinster semi final, with the winners playing the Dublin champions in a Leinster final.



## Cross Country and Athletics

- Do you have an interest in running/athletics?
- Would you like to represent your school?
- Would you like to train with your friends?
  
- Come to training on a Friday after school at 2.35pm on the track
- Be part of the school Cross Country and Athletics team.
- Compete in Leinster and All Ireland Competitions.
- Get fit and stay fit and healthy.



Well done to all the students who ran in the recent North Leinster Cross Country at Pheonix Park on Friday 23rd January. Especially well done to Patrick Duffy 1st year who came 5th in the Minor boys race which qualified him for the Leinster Cross country on February 11th. We wish Patrick the best of Luck in The Leinster Cross Country and hope he qualifies for the All Irelands.

