

Rockfield N.S. Newsletter 2025-2026

First Day Back at School

On Thursday the 28th of August, Rockfield N.S. had their first day back to school for the 2025/2026 school year. Everyone had a great summer and were glad to come back with a surprise of the ice-cream van. It was a great start to the school year!

By Adam Gillespie

Assembly for Fr Pat

On the 5th of September, we had an assembly for Fr Pat. We sang some hymns including the song 'Circle of Friends'. We sang 'The Green and Red of Mayo' as he retired to his home County Mayo. We wished him all the best.

By Teresa Lynch, Robyn McCorry.

Music Generation

On the 9th of September, Music Generation commenced for fifteen weeks with Karl. Second, Third and Fifth Class learnt the keyboard while Fourth and Sixth Class learnt the guitar.

By Teresa Lynch.

FAI 5-a-side Soccer

On the 4th of March, 6th Class girls played four games in Ray McSharry Park. They won three of the four games. On the 6th of March, the boys played four games. They won two, drew one and lost one. Well done all.

By Jessica O'Neil, Andrew Miley

Cumann na mBunscol (Girls)

Cumann na mBunscol is a Gaelic league for schools. We played our first match on the 29th of April against Enniscrone. Unfortunately we lost by a few points. We were then entered into a Shield competition. We played against Kilglass in the semi-final. We

played an amazing game and WON! We now play Sooeey in the final. It will be on 17th of June. Best of luck to the girls!

By Clodagh Harnan, Olivia Marren, Ruby Lindsay

Cumann na mBunscol (Boys)

4th, 5th and 6th Class boys played Enniscrone in the Cumann na mBunscol quarter finals on the 29th of April. Unfortunately the boys lost this game. The boys then beat Corbally in the Shield semi final and will play in the final against Sooeey on the 17th of June in Scarden. Best of luck boys!

By Claudia Batshebang, Shane Lynch



Tag Rugby Blitz

3rd and 4th Class had a tag rugby blitz on the 21st of October in Ballymote. On the 3rd of December, in the local Coolaney astro pitch, 5th and 6th Class had their tag rugby blitz. We all enjoyed the experience. We were grateful to Ross Mannion for the fun days out!

By Robyn McCorry, Seán McGowan

Lego Spike

Everyone really enjoyed Lego Spike this year. Lego Spike is engineering mixed with Lego. We had so much fun creating the cool builds that functioned really well. We used

the iPads to help us make constructions with movable parts. By connecting to the hub we were able to make our objects move. We were also able to connect lights and add sounds. It was a great experience for everyone.

By Seán McGowan, Robyn McCorry

Assembly

We had our first assembly in October and we continued every Friday throughout the year; with a song, poem or project from each class group. Every assembly had something new and everyone looked forward to it. Clodagh Harnan, Robyn McCorry and Holly Kennedy shared a 'seanfhocail' for each assembly. For St Patrick's Day we had a Lá Glas Assembly with Irish themed performances. On the 22nd of October, we wore blue to assembly to celebrate the Coolaney Mullinabreena Men's Intermediate Team winning the County Final.

By Mackenzie Pakenham & Jenny Clarke.

Mini 7s

On the 29th of September 5th and 6th boys and girls played in the mini 7s in Achonry. Both the boys and girls won two out of three matches. They were unlucky not to go through to the next round. The boys won against Achonry and Cloonacool, while the girls beat Achonry and Ballinacarrow. There was also a kicking competition. Clodagh Harnan and Adam Gillespie played in it but they unfortunately didn't go through. Everyone had a great day out.

By Adam Gillespie & Patrick Hennessy

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GAA coaching with Pat/Jessica

Pat Kilcoyne and Jessica Neary came in to teach us Gaelic and we had great craic. Pat started on the 26th of September and trained us until Christmas. Jessica started on the 23rd of February and is with us until the end of the year. They also carried out skill evaluations which made everyone nervous but we also had fun. We had a great time.

By Iarla Gormley & Amira Lindsay.

Seachtain na Gaelige

Seachtain na Gaelige started on the 1st of March and ended on the 17th of March. On the 9th of March we had a Tráth na gCeist in the hall. We also had a céili which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. On the last day we had a Lá Glas assembly agus bhí gach duine ag canadh agus ag damhsa le chéile!

Orienteering with Zara

Orienteering with Zara started the 19th of September for six weeks, with Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First and Second. It was so much fun. Zara did a lot of fun activities and taught us so much about maps and directions. Most of all she made it fun and helped us to understand the skill of orientation! We hope she'll be back again next year.

By Robyn McCorry, Seán McGowan & Matthew McCullagh

Cuman na mBunscol Quiz

On the 27th of January, teams from 6th Class travelled to the Sligo Southern Hotel to take part in the Cumann na mBunscol Quiz. Over 20 teams attended the quiz. The questions were based on sports such as GAA, football and swimming. Unfortunately, we

didn't qualify to go through to Connaught but we still did our school proud and really enjoyed the night.

Sports Day 2026

This year's fun and novelty games Sports Day will be taking place on the 19th of June. All of the children in Rockfield NS are looking forward to our annual day of fun and games with activities such as running races, skipping, obstacles and much more. We are very excited to have our GAA Sports Day on the 23rd of June where coaches will come in and do lots of fun activities. We will keep our fingers crossed for sunshine on these days!

By Caolán Rock, Pau Morera Coronado

Book Fair

We held another successful book fair which was so much fun. All the classes were able to go down to the hall and were really happy with all the selection there was!

By Robyn McCorry & Seán McGowan



Credit Union Quiz

On the 26th of February, 4th and 6th Class students went to Loftus Hall Ballymote, to take part in the annual Credit Union Quiz. The majority of the questions were based on general knowledge with some being a little more

complicated. The under 11 team of Daniel Fogarty, Daniel Coleman, Saoirse Leyden and Jake McQuillan took 1st place and competed at the regional and national Credit Union competitions. Well done 4th class!

By Seán McGowan & Robyn McCorry

Athletics at The ATU

On the 25th of September 4th, 5th and 6th Class children travelled to the ATU, Sligo to compete at the SuperValu Athletics Fest in the relay races. Everyone ran really well and had a great day out. It was a beautiful day as the sun was shining and lots of lovely memories were made.

By Tara Colman & Olivia Marren



Student Council

On the 24th of September we had our Student Council election. We had lots of great candidates and speeches. After a lot of thought and decision making, we elected our student council for 2025. The student council members were: Junior Infants - Caoimhe Fallon Senior Infants - Hannah Clarke First Class - Caden Fallon Second Class - Óran Flynn Third Class - Dylan Brennan Fourth Class - Clíodhna Harnan Fifth Class - Luca Timlin Sixth Class - Clodagh Harnan The Student Council represents all of the pupils in our school and

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helps to bring some exciting ideas and events to our school, such as World Book Day dress up!

By Myia Duffy & Heidi Gray

Achievements

We have had many achievements this year. Heidi Gray from 6th Class won the Irish Dancing World Championship for the second time in a row. Holly Kennedy from 6th class came first in the Credit Union art competition along with Ollie O'Boyle from 3rd class who came first in his age group. Morgan Tapp came first and Ruby Lindsay came second in the Foróige poem competition.

Eve McDaid came in second place in the Skoda art competition. We also had lots of other winners throughout the school year. Well done to all our winners this year.

By Holly Kennedy & Heidi Gray

Jackie Clarke Museum:

5th class visited the Jackie Clarke Museum in Ballina on the 25th of February. They enjoyed looking at important artefacts from Ireland's past. It was a very informative and fun day out.

School Lotto

Congratulations to all of our School Lotto winners throughout the year! A big thanks to all those who continue to support this very worthy cause. Presently the jackpot stands at €1,875 and hasn't been won for a while! We hope there is a winner soon. New members are always welcome. Although it is a slow process, we are hoping it will contribute to an astro turf pitch over time.

Our Christmas Show and Santa

On the 16th and 17th of December we had our Christmas

carol service, hosted by Father Gerry Davey for his first Christmas in Coolaney. It took a lot of preparation to learn and perform these songs. The carol service went well and everyone enjoyed it. Santa Claus came to town and he talked to everyone and gave all the nice kids (which was everyone) party bags. Why did the elves go to music school? To improve their wrapping skills!

By Patrick Hennessy & Adam Gillespie

Parents Association

A huge thank you to our Parents Association who worked tirelessly to raise much needed funds for our school. A Lego Spike Box was purchased along with treats throughout the year. They organised a Communion party and treats for the Confirmation classes. They also put a lot of time and effort into organising the 6th class hoodies which the children were delighted to receive. Their continued support is very much appreciated.

Swimming Lessons

3rd and 4th Class pupils attended swimming lessons at the Sligo Sports Complex for 6 weeks. They all thoroughly enjoyed each and every lesson and everyone has improved their swimming skills.

World Down Syndrome Day

On the 20th of March, we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day by wearing colourful/odd socks. This was a really fun day for everyone.

Green Schools

Green Schools had a successful year this year. Two children from

1st to 6th Class were chosen to be on the Green Schools committee for 2025-2026. This included: Jesse Mahon, Evie Malee, Shane Toolan, Aoife Goulden, Katie Keenan, James Coleman, Aphra Ross, Mikie McNamara, Aoife Henry, Kuba Swierczek, Seán McGowan and Tara Coleman.

After the success of obtaining our Green Flag last year for Global Citizenship Marine Environment, the committee began the process of exploring Global Citizenship Travel. The committee surveyed people on their modes of transport to school and began a campaign of turning off engines outside the school and not idling. Ciarán Hussey visited on the 21st of October and the 20th of May to give talks including Bike Safety.

By Teresa Lynch & Myia Duffy

Catholic School's Week

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated from the 18th-24th of January. The theme this year was 'Normal Lives: Called to Holiness', inspired by Pope Francis' reflections of Saint Carlo Acutis. We held a daily prayer service and students from all classes attended assembly where we learned about the importance of Catholic Schools Week. Our school was delighted to mark our love for our grandparents with a special grandparents mass on the 4th of February.

Sligo GAAmigos

Our P.E coach Pat Klcayne did a GAA skill test (a fun test) with 6th class. Each person went separately to complete the Gaelic obstacle course. The people that scored the most points went through. Holly Kennedy, Olivia Marren, Clodagh

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Harnan, Heidi Gray and Andrew Miley all represented Rockfield NS. Everyone did fantastic and had a great evening.

By Clodagh Harnan & Olivia Marren

Maths Week

Maths Week began on the 13th of October. Every class took part in a variety of fun and exciting games. Fifth Class attended a 'Maths Magic' day at the ATU in Sligo on the 14th of October. They learned all about how to use everyday Maths in different ways!

First Confession and First Holy Communion

The First Confession ceremony was held for Second Class on the 18th March. They celebrated their First Holy Communion on the 9th of May. Congratulations to all of the girls and boys!

Confirmation

On the 16th of May, 5th and 6th Class made their confirmation with Bishop Kevin Doran and Father Martin Convey. Thank you to our families and teachers for helping us to prepare for our special day.

By Teresa Lynch & Myia Duffy



World Book Day

On March 5th we dressed up as our favourite book character. There

were some wonderful costumes which included: Little Red Riding Hood, The Mean Girls, Banana Cheerleaders, Elsa from Frozen and many many more. The students also had lots of fun playing a game of Guess the Reader, where the staff read a book in a disguised voice. Stephen from Sligo Library visited and discussed the free services the library has to offer.

By Teresa Lynch & Myia Duffy

Hot Lunches:

Hot Lunches started in Rockfield N.S. on the 12th of January. Children now have the option of ordering weekly and changing their meal choice. The children are enjoying the tasty meals and trying new foods.

ARC Truck

On the 14th and 15th of April, 5th & 6th Class were lucky to have a visit from the Aquaculture Remote Classroom. They learned about the farming of plants and animals in water and the role of aquaculture on a local level, global level and personal level.

French with Julian

5th and 6th Class started French lessons on the 24th of February 2026. Our teacher's name was Julian. He moved to Ireland after living in France since his childhood. In the first week we were learning basic French words like 'bonjour' and 'salut'. Julian came every Tuesday and finished in May. For the last French lesson we had a fun quiz and got certificates to bring home.

**By Jenny Clarke, Amira Lindsay
Ruby Lindsay & Mackenzie Pakenham**

Easter Egg Hunt

On the 27th April, Junior and Senior Infants got a visit from the Easter Bunny. As the Easter bunny was so busy, the 6th Class students had to help him. Nevertheless, they were all very happy and full of chocolate.

By Teresa Lynch & Myia Duffy

Confirmation Retreat

On the 11th February, 5th and 6th Class went to Attymass in Co. Mayo. They had a great day learning about the Sacrament of Confirmation. We did lots of activities and had a nice meal afterwards. Thanks to everyone who made the day special and thanks to the bus driver for taking us there.

By Andrew Miley, Jessica O'Neill

Martina Killian School Visit

Martina Killian visited the school on a few occasions to complete workshops with the children in the senior end. On September 29th, Martina began exploring sustainable development goals with the children of 3rd and 4th Class. They engaged in lots of fun and interesting activities. Martina also called again to create beautiful Christmas wreaths with the children using all natural resources from the local environment.

School Tours

The classes have had many exciting school tours to finish off the year. 5th & 6th Class went to Lilliput Adventure Centre on the 9th of June. Junior & Senior Infants went to Gruane Pet Farm on the 10th of June. 1st & 2nd Class went to Mayo Leisure World

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on the 11th of June. 3rd & 4th
Class are going to Westport House
on the 16th of June.

By Heidi Gray & Holly Kennedy