

School Closure

School will be closed on Monday 7th February for staff In-Service for the Primary Language Curriculum.

Catholic Schools Week

This week was Catholic Schools Week 2022. The theme for the week is "*Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full*". We had school displays and activities during the week to explore this theme.



Grandparents Day (part of Catholic Schools Week)

Unfortunately, due to restrictions on visitors to schools, this year we are unable to have grandparents visit the school. Hopefully, this is something that we can look forward to in the new school building in the 2022/2023 school year.

After School Collections

Parents should ensure that there is an arrangement for the collection of children after school. Younger pupils should be collected by an adult rather than an older sibling.



Staff News

Congratulations to Ms. E. McMahon on her recent engagement. Congratulations also to Ms. Sims and Mr. McGeady on the birth of their baby boy just before Christmas.

Welcome

A big welcome to Ms. Horgan who has joined as a support teacher. Ms. Horgan will be taking over from Ms. O'Connor and working at 2nd class level.

Staff Car Parking



Please be aware that parking on the old campus of Maynooth Post Primary is reserved for staff of St. Mary's BNS and the newly opened Stepping Stones special school. There is **no** additional space for parking outside of the two staff groups.

Please do not park here from 8.00am to 3.30pm as these spaces have been allocated.

We are still having difficulties in the mornings at drop-off times; please do not use this car park when dropping children to school. The car park is very busy at that time and in addition to the lack of spaces, the presence of young children is a safety concern.

Diversity Day

A group of teachers in our school are working on an 'Inclusion and Diversity' project, to identify ways in which we might value and celebrate the diversity that is in our school. As part of that initiative, we are hoping to hold a 'Diversity Day' on Friday, February 18th - the day before the mid-term break. The idea will be that, on this day, students and staff members wear an item of clothing that shows others something about their cultural, religious or ethnic identity. Here are some examples:

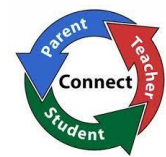
- A teacher from Kerry might wear a Kerry jersey!
- A child whose parent is from another country might wear the national jersey or colours
- A child who plays for a Maynooth team might wear their jersey
- A Muslim boy might have a thawb that he wears for prayer which he might like to bring in and wear for part of the day
- A boy with parents or relatives from another country might wear a piece of traditional clothing from the country

Our hope is we can use Diversity Day as a springboard to raise conversations about the ways in which we are different and the ways we are the same, as part of our ongoing work in this area. We look forward to a bright and colourful day!

Ms. Mahon

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings will take place next week. To book a meeting, just click on the Parent Teacher Meeting option on your Aladdin home page in the App, or log on to Connect via any device. Meetings must be booked by 9am on Monday 31st January so if you haven't booked a slot for a meeting yet, please do so now.



Meetings will be held on Zoom this year again. Ahead of the meeting you will receive a message on Aladdin with the meeting link. Both parents can join the meeting at the appropriate time and you will be admitted from the waiting room. If necessary, meetings can be held over the phone.

Please note the following in advance of the meetings:

- Each meeting will last approximately 10 minutes - At the end of the meeting you may hear a buzzer sound, this will signal the end of the ten minutes and allow the teacher to set up and move to the next meeting appointment.
- Video must be turned on for Zoom meetings
- Recordings (video, audio or photographic) are not permitted
- The meeting is between the teacher and parent/guardian. Children, or other adults cannot be present during the meeting



Safer Internet Day

To mark Safer Internet Day, our school has organised an internet safety talk for parents/guardians on February 8th at 7.15pm. The two hour talk will be facilitated via Zoom and will include opportunities for questions and discussion. The evening will be hosted by Ger Brick from iNetSafetyTalk. Ger will take a comprehensive look at online safety, cyberbullying, parental controls etc. His talks have received rave reviews

from schools around the country. Internet Safety is an area of huge importance and we would greatly appreciate your attendance.

On the same day, the pupils in fifth class will participate in an online event in the classroom, also hosted by Ger. We will send out more details in advance of the seminars.

There will be a focus on internet safety over the course of the week with all classes.

Mr. Davis.

Do this in Memory - preparation for the sacrament of First Holy Communion

The Parish has advised us of the following dates of the 'Do this in Memory' preparation masses for children making their First Holy Communion. Parents are welcome to bring their child to any of these masses. The mass on **Sunday 10th April 2022** will involve participation from the pupils in 2nd class at St. Mary's BNS.



Sunday 23rd January, 2022 @ 10am – Gaelscoil

Sunday 13th March, 2022 @ 10am – Presentation Girls' School

Sunday 10th April, 2022 @ 10am – St Mary's BNS

Pupil Absences

Please ensure that you have recorded the reason for any absence on Aladdin Connect. The school is obliged to furnish 2 termly and 1 annual report to Tusla Education Support Services. The reports contain information of any absences exceeding 20 days (cumulatively) in the period and notes the reasons for the absences. Our September - December report will be submitted in the coming weeks.

Parents and Guardians should be aware that there has been no derogation in the 20 day limit to account for Covid-19 related absences. These absences should be recorded appropriately, with a clear explanatory note on Aladdin.

Covid 19 Absences

Please continue to notify the school of positive test results including antigen test results to cv19results@maynoothbns.ie.

In the event of a child being absent for a Covid 19 related reason, the school will organise for the child's homework books to be sent home. Class teachers post homework to Aladdin Connect on a daily basis.

Webinar for Parents of 6th Class Pupils

Please see the links below for access to a webinar giving some useful information with regard to starting Secondary School.



22KEC228 Webinar – Getting Ready for Secondary School for Parents/Guardians – Wed 6th April from 7pm-8pm

<https://www.eckildare.ie/coursebooking/local-courses/2060-22kec219-getting-ready-for-secondary-school-for-parents-guardians-2.html>

There are also more places available on the webinar which is due to take place on **Tues 5th April from 7pm-8pm** due to the demand.

<https://www.eckildare.ie/coursebooking/local-courses/2032-22kec219-getting-ready-for-secondary-school-for-parents-guardians.html>

MBNS Student Council



Ballot Results

Junior Infants

Oliver Zvirbulis
Adam Rainey

Senior Infants

Maurice McEvoy
Harry Naughton

First Class

Eoghan Morgan
Daniel Tighe

Second Class

Eli Morris
Noah Haugh

Third Class

Aidan Lockett
Dylan Adamson

Fourth Class

Ronan Boyle
Iarlaith Geraghty

Fifth Class

Aaron Moran Trejo
Joshua Martyn

Sixth Class

James Carty
Cillian MagUiginn

Dates for your Diary

Monday 7th February 2022

School Closed for Staff In-Service Day

8th - 11th February 2022

Internet Safety Week

21st - 25th February 2022

School closed Mid-Term Break

17th & 18th March, 2022

School Closed - St. Patrick's Day & Public Holiday

Monday, 28th March, 2022

Confirmation

Monday, 9th May 2022

First Holy Communion