

Building Project



The latest drone photographs show progress on the roof of Croí na Coille and the completion of the structure of the school and PE hall. One of the biggest challenges of the whole project has been to maintain as much normality in day-to-day life as possible. Space is at a premium but we manage to move around the school and get all our breaks, PE and other activities completed, which is quite the achievement by all involved.

The big question on everyone's lips is, 'When will the building be ready?' We should have a clear idea of the expected completion date for the next newsletter.

Additional School Closure

Due to the new bank holiday on 18th March and in lieu of the planned closure on 18th March, the **school will now close on Friday 3rd June, 2022.**

There will also be a **half day closure on Friday 20th May** to facilitate additional in-service training.



Mid-term Break Closure – Reminder

School is closed from Monday 21st to Friday 25th February, 2022. School re-opens on Monday 28th February, 2022.



Diversity Day – Friday 18th February

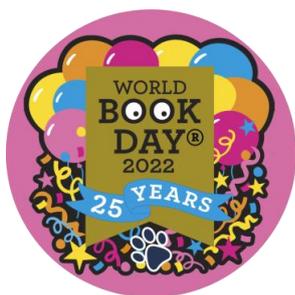
We are holding a 'Diversity Day' at St Mary's BNS tomorrow, Friday 18th February. Students and staff members are encouraged to wear an item of clothing that shows others something about their cultural, religious or ethnic identity. The key message of the day is that there are ways in which we are the same and ways in which we are different. We want to recognise and celebrate both our similarities and our differences, remembering that everyone deserves respect.

Here are some examples of items of clothing that might be worn for Diversity Day:

- A teacher from Mayo might wear a Mayo jersey.
- A child whose parent is from Italy might wear a t-shirt with an Italian flag.
- A child who plays for a Maynooth team might wear their training top.
- A Muslim boy might have a thawb that he wears for prayer which he might like to bring in.

We're looking forward to a bright and colourful day on Friday - Ms Mahon & Staff Inclusion Committee.

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March



We all know the important role books play in the education of our children. To celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 3rd March** and to help foster a love of reading and books, we are inviting our students to participate in a *Character Dress-up Day*. Children are invited to dress up as a storybook character from a book of their choice. This should be simple, fun and educational. For this reason, we ask that children avoid anything violent or scary (no weapons allowed). Students are also welcome to bring in the book their character is from and read an extract from the book to their class.

Some simple and low cost suggestions are:

The Cat in the Hat = Red and white striped paper hat with painted whiskers

Harry Potter = Glasses and a wand

Where's Wally = Red and white hat, black glasses.

David Walliams Billionaire Boy = Jeans & white t-shirt.

We look forward to celebrating together and building our student's enthusiasm for books well beyond World Book Day. For more information on world book day or to find out about events and activities visit www.worldbookday.com/about-us/ireland/

The dress-up day will also kick-start fundraising for the library in the new school building. There is a suggested donation of €2 per child. The donation is voluntary and there is no obligation to donate irrespective of whether a child dresses up or not.

Ms Toolan

Garda Visit

On Tuesday 8th February, members of An Garda Síochána visited the school to talk to pupils about road safety. Garda Aidan McGuane and Garda Lenny Donlon spoke to boys in classes from Junior Infants to 3rd Class. The boys were delighted to see the Gardaí and to hear the important messages about road safety.



The visit was the first occasion that we have had guest speakers in the school since March 2020 and the talks gave a great sense of normality returning to our school.

School Caretaker and Secretaries

Unfortunately, there have been a number of occasions this year where the treatment of our caretaker and secretaries by a very small number of parents and members of the public has left a lot to be desired. Dom, Kim and Elaine do their utmost to keep the school running smoothly and safely. Please show them your support by treating them with respect at all times. Mr Kirwan

Internet Safety

We had a very successful Internet Safety Week last week. Each class level engaged in discussions and activities about how to be safe and responsible online. The three fifth classes had a very enjoyable and informative session with Ger Brick from iNetSafetyTalk. Ger also gave a great talk for staff, parents and guardians. He has very kindly given us access to the slides from the talk. You can access them here;



www.inetsafetytalk.com/parentinfo

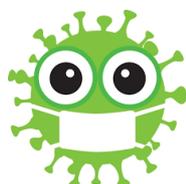
Username; parentinfo

Password; inetsafety55

These slides are for your personal use. Information contained should not be distributed or published to social media. We would be grateful if you could continue the conversation at home!

Mr. Davis

Positive Covid-19 Cases



If your son tests positive on an antigen test, please inform the school using the following email – cv19results@maynoothbns.ie. Please advise us when he tested positive, if he has symptoms and when he was last in school. It may be necessary for the school to pass on details to the HSE, so can you also please note that you give your consent to us doing that.

Creative Keyboard Lessons

There are spaces in the beginners class on Wednesday (from 1st class upwards). Please follow the link to register - www.creativekeyboards.ie



Dates for your Diary

18th February 2022

Diversity Day

21st - 25th February 2022

School closed Mid-Term Break

17th & 18th March, 2022

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

3rd March 2022

World Book Day – Character Dress-up Day

Monday, 28th March, 2022

Confirmation

Monday, 9th May 2022

First Holy Communion