

Confirmation Congratulations

Congratulations to our 6th class boys who made their confirmation on Monday 28th March. The boys were really well prepared by Mr. McGeady and Ms. Meehan – thanks to the teachers and well done boys!

The school would also like to thank Fr. McEvoy and his team at St. Mary's Church for making the occasion a memorable one for the boys and their families.



Half Day Arrangements, Friday 8th April 2022

School will close early for the Easter holidays on Friday 8th April 2022. To reduce crowding in the collection areas, we will stagger the finishing times.

Parents/guardians are requested to leave the collection areas as quickly as possible after collecting their child.

The staggered finishing times are as follows:

- 11:45 a.m. - Junior Infants, Senior Infants and children travelling on buses
- 11.55 a.m. – 1st and 2nd class
- 12.05 p.m. - 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class

Construction of the New School

Construction work is continuing on the new building. The roof is being installed, work on the external render and cladding has commenced and the majority of windows have been fitted. The design team, school management and the team at Woodvale Construction are making every effort to push the project towards completion. Unfortunately, we have encountered several unavoidable delays. Covid-19, Brexit, labour and materials shortages have all affected the project. It is now expected that the building will be ready during the summer holidays. All going to plan, this means ending the year in the current school building and starting next year in the new one.



Early Preparation for End of Year

With the move to the new school on the horizon, we will be closing out some of our end of year processes earlier than usual. Parents will receive information on booklists and the book rental scheme slightly earlier this year. Please keep an eye out for emails and be aware that the payment link deadlines will occur earlier than in previous years.



Book Rental Scheme Books

It would be worthwhile for all parents/guardians whose children are in the Book Rental Scheme to review the books now.

The conditions of the scheme are that books:

- must be properly maintained.
- cannot be written on, (except in the case of specified workbooks, mainly at the junior end of the school).
- that are lost or damaged must be replaced.

It is easier to do a little upkeep/maintenance now, than to have to pay to replace a book at the end of the year. (Note: some workbooks are written in over the course of the year. These books are not returned to the school).

School Uniform

Following the reopening of schools in September 2020, Maynooth BNS allowed for flexibility in the uniform code as part of its Covid-19 Response Plan. As the school reopened in September 2021, this flexibility was continued and prompted the Board of Management to ask the PTA to review aspects of the school uniform. This review is now at an advanced stage with samples being considered by the PTA before the final outcome of the review is sent to the Board of Management for consideration.

The review means that changes in the uniform code are very likely in the 2022/2023 school year and parents should hold off on buying any new items of clothing for their son's uniform until more information is available.

The introduction of a new uniform code would be on a staged basis with the current uniform being phased out over one to two years.

Not Returning in September 2022?

If you think your son will not be returning to school in September, please email the school office – schooloffice@maynoothbns.ie. It is really helpful to us if we have accurate numbers in planning ahead for next year. N.B. If you tell us your son might be leaving and your plans subsequently change, he will NOT lose his place.

Attendance

Prior to the onset of the pandemic the school had an average attendance rate of roughly 94%. Due to Covid-19 and the resulting restrictions and precautions, this has dropped significantly to 87.4% to date in 2021/2022. At the same time, there has been no change in the school's statutory obligation to report cumulative absences of 20 days or more to Tusla Education Support Service. It is important that parents/guardians ensure that reasons for absences are provided to the school as these are included in the school's returns. Parents can enter a reason for an absence on Aladdin Connect (once the teacher has called the roll) or submit a written note to the teacher upon their son's return to school.

Health & Safety: Earrings

For health and safety reasons, any child with an ear piercing must keep the piercing covered with a plaster at all times during the school day.



First Holy Communion ... 9th May 2022

In order to allow time between the masses, Fr. Frank has revised the times for the First Holy Communion are as follows:

11.00am - Second Class A	Mr. McGrath's Class
1.00pm - Second Class B	Ms. Daly's Class
3.00pm - Second Class C	Ms. O'Mahony's Class

Steps to take if your son tests positive for Covid19

Please continue to notify the school of positive test results including antigen test results to cv19results@maynoothbns.ie and provide us with the following information:

- Date your son tested positive
- If your son is symptomatic or not
- His last date of attendance at school
- If the test was Antigen or PCR.



In addition, please provide your consent for the Principal to transfer the information to the HSE should they request it from the school.

Handball

February and March were very busy months for GAA Handball in St. Mary's BNS. 4th, 5th and 6th class all took part in class tournaments at our one-wall court on the Astro. Each class then sent two representatives to take part in the Kildare Cumann na mBunscol Handball day in Leixlip handball club on March 4th. For many this was their first time in a 40x20 handball court but that did not stop them from putting on an amazing display of skill and determination on the day.



St. Mary's BNS had boys in U11 and U13 singles and doubles who qualified to represent Kildare at the Leinster Handball day in Tinryland, Co. Carlow on March 11th. The standard was exceptionally high but again the boys acquitted themselves really well and our Under 11 doubles team narrowly missed out on reaching the All-Ireland series.

Under 11 Singles - Nathaniel Gieral

Under 11 Doubles - Chaoyu Cui/Euan McGrath

Under 13 Singles - Christopher Caulfield

Under 13 Doubles – Ryan Schuller/James Carty

Well done everyone – Mr. Terry

Football Match

The senior footballers will play their first game in over two years this Friday 1st April 2022. We will be playing Scoil na Mainstreach from Celbridge in a challenge game. Throw-in is at 1.00 p.m. at Maynooth GAA pitch. Support is welcome.

Mr. McBrearty and Ms. Mulroy

Reminder – Parking in Staff Carpark

Please be aware that parking on the old campus of Maynooth Post Primary campus 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.

Easter Camp

Easter Camp will run from Monday 11th to Thursday 14th April. Leaflets with further information have been distributed. Please contact email -

eastercampbns@gmail.com if you have any queries. Ms. Lyons & Ms. Meehan



St. Mary's BNS Financial Report to Parents 2020-2021

The Board of Management wishes to advise parents that The Summary Financial Statement for the School Year 2020/2021 is now available from the school office on request.



Our Lockdown Book

We are looking forward to a big project in our school. We are going to be asking children, staff and families to write accounts of their lives during our lockdown days; it will ensure that a public record of the period is available in the school and wider community for posterity when facts about this period will no doubt be taught as a theme in social and living history.

We will be sending more information about this exciting project. Keep an eye out!!!!

School Website

We will be launching a new school website in the near future. Our old website has served us very well for many years but it is time for a change and we are developing a bright and colourful new page to match our active and busy school! We will let you know when it is ready to launch.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022 ar siúl ón 10/03/22-16/03/22. Bhí sport agus spraoi againn go léir. Glac paistí páirt i gcomórtas labhartha don seachtain go léir. I rith na seachtaine, thárla a lán gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla. Bhí comórtaisí eile ar siúl cosiúl leis an púc agus an cic fada. Bhí tráth na gceist againn i ranganna éagsúla agus duaiseanna deasa le fáil. Chum ranganna dramaíocht, dánta agus amhrainn agus bhí céilí sna ranganna sóisearacha. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht an iarracht déanta le haghaidh Lá Ghlas. Bhain na daltaí agus na múinteoirí taitneamh as an seachtain go léir.



Buaiteoirí Seachtain na Gaeilge - Winners Seachtain na Gaeilge

Class	Teacher	An Gaeilgeoir is Fearr	An Duine Gléasta is Fearr
Jun Infants A	Ms. O'Regan	Omar Taha	Oliver McNamee
Jun Infants B	Ms. Drislane	Jayden Walshe	Daniel Carter
Jun Infants C	Ms. Dineen	Harrison Daly-Fernandez	Michael McDonagh
Sen Infants A	Ms. Courell/Ms Harkin	Keithan Dolan	Peter Heaphy Briso-Montiano
Sen Infants B	Ms. Kelly	Charlie Kinsella	Rían Carter
Sen Infants C	Ms. Patten	Tommy Lyons	Finn Bradley

First Class A	Ms. Mulroy	Luke McGrath	Cillian Fahy
First Class B	Ms. Dunning	Evan Corcoran	Joel Umba Makwala
First Class C	Ms. Gillen	Alexander Gladcenco	Diarmuid Fahey
Second Class A	Mr. McGrath	Uvindu Perera	James Fahey
Second Class B	Ms. Daly	James Gordon	Giordan Noel Coomuren
Second Class C	Ms. O'Mahony	Matthew Collins	Fionn Walsh-Golden
Third Class A	Ms. Cowley	Dylan Gardiner	David Nolan-Usher
Third Class B	Ms. Lillis	Joe Robinson	Nathan Denagher
Third Class C	Ms. Lyons	Rory Scanlon	Patrick Sherlock
Fourth Class A	Ms. Nolan	Ruairí D'Arcy	Harry Reilly
Fourth Class B	Ms. Toolan	Aedan McNamara	Cian Hanlon
Fourth Class C	Mr. Terry	Cian Byrne	Daniel Johnston
Fifth Class A	Ms. Mahon	Cillian Balfe	Ravi Cascella Sekhon
Fifth Class B	Ms. McMahan	Jakub Ferdynus	Mark O'Connor
Fifth Class C	Ms. Griffin	Ahmad Elnadar	Warrick Becker
Sixth Class A	Mr. McGeady	Jamie Flood	Shane Glynn
Sixth Class B	Ms. Meehan	Archie Jefferies	Patrick McAleese

Dates for your Diary

Closing @ 12 Noon – Easter Holidays commence

Friday, 8th April 2022

Easter Holidays

Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April

School re-opens after Easter Holidays

Monday, 25th April

May Bank Holiday – school closed

Monday, 2nd May

First Holy Communion

Monday, 9th May

Half-day Closure - Staff In-Service Day

Friday, 20th May

Additional closure

Friday 3rd June

Bank Holiday

Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th June