

New School Building

After several delays and false starts, we are finally set to make the move to the new building on 7th November. Plans for the transition of pupils and staff to the new school will be circulated separately in advance of the end of term.

To allow for preparation of classrooms and circulation spaces in the new building, classes will end early on Friday 28th October at the following times:

- **Junior Infants, Senior Infants and bus children will finish at 12:00pm**
- **1st & 2nd class finish at 12:10pm**
- **3rd to 6th class finish at 12:15pm**

Staff News

There are a lot of new teachers this year at St. Mary's BNS. We welcome Ms Ní Bhriain, Ms Knight, Mr Kilkelly, Ms Lamb, Ms Lynch, Ms Cullen, Ms Maloney, Ms Hennessy and Ms Sweeney to the teaching staff.



The team of SNAs has grown also and we welcome Sarah, Valarie, Joanne, Paula and Maria to the team.

Helen Crawford has joined the admin team as School Secretary.

A very warm welcome to all new members of staff.

Farewell to Staff

We say farewell to Ms Joyce and Ms Horgan who finished teaching at St Mary's at the end of June and we wish them all the best for the future.

We also say a fond farewell to a number of long-serving members of staff; Ms Dunne, Patricia Moynan and Lorraine Rush. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them for their contributions to the school over the years.



Finally, congratulations to Ms E. McMahon on getting married over the summer months. We wish Ms McMahon and her husband a lifetime of happiness together.

Pumpkin Patch 2022

Carve any pumpkin design you want, any size you want and bring it into school between Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th October 2022.

All will go on display in school and the top pumpkins will win a prize!!!! Get designing today!!!



Morning drop-off

Supervision starts 10 mins before school start time. A large number of pupils are arriving too early and this is causing congestion at the entrances. The school accepts no responsibility for pupils arriving before their allocated time.

There is a morning club available. This is a supervised facility for children prior to the official opening hours of the school. The facility runs from 8.00am each morning. The children are welcome to come any time from 8.00am onwards. If you would like any further information please contact Ms. Dunning or Ms. McMahon at morningclub2021@gmail.com

Free Parenting Talk

Dr. Mary O Kane will give a parenting talk in the Glenroyal Hotel on 6th October 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

Register for the event here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/perfectly-imperfect-parenting-6th-oct-730pm-tickets-425070295697>

The event is kindly supported by the PTA. We look forward to seeing everyone there - Ms. Flynn



Late delivery of lunches

There is a procedure for late delivery of lunches or drinks for your son. If your son is in Junior Infants to Second Class he is in Group A. If your son is in 3rd Class – 6th Class he is in Group B. There are two large boxes between the outer and inner door of the school lobby. You can place your son's lunch in the correct group box. Please ensure that it is labelled with your son's name and class teacher, as lunches without labels **cannot** be delivered to classes.

Message from BOM re sub-teacher shortage/class splits

The Board of Management wishes to advise parents of serious difficulties faced by the school in finding substitute teachers to cover absences. Classes will be split more regularly as a result of the shortage of substitute teachers.

Dog Warden

Reminder – No dogs allowed on school grounds – except guide dogs please do not take offence when you are asked not to bring a dog onto the school grounds. The Kildare County Dog Warden has advised the school that they will patrol the area around the school at school drop-off and collection times following reports of unmuzzled dogs of restricted breeds.



Texaco Art Competition

We are delighted that an entry from our school, by Uvindu Perera (3rd Class), in the 68th Texaco Children's Art competition, reached the final stages of the judging process and was awarded a Certificate of Commendation. Well done Uvindu!

Covid-19

Please be vigilant for symptoms of Covid-19 and continue to follow public health isolation guidelines in the event of a positive case.

Pupil Absences

If your son is absent from school, you can enter the reason for his absence using Aladdin Connect once the roll has been taken by his class teacher. If you enter the reason for absence, there is no need to send an email/note to the teacher.

There was a very high level of pupil absence in 2021/2022. A strategy on attendance is being developed and key actions will be communicated in the near future.

Amber Flag

We are delighted to share with everyone the great news that we have received The Amber Award. News of this came through last June and we are now hoping to celebrate this remarkable achievement.



Maynooth BNS received this award in recognition of all of our initiatives promoting positive mental health within our whole school environment. We hope to continue these initiatives this year and to enhance our wellbeing programme even more. We will be celebrating the arrival of our Amber Flag when we move to the new school.

Jersey Day

On Friday, October 14, we will be inviting students and staff from St Mary's to take part in GOAL's Jersey Day. Jersey Day sees communities across Ireland and around the world coming together to wear their favourite sports jerseys in support of GOAL's work with vulnerable communities. Participants will be invited to make a €2.00 donation on the day. All proceeds go to assist with GOAL's valuable work in Africa, Ukraine, and other places of need.



Hallowe'en Dress-up Day

Hallowe'en dress-up day is on **Friday 28th October, 2022**. Instead of wearing their uniform to school, the boys may wear their Hallowe'en outfits and there will be prizes for the 'best dressed' in each class. If you wish to donate, we will be collecting money towards school funds. The suggested donation is €2 per family. The money raised will be used to purchase additional resources.

N.B. No 'prop weapons' should be brought into school and no props are allowed into the yard during break times.

Please remember we are a **nut free school** and remember to **check that there are no nuts in lunches or treats on the day.**



Parent Teacher Meetings 2022/2023

Parent teacher meetings will take place in February 2023.

Under 13 Hurlers

Our Under 13 hurlers got their season off to a flying start yesterday against Scoil Bhríde of Naas. Playing on their home turf of Maynooth GAA, the team secured an important victory. All the boys worked extremely hard, put together some intricate passing and took some amazing long-range scores. The boys are looking forward to their game next week against Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich. *Mr McGrath and Mr McBrearty.*

6th Class 11 Aside Soccer Team

The 6th Class 11 Aside Soccer Team kicked off their season with a tough challenge match against last year's 6th Class boys, who are now all in 1st Year, on Friday 16th September. They played really well against last year's North Kildare Schools Champions and it gave them a good idea of what the standard and pace of the upcoming 11 aside league would be like over the next few weeks. The FAI Kildare Schools 11 Aside Soccer League then began with an away game against Rathangan BNS last Monday 19th September. The boys displayed great skill and determination against a very well organised Rathangan team, with both teams having a number of chances to

score. There were some great saves from both goalkeepers as well as goal line clearances and near misses, with the game eventually finishing 0-0. It was a highly entertaining game. The boys continued their good start with a fine 1-0 win over Scoil Na Mainistreach, Celbridge on Wednesday 28th. The boys have been fantastic to work with so far and they have represented the school jersey with great pride. Well done boys! - *Mr. McGeady and Ms. Ú McMahon*

Cross Country

On Friday, a team of sixteen from Fourth to Sixth Class took part in a cross country event in Kilcock. The boys performed very well on a tough course. Each runner had a top twenty finish in their race. Our star performers on the day were Ben Osmic, Dan Lyons and Finley Moore. Well done boys! - *Mr. Davis*

After School Activities

Morning Club

This facility runs every morning Monday to Friday. Contact – Ms. Dunning and Ms. McMahon at morningclub2021@gmail.com

Junior After School Club

This facility runs Monday to Friday. Contact Gillian Lynch on 086-8338303

The After School Club

This facility runs Monday to Friday. Contact Lisa Coonan on 087 8557478

After School Sports

This club runs every Friday for boys from 3rd/4th Class - contact Mr. McGeady and Mr. McGrath.

This club runs every Tuesday for boys from 5th / 6th Class – contact Mr. McGeady and Mr. McGrath.



Lego Club

This club runs every Monday, contact Ms. Lyons for future terms.



Arts and Crafts

This club will run every Tuesday and Thursday for 1 hour. Registration forms were distributed on Tuesday 27th October for a 5 week term. See registration forms for further details. Contact Ms. McMahon.

Fitness Club

This club for 1st & 2nd class pupils runs every Thursday. Contact Ms. Patten.

Athletics

This club for 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th class pupils runs every Monday. Contact Ms. Daly – jumprunthrowmbns@gmail.com.

Homework Club

This club runs Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for 1 hour. Contact Ms. Meehan and Ms. Dineen.

Speech & Drama

This club runs every Thursday. Contact Ms. Monica McDonald on 087 2617555

Keyboard

This club runs every Wednesday. Contact Ms. Krisha McPhillips on 087-2022505

Dates for your Diary

Parent Talk – 6th October

Goal Jersey Day - 14th October

Maths Week 17th - 21st October

Hallowe'en Dress-up - 28th October

Pumpkin carving display – 26th – 28th October

Half-day Closure - 28th October

New School - 1st Day is 7th November 2022