



*Overall attendance rate is 92.3%*  
*Attendance rate for November is 91.3%*

### New School Building

November 30<sup>th</sup> 2020



November 2021 (above), November 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 (bottom)



On November 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 work began on the contract for the new school. In the 2-year period since that day, it has been amazing to watch our new school take shape. It was a joyful day when we made the transition to this fantastic new building on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The pictures above show the progression of the building on the anniversary of the contract commencement date. Work has started on the demolition of the old school building. Once the demolition is completed the final part of the project will be to provide 3 new ball courts (yard), additional bicycle parking, pedestrian access and the main staff car park.

The staff and pupils are delighted with the new building and look forward to writing the next chapter of the St. Mary's BNS story.

## Open House Day

We are so proud of our new school and we would like to open the doors to parents and the community. We are hosting an 'Open House' on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 12pm to 2pm and extend a warm invitation to the parents, guardians and wider Maynooth community who would like to see inside our new school. All we ask is that visitors respect the school's property when visiting.

This is not an official opening, just a chance to take a look at the new building.

The PTA is looking for 6 – 7 volunteers to come to help the PTA on the day. If you can help, please contact the PTA at [koshea46@gmail.com](mailto:koshea46@gmail.com)

## Enrolment

We are currently taking applications for enrolment for the 2023/2024 school year. The enrolment window will remain open until 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the school website or collected from the school. Completed forms and supporting documentation can be emailed, posted or dropped to the school office ([schooloffice@maynoothbns.ie](mailto:schooloffice@maynoothbns.ie)).

## Bus Escort

A vacancy has arisen at the school for a Bus Escort. The position is for 3 hours per day, 5 days per week. Please contact the school office if you or someone you know is interested in this position ([schooloffice@maynoothbns.ie](mailto:schooloffice@maynoothbns.ie)).



## Non-marking shoes/runners

Parents are requested, when next buying replacement shoes/runners for your son, to purchase non-marking soles which will prevent scuffing the floor surface of our new PE Hall. Your co-operation is much appreciated.



**Congratulations** to Ms. Flynn on the recent birth of her baby daughter. We send best wishes to Rebecca and her family.

## Intel Funding

We say a huge 'Thank You' to parents who, over the past 2 years, provided hours for the Matching Grant Scheme. The money raised has provided the vast majority of funds for the handball wall on our Astro pitch and play equipment in the sensory garden for Croí na Coille. Both of these items add significantly to the day-to-day lives of the pupils who use them and the school is extremely grateful. A special word of thanks to Leanne Cotter who co-ordinated this initiative with the school.



### Communicating with your son's teacher

If you wish to contact your son's teacher you can phone or email the school office to leave a message and the teacher will contact you. Alternatively, parents can write a note in the child's homework journal or pop a note into your son's homework folder (infant classes).

### Morning arrival at school

Please be aware that school officially starts at 9:20am. Large numbers of pupils are gathering in advance of 9:10am and this is causing unnecessary congestion. **Pupils should not arrive before 9:10am and can arrive up to 9:20am.**

### Christmas Carol Service

The school Christmas carol service will take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. This is a pupil and staff only event, due to numbers, but it will be live-streamed on the parish webcam. Parents of non-Catholic children who do not wish their child to attend the service in St. Mary's Parish Church can collect their son from the school at 11o'clock. The service commences at 11:15am.



### Exceptional closure

The Board of Management has reviewed the time lost due to the exceptional closure last month (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> November) and have taken the decision that lost tuition time can be regained without amendment to the school calendar. The school calendar as published on the school website remains unchanged.

### Stepping Stones Christmas Fair

Our neighbouring school, Stepping Stones, are hosting a Christmas fair in their school on the 21st of December from 10.30-11.00 at the front foyer of the school. There will be a range of items for sale that morning (including handmade decorations, cake, cookies etc.). All support is greatly appreciated.

### Dates for your Diary

'Open House'	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> December
Carol Service	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December
Junior Infant Nativity Play	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December
Christmas Holidays	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 12noon
School re-opening	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Parent Teacher Meetings	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2023