



Attendance Year to date: 91.3% (Academic year target: 93%)
January: 92.4%



Parent / Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, 8th and 9th February. Meetings are 10 minutes in duration. The teacher will give an update on your son's attendance at the meeting.

Please ensure phones are switched off, or on 'silent', to eliminate interruptions and please note that audio or video recordings of the meetings are not permitted.

To facilitate meetings commencing at 3pm on both days, classes for pupils in 1st to 6th class will end at 2:45pm on Wednesday & Thursday (8th & 9th February). Please ensure arrangements are in place to collect children at the earlier time.

Facemasks will be available at the front door of the school, should you wish to wear one.

School Uniform Survey

Parents and guardians will be invited to complete a survey next week on possible changes to the school uniform code and design of the school tracksuit. Parents/Guardians will have until the mid-term break to complete the survey. Depending on the outcome of the survey there may be further consultation at a later date. Keep an eye out for the survey and please submit a response.

Parking – Stepping Stones Site Access

The building contractor in our neighbouring school is experiencing difficulty accessing their site due to parking by parents of pupils at St. Mary's BNS. Attempts to keep the entrance clear with cones and signs have not worked.

Parents are asked not to park in front of the site entrance as it is causing a traffic obstruction and danger to pedestrians and cyclists.

Grandparents' Day

We were delighted to host Grandparents Day in the Junior and Senior Infant classes, during Catholic Schools Week, on Wednesday 25th January. Thank you to all Grandparents who travelled from far and wide to attend on the day and to families who provided photographs, which the boys were very proud to display around their classrooms.



Table Quiz

On Friday 27th January, two teams entered the annual Life Credit Union Quiz. Our U11 and U13 teams performed exceptionally well. After 10 rounds of tough, tense and thrilling questions, our under 11 team finished in 4th place. Our U13 team endured another 2 rounds which placed them in a tiebreaker for first place. Unfortunately, the boys lost out by the narrowest of margins. Both teams should be very proud of their titanic efforts and we are looking forward to competing in more quizzes in the near future. Mr. McBrearty

Under 13 Team: Ruairí Connolly, Oisín Deloughry, Daragh O'Donnell, Fionn Lockett

Under 11 Team: Evan Donlon, Brian Donlon, Rory Gough, Dylan Gardiner

Handball

The Kildare Cumann na mBunscol Handball Day took place last Thursday in Leixlip GAA Handball Club. This year we had 34 boys and girls from three local schools taking part, including Scoil Uí Riada, Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich and 16 boys from Maynooth BNS.



The standard of handball on show was excellent and all games were played in great spirit. Each child played at least three games and in the end there were three boys and girls chosen for U11 and U13 to go on and represent Kildare at the Leinster Cumann na mBunscol Handball Day in Carlow this Friday.

Some of those selected include Noah Comiskey from 3rd class, Rian Duignan from 5th class and Dan Lyons, Joseph Comiskey and Eoin Hever from 6th class. Best of luck to the boys and their Kildare team mates on Friday. Mr. Terry.

Internet Safety Day



Safer Internet Day 2023 takes place on Tuesday 7th February. Safer Internet Day is an EU wide initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people. Classes will take part in activities and discussions around the topic. Fifth and Sixth classes will attend a talk in the hall. This is an ideal opportunity for parents and guardians to engage in conversation with their son(s) about safer internet use among our young people. The link below contains lots of information, videos and other resources. Mr. Davis

<https://www.webwise.ie/saferinternetday/>



Artists in Residence

On January 23rd we welcomed our *Per Cent for Art Commission* artists Maree Hensey and Mark Ryan to our school to begin their residency. Maree and Mark have set up their temporary studio in An Nead, on the top floor of our school building. The purpose of their visit is to meet and work with students from all year groups along with teachers, in order to experience and engage with what makes our school so special. Their encounters and involvement within our community will allow them to meaningfully create a work of art not just for the building, but for our school.

Over the past two weeks, they have met and worked with all of our year groups, exploring the use of a wide range of media along with engaging in discussions about their artworks, school life in Maynooth and the long journey which St. Mary's has embarked on since building works began.

This time spent working with Maree and Mark has given our students the chance to have their voices heard as co-designers and co-authors of what will be the final piece of artwork. We can't wait to see what Maree and Mark will produce and although these two weeks have been such fun, the best part is yet to come!

A blog with all the details of the activities to date can be found here: <https://artresmbns.blogspot.com>. Artwork created by our students during their residency will be on display in the main reception area for viewing during our parent-teacher meeting evenings.



Children's Health Foundation Jumper Day

Congratulations to all of the pupils and parents of St. Mary's Boys' National School who contributed to this year's fundraiser for Crumlin's Children's Health

Foundation in December 2022. We raised €650.00, vital funds for sick children during the festive season. We received a certificate of appreciation from the foundation acknowledging the extraordinary contribution of our school community.



Dr. Teddington, the foundation's mascot, visited some of the junior classes. Dr. Teddington takes care of all the little heroes who are in hospital. He brought us balloons and we had so much fun thinking of how happy we would make the children in hospital. Well done boys! You are kind, caring and thoughtful. Many thanks for your support! Ms. Kelly.

Homework Club

Homework Club takes place every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3.00pm-4.00pm. It provides pupils with the opportunity to complete their homework in a quiet, supervised setting with qualified teachers. Homework club is open to pupils from 2nd class to 6th class. If you would like to register your son, please email homeworkclubmaynooth@gmail.com



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.

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 (illness) on Aladdin Connect.

Changes to Pupil's Details

If you have changed address or contact details recently, please update using Aladdin Connect or inform the school office (01) 6293021.

Two emergency contacts are required for each pupil **in addition to** mothers' and fathers' details. For GDPR purposes, parents can see their own details and the emergency contact details only, (not the other parent details). We cannot approve requests to use a parent as an emergency contact.

Dates for your Diary

Public Holiday - school closed	Monday 6 th February
Internet Safety Day	7 th February
Parent Teacher Meetings	8 th & 9 th February
Mid-Term Break	16 th – 17 th February
Primary Language Curriculum Staff In-service Day – school closed	6 th March
Primary Language Curriculum Staff In-service ½ Day - school closes 12noon	19 th May