



Year to date: 94.5% (Academic year target: 93%)
September 2023: 94.6%

Welcome

The first month of the new school year has passed and hopefully everyone has settled back into the rhythm of school life. We extend a very warm welcome to our new Junior Infant boys; they've had a great start to the year and we wish them all the best for their time ahead at St. Mary's BNS. We also wish our 6th Class of 2023 all the best as they begin the next phase of their education at second level.

Mr. Kirwan

Staff News

There are a lot of new staff this year at St. Mary's BNS. We welcome Ms O'Brien, Ms McGahon, Mr Garvey, Ms Wemyss and Ms Bourke to the teaching staff and Eileen to the SNA staff. A very warm welcome to all new members of staff.



Congratulations to Ms Scott on getting married over the summer months. We wish Ms Scott and her husband a lifetime of happiness together.

Farewell to Staff

We say farewell to teachers Ms Devlin, Ms Cowley, Ms Ní Bhriain and Mr Kilkelly, to SNA Lavinia and to Secretary Helen who finished at St Mary's at the end of June and we wish them all the best for the future. We also wish Ms Lyons well this year as she is away from the school.

Teacher Shortages

Parents are advised of serious difficulties faced by the school filling long-term vacancies and finding substitute teachers to cover short-term absences. It is likely that there will be disruption to the provision of special education teaching and support for pupils with English as an Additional Language. Classes will be split more regularly as a result of the shortage of substitute teachers.

The situation is far from ideal but the difficulties being experienced are not isolated to St Mary's BNS and are prevalent across much of the Dublin and North Kildare region.

Eircodes

We request that parents add their Eircodes to Aladdin, using Aladdin Connect.

No Dogs on School Grounds

Reminder – No dogs allowed on school grounds - please do not take offence if you are asked not to bring a dog onto the school grounds.



Parent-Teacher Meetings 2023

Parent-Teacher Meetings will be held on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th November. The meetings will be held face-to-face and parents will be able to book meeting slots using Aladdin Connect. More information to follow after the October mid-term break.

PTA News

The PTA recently held their first meeting of the academic year and it was great to see new faces on the committee. Thank you to Ms Daly who will be the teacher representative for the coming year.

We were delighted to welcome the parents of new Junior Infants for a coffee morning on the 15th September - we hope new friendships were formed.

We are now looking forward to supporting the Halloween activities planned for the boys.

On behalf of all the parents in the school, we want to congratulate all the school staff for the outstanding report following the Department of Education's Whole School Evaluation. We will be organising a small celebration for all the staff on behalf of all the parents.

If you wish to contact the PTA, please do so by emailing bnspta614@gmail.com

Sick Children

If your child is not well enough to attend school, please keep them at home. Be vigilant for the onset of new symptoms that may indicate a Covid-19 infection.

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 at 10:30 a.m. If you enter the reason for absence, there is no need to send an email/note to the teacher.

Last year, we saw a notable increase in our attendance rate, rising from 88% in 2021/22 to a commendable 91.7% in 2022/23. While this progress is indeed positive, we aim to further enhance our attendance to meet our target of 93%. Your continued support is invaluable in achieving this goal.

Please be aware that parents/guardians will receive text notifications from school if their child has been absent for 10, 15 or 20 days.

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing commitment to our school attendance strategy.

Early collections

If a parent wishes to collect their child early, advance notice is required in the form of a note to the class teacher. The office will call for your son to come to reception and record the early collection on Aladdin. Collections should be made outside of break times. The break times are as follows:

	Group A (Jun Inf – 2 nd Class)	Group B (3 rd – 6 th Class)
Sos (Break)	10.45 – 11.00 a.m.	11.15 – 11.30 a.m.
Lón (Lunch)	12.35 – 1.00 p.m.	1.15 – 1.40 p.m.

Late Delivery of Lunches



Please ensure that it is labelled with your son's name and class teacher, as lunches without labels **cannot** be delivered to classes.

Libya Flood Appeal

On Friday, September 8th, the students had a non-uniform day and were asked to donate €2 to support the UNICEF Libya Flood Appeal. We are pleased to announce that we successfully raised **€1039.55** for this cause.

Your generosity and support in raising essential funds and awareness are truly appreciated. Thank you.

GOAL 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.

Climate Action Month

Over the coming year, St Mary's BNS will place an emphasis on sustainability and climate action. The school will look at the development of key knowledge, skills and values which are central to climate change education. We hope to encourage creative and critical thinking and promote an awareness and concern for the environment and a commitment to climate action and sustainable development.

Our Green School Committee is actively working towards obtaining the 'Global Citizenship Litter and Waste Flag', with a strong emphasis on sustainability and the three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

To kick things off, we are making October our Climate Action Month, and as part of our initiatives, we have launched various programmes in school. This month, the spotlight is on waste management, encouraging students to adopt practices of reducing, reusing and recycling, particularly when it comes to lunchboxes.

Hallowe'en Dress-up Day

Halloween Dress Up Day will take place this year on Friday 27th October. On this day, the boys can wear their Halloween outfits instead of their school uniform. This year we strongly encourage all pupils to reuse or upcycle Halloween costumes that they already own or make their Halloween costumes from recyclable materials. This can include any household items that would otherwise go into the bin - we would love to see how you reuse them to create some cool and crazy costumes! As always, there will be prizes for the most creative and imaginative costumes and we'll be keeping an eye out for sustainability too.



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.

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



Pumpkin Patch 2023



We are delighted to announce we will have our first Pumpkin Patch event in our new school from

Monday 23rd Oct until Wednesday 25th Oct!

More details to follow but get planning - carved and painted pumpkins welcome!

After School Activities

Morning Club

There is a morning club available Monday to Friday. This is a supervised facility for children prior to the official opening hours of the school. The facility runs from 8:00 a.m. each morning. The children are welcome to come any time from 8.00 a.m. onwards. If you would like any further information please contact Ms. Ú McMahon or Ms. E McMahon at morningclub2021@gmail.com

Junior After School Club

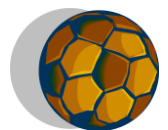
This facility runs Monday to Friday from 2pm – 3pm. Contact Gillian Lynch on 086 8338303

The After School Club

This facility runs Monday to Friday from 3pm – 6pm. 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.



Athletics

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



Homework Club

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

1st and 2nd Class Fitness Club

This club runs for boys in 1st and 2nd classes on Thursdays for 1 hour. Contact Ms Patten

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

Adult Yoga Classes

Adult Yoga Classes are run by Sonia Murphy in the school on Thursday nights at 7.30 p.m.
Limited places available, please contact Sonia on 086 7308247

Dates for your Diary

Goal Jersey Day – Friday 14th October

Hallowe'en Dress-up – Friday, 27th October

Parent-Teacher Meetings – Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th November