



Academic year target: 93%

Year to date: 92.8%

January 2024: 92.8%

Enrolment

Enrolment for the junior infant and Croí na Coille intake for 2023/2024 **closed on 24th January 2024.**



Board of Management

The new Board of Management members are as follows:

Mr Manus McCarron, (Chairperson) Patron's Nominee

Ms Hilary Qualtar, (Treasurer) Patron's Nominee

Mr Daniel Kirwan, (Secretary), Principal

Ms Triona Stokes, Community Nominee

Barry Stoneham, Community Nominee

Cathal McGeady, Teacher Nominee

Edwina Steele, Parent Nominee

Niall Mulhare, Parent Nominee.

The term of the Board of Management runs from 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2027.

Respect for School Staff

While the vast majority of parents and guardians always show respect and appreciation for members of school staff, unfortunately, there have been a small number of incidents recently where our school Caretaker, Dominic, has been verbally abused at the school gate. This is unacceptable; Dominic is doing his job and does not deserve this abuse. He will contact the principal to intervene if similar incidents take place again.

Mr Kirwan



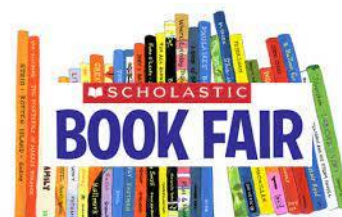
Revised Parental Complaints Procedure

The Board of Management has ratified a revised Parental Complaints Procedure. The Procedure is available to view on the school website.

http://maynoothbns.ie/documents/policies/Parental_Complaints_2024.pdf

Book Fair 2024

The Book Fair will visit our school from Wednesday 21st Feb to Wednesday 28th Feb. We encourage all families to support the book fair where possible. Every book sold at our Book Fair helps the school earn rewards which can be spent on books and resources for our school library. For every €10 spent at our Book Fair, our school can earn up to €6 back in rewards to spend on new books.



Boys will have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair and buy books during school time. The Book Fair will be open one evening - Wednesday 21st February from 6pm to 8pm for parents and families to visit together.

School Closure on March 8th

The school will be used as a polling station for the referendums being held on Friday, March 8th. As a result, the school will be **closed** on that date.

Supervision in the Mornings

The boys start entering the building from 9.10 am. There will be supervision from that time but **not before**. Do not drop boys before 9.10 am. School starts at 9.20 am. The Board of Management accepts no responsibility for pupils before supervision commences.

Diversity Week

In January, we celebrated Diversity Week here in St Mary's BNS. This year, our focus was on religious diversity. We are lucky to have children from many faith traditions in our school, with every major world religion represented, as well as lots of variety within the Christian tradition. As a school community we aimed to bring awareness to this diversity, and to enhance understanding among the children about the various belief systems we share. Here at St Mary's we believe that our diversity is a real strength, and is something worth celebrating.

Ms Mahon

School Council

Plastic Free 4 Schools Project – A Message from the Student Council



The Student Council would like to ask for the whole school community's support in helping our pupils to protect the environment. For February, our aim is to reduce single use plastics in our lunchboxes.

The School Council will be conducting regular survey of lunchboxes and our race to zero challenge begins on the 12th of February! To help your son's class succeed please ensure your son's lunchbox follows these **five Plastic Free Charter guidelines** below:

1. Use a lunch box that you can put food into loose.
2. **Say no** to clingfilm, tinfoil and plastic sandwich bags.
3. **Avoid** juices and smoothies with plastic straws.
4. **Avoid** disposable cutlery. If you have any clean it and reuse it.
5. Clean and recycle all rigid plastics at home.



The Student Council are also encouraging all pupils to **drink water** throughout the day. When purchasing a refillable bottle, try to avoid plastic and opt for a **metal container** instead.

Finally, don't throw away your **plastic bottle lids**! We have a drop box location in the school lobby for plastic drinks lids to prevent these from going to landfill. Small plastics are most harmful to our oceans. We hope to repurpose them, so we need lots of different colours and sizes!



GAA Handball



Well done to the boys who competed in the Kildare Cumann na mBunscol Handball day in the National Handball Centre in Croke Park on the 17th January. We had ten boys representing the school in the two blitzes.

In the challenger 1 grade Ted Woods and Matthew Greene played Under 11 doubles and Jack O'Sullivan and Chaoyu Cui played Under 13. Both pairs performed excellently.

Our club players then took part in the challenger 2 competition. Rafa Curran put in some great performances in the Under 13 grade. Our Under 11s Jake Fowley, Brendan Brannigan, Alec Colfer, Noah Comiskey and Henry McDermott put on an exhibition of handball showcasing all of their skills.

On Friday 2nd February, the boys returned to Croke Park for the Leinster Handball day. Noah represented the school and Kildare in the singles competition. He performed extremely well against tough opposition but was narrowly beaten in a semi-final play-off. Henry teamed up with Alec in the doubles competition and reached the final - a great achievement!

Well done to all the boys who took part.

Mr Terry

Credit Union Quiz



On Friday 26th January two teams of boys from 4th and 6th classes participated in the annual Credit Union Quiz in Naas. After 12 tense, tough and thrilling rounds, both teams scored exceptionally well. The U11 team placed in third while the U13 team placed in second, and pipped to the post by the narrowest of margins. Thank you to all the boys who prepared for the quiz with remarkable diligence and for representing their school excellently on the night. Well done to all!

Mr. McBrearty



U13 Team: Ruairí Connolly, Oliver Crossley, Ruairí Darcy, Conor Landy

U11 Team: Noah Crampton, Euan McNamee, Andy Minnock, Oisín Walls

Olympic Handball



Selected players of the MBNS Olympic Handball 4th, 5th and 6th Class squads attended the Irish Olympic Handball Association's County Final in the National Indoor Arena, Sport Ireland Campus, Blanchardstown. We entered two teams into the competition 4th/5th mixed team and a 6th class team. Both teams represented the school with pride and displayed a high level of skill on the court. Each team played a series of matches throughout the day and combined points decided which teams progressed to the final. Our 6th class team narrowly missed out on a shot at the final. The 4th/5th class squad got to the final and played an amazing game at top speed! The opposing team took the lead and our boys worked hard to catch them. In the end it came down to one point between the teams, with our boys just missing out. The 4th/5th squad took home a silver medal each and the whole school is very proud of our first IOHA medal. We look forward to participating in next year's competition. Well done on your commitment to training and matches boys! The future of Olympic Handball at MBNS looks bright!

Ms Scott.

Badminton

Our badminton team were in action last week in the Leinster Primary Schools Badminton Competition in Baldoye. Huge congratulations to Cian Hanlon, Andrii Kupovy, Aidan McNamara and Aaron Tony who won 4 out of 6 matches. Unfortunately, they lost their tie-break match and narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-final. They all played exceptionally well for a newly formed team and did themselves, and the school, extremely proud.

Ms Knight



School Uniform

The full school uniform must be worn by pupils at all times. Please ensure that your son wears his full school uniform including tracksuit bottoms every day. In warmer temperatures, parents will be advised that it is an option for pupils to wear shorts. Also, a reminder to parents that black footwear must be worn with the uniform.

As the temperatures have dropped the school requests that parents ensure their son has a coat coming to school.

Separately, an improved quality t-shirt will be available from the Uniform Warehouse. Improvements have been made to the fit and the quality of the t-shirt's material.

Thank you for your cooperation with the school's uniform code.

Volunteers required for School Teams' Away Games

We require volunteers to accompany the boys on buses on small sporting outings. If you can help, please contact the school office – schooloffice@maynoothbns.ie.

Volunteers will need to complete Garda Vetting through the school for this volunteer role.

Catholic Schools' Week

The last week in January saw our school participate in the national celebration of Catholic Schools' Week, when we take time to explore the ways in which our school, as a Catholic school, is distinct from other school models. This year, we discussed in particular how Catholic schools are 'Communities of Service', and considered, with the children, the ways in which we can each be of service to our home, school, parish and local communities. We concluded our celebration of Catholic Schools' Week by marking Grandparents' Day with our Infant classes.

Ms Mahon

PTA News



On Friday 26th January the Junior & Senior Infants' Grandparents visited their grandson's classes, and we were delighted to welcome them for refreshments in the PE Hall afterwards. It was a lovely occasion for both the boys and their grandparents. Thank you to the members of the Student Council who also helped us out on the day.

Donate an hour

We have a number of important school occasions coming up, if you would like to assist and can donate an hour of your time, please drop us an email on bnspta614@gmail.com. Those who have already given their details for our "Donate an Hour" list will be contacted for these events in due course. The PTA really appreciate your support.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

We will be celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge again this year and we are planning lots of activities that focus on the Irish language and culture. Our traditional Lá Glas will be held **on Friday March 15th**. Pupils are encouraged to wear green on the day. Wearing green is optional but fun and games are guaranteed!

Maynooth BNS on Instagram

We have made the move from X (previously Twitter) to Instagram. Follow us here <https://www.instagram.com/maynoothbns/>. We are still finding our way around the new platform but we'll keep you up-to-date with all that is happening at the school.

Passport Application Forms

If you require a passport application form to be signed at the school office, you will need to make an appointment prior to calling in. We can facilitate one application in the morning and one in the afternoon. You will also need to provide valid ID for both parents and child. There is an administration charge of €5 for this process to be completed.

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. 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

Dates for your Diary

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Mid-term break | Thursday 15 th & Friday 16 th February |
| School Closure – Referendum | Friday 8 th March |
| Lá Glas | Friday 15 th March |
| School Closure | Monday 18 th March |
| School Closing @ 12pm | Friday 22 nd March |
| Easter Holidays – School Closed | Monday 25 th March – Friday 5 th April |
| School re-opening @ 9.20am | Monday 8 th April |

Our Olympic Handball Team in Action

