

**Attendance**

**Academic year target: 93%**  
**Year to date: 92.6%**  
**April: 91.9%**

**Aladdin Connect – Recording Absences**

Reasons for absences can be recorded on Aladdin each day after roll call. In order to enter the reason, go to 'Attendance Notes' and 'enter a reason for an existing absence'.

**Local and European Elections**

The school will be closed on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June as the building will be used as a polling station.

**Reminder: Closure for In-service**

Parents are reminded the school is closed for staff in-service on 24<sup>th</sup> May. The in-service relates to the new Primary Maths Curriculum.

**School Uniform**

As the weather improves into the summer, many pupils prefer to wear shorts to school. Once school reopens on 13<sup>th</sup> May, pupils can wear shorts on warmer days if they wish to do so. Sun hats can also be worn for outdoor activities.

The school jumper and t-shirt should continue to be worn. Thanks to pupils and parents for their cooperation with the school uniform policy this year.

**Our Core Values**

With a busy term ahead, there will be an emphasis on the school's core values of kindness, honesty, respect and responsibility across all pupil activities in the summer term. The same high standards of behaviour that are expected of pupils at school are also expected while pupils are on school tours, sports days and other outings.

**Official School Opening**

The official opening and blessing of the new school building will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Preparation is well underway. Our aim is to involve the boys in this special occasion as much as possible and to make it a memorable and enjoyable day for all involved. Unfortunately, there is not capacity to accommodate all parents as guests on the day but the organising committee will look to provide invitations to members of the parent body in the next few days.

**Book Rental Scheme Books**

It would be worthwhile for all parents/guardians to review rental scheme books now.

The Scheme operates on the basis that:

- Books are properly maintained.
- They are not written on, (except in the case of specified workbooks, mainly at the Junior end of the school).

Books that are lost or damaged must be replaced but a little upkeep/maintenance now saves in the long run.



Funding for the scheme is provided by the Department of Education. This will mean a very significant reduction in the costs for parents associated with booklists and school requirements. Some charges for school materials, photocopying, insurance, etc. will remain in place.

### **Standardised Testing**

Standardised tests (Drumcondra Test, Micra-T & Sigma-T) will be administered to children in classes from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> in May. The tests look at literacy and numeracy. They are a useful measure of a child's reading and mathematical achievement and they can show a child's progress in those areas. However, the tests are only a snapshot in time and quite specific in what they assess – the results are only part of a much bigger picture and teachers look at the results in that way. Parents should avoid placing undue emphasis on the tests and/or the results of the tests; care should be taken not to arouse undue anxiety in children when it comes to the tests and/or their results. Results are shared with parents in the school report for their own information – parents do not have to discuss the results with other parents or with their son(s). Please treat the tests as a very limited measure of how your son is doing in two specific areas regardless of the outcome.

### **Report Cards**

End of Year Report Cards will be issued towards the end of June. These will be available on Aladdin Connect and parents will be notified when they can be viewed.



### **School Tours 2024**



Details of this year's school tours have been finalised and parents will receive information about their son's tour in the coming days. Payment links will be sent by email or can be viewed on Aladdin Connect.

### **Sports Day 2024**



The provisional date for Sports Day 2024 is Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> June. Sports Day will take place on this date weather permitting. In the event of poor weather Sports Day will take place on either 13/6 or 20/6.

Junior and Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> Class will have their sports day on the school grounds. All other classes will spend the day at the

**North Kildare Sports Club.** We are extremely grateful to the Club for their continued support and partnership in providing a fantastic venue for our annual sports day. Parents of pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes will need to make arrangements for drop-off and collection from the North Kildare Sports Club on the day of the event.

### **PTA News**

Firstly, we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Readathon over the Easter break. We were delighted with the success of this fundraiser and we hope it encouraged the boys to pick up a book over the holidays. This year's Readathon raised a brilliant €4734.07. In total, over the past 3 years the annual Readathon and this year's Library Contribution have raised €21994.71. A massive word of thanks to the pupils, parents and teachers for their efforts. We can now look forward to a beautiful school library that will serve the pupils of the school for years to come.

We have a date for your diaries.... on Sunday 23rd June, we will hold our Summer Fair in the school and all are invited along. Please extend the invite to your friends and neighbours as the afternoon is open to whole community. More information on this next month.

On behalf of all the parents in the school, we want to wish Dominic a very Happy 80th Birthday.... A card and gift was given to Dominic on behalf of all of us. Enjoy all the celebrations Dom!  
In June, we will have a couple of events that require volunteers. If you would like to add your name to the "donate an hour" list, please drop an email to [bnspta614@gmail.com](mailto:bnspta614@gmail.com). It is a lovely way to give back to the school.

### **Reminder: 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:

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

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Seachtain na Gaeilge proved once again to be an extremely fun and action packed week in our school. All pupils were engaged in enjoyable activities and events to celebrate our Irish culture and heritage. I rith na seachtaine, tharla go leor gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla ar scoil. Tháinig daltaí ó MPP ar cuairt chun ceol traidisiúnta a sheinm. Bhí an-sport agus spraoi againn go léir. Ghlac na paistí páirt i gcomórtas labhartha don seachtain go léir. Bhí comórtaisí eile againn freisin cosúil leis an púc agus an cic fada. Bhí tráth na gceist, dramaíocht, dánta, amhrainn agus céilí againn i ranganna éagsúla. Some pupils from rang a sé even aired their own radio programme as Gaeilge each day!

On Friday, we completed our Seachtain na Gaeilge with Lá Glas. The boys were encouraged to dress in all shades of green. Prizes were awarded to 'An duine gléasta is fearr' and Gaeilge certificates were awarded to pupils in each class. Bhí sé iontach ar fad an méid Gaeilge a bhí le cloisteáil ar fud na scoile. Bhain na daltaí agus na múinteoirí taitneamh as an Seachtain go léir - bhí seachtain iontach againn! Maith sibh a bhuachaillí!

*Ms McLaughlin*

### **U10 GAA Football Team**

A huge well done to the boys selected from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class who are currently representing St. Mary's Boys' National School in the U10 Cumann na mBunscol competition. They have shown great sportsmanship and have played extremely well together as a team. They have met some tough opposition but have never lost their team spirit. We look forward to our game this week against Clane.

*Ms. Dineen and Ms. Harkin*

### **Senior Football Team**

The senior football team were in action in April as part of the Cumann na mBunscol GAA competition. They played their first match against Scoil Na Mainistreach, in Celbridge, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. The boys put up an excellent display of fitness and skill to win their first game. Their second match was away, in Kilcock GAA grounds, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April where they played a very tough Scoil Uí Riada. Our boys displayed an excellent level of resilience, skill and determination but, unfortunately, were beaten by a very good team. Our third match was a crucial match against Clane BNS, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, at home, in Maynooth GAA grounds. Knowing that we needed a win, the boys fought with fierce hunger, courage and ambition but, after a super match, were unlucky in the end. A huge thank you to all the boys for all their hard work and dedication at training and for representing the school with pride during their matches.

*Ms Knight & Ms Daly*



### **6<sup>th</sup> Class FAI Primary 5s**

Well done to the 16 boys from 6<sup>th</sup> class who represented the school so well in the Kildare FAI 5-a-side finals in Newbridge on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Both teams played fantastically well against some very strong schools in Kildare, with the boys displaying tremendous skill and determination in all their matches. Our B team won all their group matches to top the group, going on to play Clane in the final. In the final, both teams had many chances with the game finishing 1 – 1. The match was then decided on penalties and unfortunately the B team ended up being narrowly defeated 3-1. They came so close to winning. All the boys deserve huge credit for their brilliant efforts and for representing our school so proudly.

*Mr McGeady & Ms U. McMahon*

### **Cumann na mBunscol**

Fresh from their strong performance in the Credit Union Quiz, our quiz team participated in the annual Cumann na mBunscol Quiz held in Scoil Mhuire, Ballymany on 1st March. The questions were very challenging, but our team scored a wonderful 93 out of 100 questions correctly. This put the boys in second place. Their achievements this year are testament to their diligent preparation and enthusiasm for quizzing. I am sure the 6th class boys will have continued success in quizzing as they progress into secondary school. Well done boys!

Team Members: Ruairí Connolly, Oliver Crossley, Ruairí Darcy, Daniel Flanagan

*Mr. McBrearty*

## Kool Kids Summer Camp!

A great place to have FUN and meet new FRIENDS!

Kool Kids Summer Camp will take place again this year in St. Mary's BNS, Maynooth from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 10am - 2.30pm. The camp is open to boys and girls from Junior Infants - 6th Class. Pupils starting Junior Infants in September are also very welcome! There are lots of fun activities planned such as sports, arts & crafts, baking, singing, dancing and much more! Book early to avoid disappointment. For more information, collect a Kool Kids brochure from the school lobby or contact Ms. Scott in the school.

Kool Kids Leaders: *Ms. Dunning, Ms. Mc Laughlin & Ms. Scott.*

### Dates for your Diary

Mid-term Break – School Closed	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May
First Holy Communion	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Junior Infant Vision Screening	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024
Maths Curriculum Planning – School Closed	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Official Opening	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024
Sports Day	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> or 20 <sup>th</sup> June
Local & European Elections – School Closed	7 <sup>th</sup> June

### Information from Maynooth GAA

Maynooth GAA Club will shortly be launching the GAA All-Stars Programme to cater for Children with Additional Needs in our community. There will be an Information evening in the Clubhouse on Tuesday 7th May at 8pm and all parents of children with additional needs are encouraged to attend.

We would also like any other club members, parents and coaches who are interested in finding out more about this and potentially getting involved to please come along.

GAA For All... Crom Abú!!!



**Maynooth  
GAA  
All Stars**



**GAA FOR ALL**  
Additional  
Needs  
Children




Parent and Coach information evening  
Venue : Maynooth GAA clubhouse  
Date: Tuesday 7th May, 8pm

Sponsors :  



**ARE YOU  
LOOKING TO  
JOIN THE  
GAA?**



Find your age  
group below!

Age Group	Training Day	Training Time	Contact
<b>u6</b>	Saturday	9-10/10-11	Ciara - 0863765023
<b>u7</b>	Wednesday	6-7	Tadhg - 0876287903
<b>u8</b>	Monday Wednesday	6-7 6:30-7:30	Muire - 0879706887
<b>u9</b>	Tuesday Thursday	7-8	Willie - 0879341006
<b>u10</b>	Tuesday Wednesday	7-8	Patrick - 0870508728
<b>u11</b>	Monday Thursday	6:30-7:30	Karen - 0872272343
<b>u12</b>	Thursday (F)	7-8:15	Eoin - 0852747524
<b>u13</b>	Monday (F) Friday (H)	6-7 7-8	Tracey - 0872772777 Pat - 0878764312

\*F = FOOTBALL  
\*H = HURLING