



Corridor Echoes

The Official Newsletter of St. Mary's Boys' National School Ferrybank

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Nollaig Shona Daoibh! Merry Christmas!
Wesołych Świąt! كُل سَنَةٍ/عَامٍ وَأَنْتُمْ طَيِّبٌ/بِخَيْرٍ
Veselé Vianoce! Linksmu Kalēdu!
Feliz Natal! Sretan Božić!
Veselé Vánoce! Crăciun fericit!
Häid Jõule! Priecīgus ziemassvētkus!

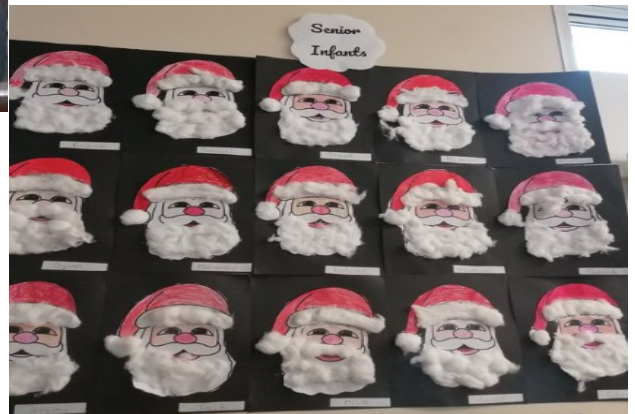


As we approach the end of a very busy term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our staff, pupils and parents a happy and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all back in St. Mary's in January 2024. A reminder that school will reopen on Monday 8th January.



Annual Carol Service 2023

Well done to all our 5th and 6th class pupils on the production of our annual Carol Service. A special mention must go to Mr. Rynne and Mr. Fitzgerald who prepared the boys so well in recent weeks.



Christmas Raffle

A huge thank you to all those who supported our Christmas Raffle. The raffle is only possible thanks to the wonderful support from local businesses who donated some excellent prizes. Thanks to Dave, our caretaker, for collecting the prizes in recent weeks. Thanks also to Kelly, one of our parents, who assisted members of our Student Council to carry out the raffle. **A total of €2,283 was raised.** Below is a list of the companies who donated prizes and the winners from the raffle:

No.	Prize	Winner
1	Waterford Marine Search and Rescue Power Boat Course (Value €300)	Eugenie Luma Gabila
2	Treacy's Hotel Group—Weekend Away (Value €250)	Ellen Ryan
3	Slieverue Tyres (Value €100)	Marie Robinson
4	Mattress Mick (Value €100)	Kanyapak Power
5	Heery's Voucher (Value €100)	Gbolabo Femi
6	Supervalu Kilbarry Sweet Hamper (Value €80)	Anne Burke
7	Ken Browne Fitness One Month Gym Membership (Value €60)	Ingela Murvae
8	Electro City Coffee Machine (Value €60)	Paddy Donoghue
9	Enzo's Voucher (Value €50)	Paula Smith
10	Tesco Ferrybank Hamper (Value €50)	Gleidson Costa
11	SPAR Ferrybank Hamper	Jakov Brzovic
12	SPAR Ferrybank Hamper	Alicja
13	CarryOut Off Licence Barrack Street Hamper (Value €50)	David Drohan
14	Morris's DIY Christmas Ornament (Value €50)	Oscar Baines
15	Woodies Christmas Decoration (Value €40)	Przemek
16	Ballymountain Home Value Coal and Blocks (Value €30)	Jacinta Byrne
17	Bloom Café (Value €25)	Luma Gabila
18	Time to Paws Dog Grooming (Value €50)	Jake Kehoe



Child Protection

The Board completed its annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement. Notification of this review is available on the school website under the Downloads tab.



Admission for Junior Infants 2024/25

Please note the deadline for receipt of applications for the 2024/25 school year is 20/01/2024. For more information please visit our website or [click here](#).

Science Week

Classes engaged with different activities and experiments to celebrate Science Week in November. Our 5th and 6th classes held a showcase where they presented their experiments and findings to other classes in the school. Some groups created a slideshow of their experiment and presented it to their peers.



Santa Dash 2023

The boys from Juniors to 6th participated in a Santa Dash on Wednesday 20th December. Thanks to Ms. Quillinan for organising the event. The boys raised €400 in aid of 'Junior for Junior's' (Paediatric Ward at University Hospital Waterford). Well done to all involved! Thanks to the Ferrybank GAA club for use of the facilities and to local community Gardaí who were present for the run.

Christmas Plays

Well done to all the teachers and pupils from Juniors to 4th for all the hard work that was put in to prepare for the Christmas Plays. It was great to welcome parents and grandparents to the school. A huge amount of preparation was put in by pupils and staff and they were thoroughly enjoyed by all on the day. Míle buíochas do gach duine!



Little Blue Heroes

Attendance Update

Comhghairdeas Rang a Ceathair! Well done to our 4th class pupils who won the Attendance Race from Halloween to Christmas. They had the least number of absences over this period. From 8th January, we will also be introducing our weekly attendance lotto. This will be run in each individual class and there is a guaranteed winner in each class every week. All pupils need to do to be in with a chance of winning the lotto is to be in school for a full week, Monday to Friday. So we are encouraging every pupil and their parents to “Strive for Five!”

Our aim is for each class to achieve an attendance rate of at least 95%. See below a table which compares last years attendance rates for the period of September—December against this years numbers. We have noted a significant improvement across the school but have not quite reached the 95% mark yet!

	2022/23	2023/24
Juniors	84%	94%
Seniors	85%	89%
1st	91%	94%
2nd	88%	92%
3rd	94%	92%
4th	92%	93%
5th	90%	92%
6th	86%	91%
Number of days missed from Sept. to Dec.	1650	552

As a parent, what do I do if my child is reluctant to come to school or I'm concerned about the number of days he is missing?

- It's best to **act quickly**. Good attendance is a habit. If pupils get in to the habit of missing days here and there, their attendance gets progressively worse each year. **Contact the class teacher or school principal** if you are concerned. We are here to help.
- Visit our website www.ferrybankbns.ie where you will find very useful information for parents around promoting good attendance under the parent tab or simply [click here](#).



Popcorn Party
to celebrate
4th class'
excellent attendance

Strive for 5. Be in school 5 days a week.

Bí ar scoil cúig lá sa tseachtain

كن في المدرسة خمسة أيام في الأسبوع

Ano n'ụlọ akwụkwọ ụbọchị ise n'izu

ههفتهی پینج رۆژ له قوتابخانه به

Esiet skolā piecas dienas nedēļā

ਹਫ਼ਤੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੰਜ ਦਿਨ ਸਕੂਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਹੋ

Бути в школі п'ять днів на тиждень