



Corridor Echoes

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

Volume 20

Issue 3

December

2025



Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir!



Message from the Principal.

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding school term, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone in our school community.

To our pupils, thank you for your hard work, enthusiasm and kindness throughout the year — you continue to make our school a happy and vibrant place to learn each day.

To our parents and guardians, thank you for your ongoing support, encouragement and partnership with the school. Your involvement and cooperation are truly valued and play such an important role in the success of our pupils.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our staff — teaching and support staff alike — for your dedication and commitment to the care and education of our pupils. Your hard work does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

I would like to wish you all a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all back in school on 5th January.

Admissions for Junior Infants 2026/27

We are currently accepting applications for Junior Infants for September 2026. Please note the deadline for submitting an application is 23/01/2026. For those wishing to apply, you can do so:

- via [online application form](#) available under the downloads tab on our school website or
- by requesting a copy of the application form by emailing admin@ferrybankbns.ie

Santa Dash 2025

Our annual Santa Dash took place on Tuesday 16th of December in aid of St. John's Children's Ward in Crumlin. Thanks to Ms. Quillinan for organising the event. A fantastic amount of €570 was raised. Thank you so much for your donations and incredible generosity!



Christmas Raffle: A huge thank you to all those who supported our Christmas Raffle. There was a great response. This is only possible thanks to the wonderful support from local businesses who donated some excellent prizes. A total of **€1,605** was raised. Below is the list of companies who donated prizes and the winners from the raffle.

<i>Company/Business</i>	<i>Prize</i>	<i>Winner</i>
Harvey Travel	2 night break plus 1 evening meal. Value €350	Rebecca Kelly
Treacy's Hotel, Spirit Leisure Centre	6 months membership. Value €300	Niamh Territt
Mobile Tech	Voucher €200	Angela Hearne
Audi Waterford	One 4 All Voucher. Value €150	Justina Vaisnorieni
RTS Heating	One 4 All Voucher. Value €150	Justina Vaisnorieni
Kelly and Dollard	JBL Speaker. Value €100	Nicola Jordan
Supervalu Kilbarry	Sweet Hamper. Value €60	Marianne Sinnott
O'Sullivan's	Voucher. Value €50	Ann Walsh
Carry Out, Barrack St.	Hamper. Value €50	Maria Lysenko
Aldi, Ferrybank	Voucher. Value €50	Lisa Mooney
Sheridans Kia	Fuel Voucher €50	Christine Ennis
The REG	Voucher. Dinner for Two	Brian Hunt
The Viking Hotel	Voucher. Dinner for Two	Audrey Walsh
Tesco Ferrybank	€20 voucher	Ann-Marie Walsh



Christmas Carol Service, Plays and a visit from Santa Claus!

Thank you to all our parents and families who attended their son's performance or Carol Service in recent days. Well done to all our pupils and thanks to all the teachers and staff involved in preparing for these events. Thanks to Fr. Whearty and Angela in the Parish Office for arranging access to the Parish Centre for the school plays. Thanks also to Dave, our caretaker, for preparing this space and having it ready for classes to perform.



Left and below—Little Red Kettle

We were delighted to welcome Little Red Kettle to St. Mary’s recently. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience and put on a wonderful performance.



Below—Litter Pick with Abbey CC

TY students from Abbey Community College teamed up with the 3rd class boys of St. Mary’s Boys National School, Ferrybank for a collaborative litter pick as part of the Waterford Schools Litter Picking Challenge.

Students completed a litter survey and delivered a respect lesson, aiming to set a positive example in keeping their community clean and acting as role models for younger generations.



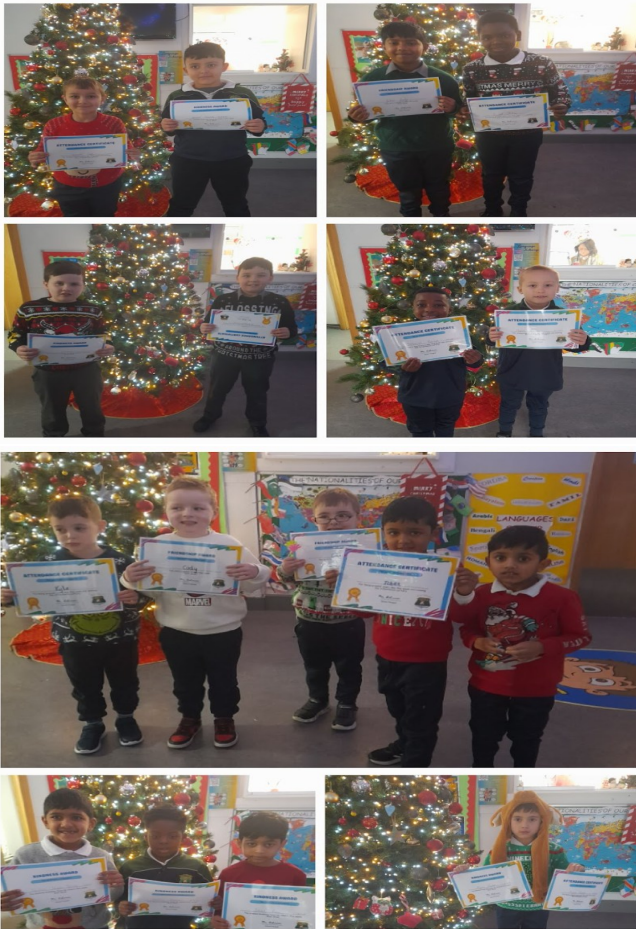
Road Safety

Thanks to our two local Gardaí, John and Conor, who came in to us recently to talk to pupils from 5th and 6th classes about:

- ⇒ How to be safe on the road whether walking, cycling or scooting
- ⇒ The importance of being safe online, the dangers of sharing information or communicating with people you do not know
- ⇒ And how to behave responsibly if/when using devices that have access to the internet



Below and right: Pupils recently presented with awards for showing acts of kindness and excellent attendance. Maith sibh a bhuachaillí!



Policy Review/Development

The Board completed its annual review of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Notification of this review, and the updated policy, is available on the school website under the Downloads tab.

In Term 2 we will be reviewing our Bí Cineálta Policy, and developing a policy on the use of/access to Mobile Phones and other Smart Devices. Parents, pupils and staff will be invited to give input into the above policies and procedures early in Term 2.

Below: Please see attendance data for the current school year. How does our Tier 1 data (Green column) compare to last year? We’ve seen an improvement in September of 2.7%; an improvement in October of 13%; and a significant improvement in November of 18.7%. We saw a significant increase in the number of absences this year in December due to the impact of the flu which is outside of anyone’s control. As we look forward to January we would like to reinforce the importance of being in school every day and being on time. A reminder of our overall target for this year — which is to have as many pupils as possible in the green /Tier 1 category ie where they are present for 95% of the time. Last year 25.6% of our pupils fell into Tier 1. This year we aim to improve this by at least 5% and have 30% or more of our pupils in Tier 1 by the end of the year.

<p>Tier 1: Satisfactory/Regular Attendance</p> <p>Attending: 95% or more of the time</p> <p>Goal: At least 80% of students</p>	<p>Tier 2: At-Risk for Chronic Absenteeism</p> <p>Attending: less than 95% but 90% or more of the time</p> <p>Goal: No more than 15% of students</p>	<p>Tier 3: Chronic Absenteeism</p> <p>Attending: less than 90% of the time</p> <p>Goal: No more than 5% of students</p>
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Graph by Month
 2025 / 2026
 28/08/2025 - 19/12/2025

