



# Corridor Echoes

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

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## Attendance Awards

Congratulations to the boys that claimed prizes in our Attendance Lot-to over the last two weeks. Boys that are present for a full week are entered into the lotto and a winner is selected from each class at the end of the week. We also have our Attendance Race which is a competition between all classes. Classes move on one place if they achieve an average of 95% for the week. The class with the best attendance that week moves on two places. Regular school attendance results in better outcomes for our pupils and that is why we are encouraging everyone to Strive for Five!

See the table below which illustrates our average attendance rate per class for the first two weeks of January. Our aim is to reach an average attendance rate of 95% across all classes.

## Irish Sign Language lessons

The school applied for funding to engage with an external tutor who comes in once a week to teach another language with pupils from 3rd - 6th class. The lessons are part of the "Say Yes to Languages" Campaign run by Languages Connect under the umbrella of the PPLI. Lorraine, our tutor, is working with the boys for an eight week period. Thanks also to Ms. Tuohy for coordinating this initiative.

Class	Week 1	Week 2	Average
Juniors	97.4%	86.1%	91.75%
Seniors	95.8%	93.3%	94.5%
1st	96.4%	92.1%	94.2%
2nd	93.6%	89.3%	91.4%
3rd	97.3%	94%	95.6%
4th	96.9%	96.9%	96.9%
5th	89.3%	96.7%	93%
6th	92%	96.8%	94.4%



### Policy review

The staff and Board will complete our annual review of our Anti-bullying policy and the school's Statement of Strategy for School Attendance. If parents would like to view the current policies they can be accessed under the Downloads tab on our website. Suggested amendments (if any) are welcome and can be forwarded to [admin@ferrybankbns.ie](mailto:admin@ferrybankbns.ie) before 3pm on Friday 2nd February.



**Literacy work above in Senior Infants**



**Ready Set Go Maths Activities in our Junior and Senior Infant Rooms.**



### School closures

- Monday 5th February—Bank Holiday
- 15th and 16th February—Mid Term Break
- Wednesday 28th February—Staff training for new Maths Curriculum
- Friday 8th March—Referendum
- Monday 18th March—following St. Patrick's Day
- Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April—Easter

### Internet Safety Workshops

Pupils from 3rd—6th class took part in Internet Safety Workshops on Thursday 18th January. The boys learned about a number of different areas. There was a particular focus on how to be safe online, cyberbullying, how we use the internet responsibly and also highlighting how people we may add as friends online may portray themselves in a certain way but are often very different in reality. A parent workshop was held that evening. Thanks to those parents who attended and we hope it offered an insight into how we can ensure our young people are safe when accessing the internet and how we can ensure they use it in an appropriate manner!

If you would like to find advice/support on this area, please visit [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie). Under the Parent tab you will find information on the following:

- Advice for parents
- Videos for parents
- Apps explained
- How to section. This is very useful and includes a guide on how you can set up parental controls on all devices in your home. This means you can set specific time limits on your children's use of the internet; control/block games your child can access; manage content children can search for online; and more!



### Sacrament classes

**Confession**—Wednesday 6th March

**Communion**—Saturday 27th April

**Ceremony of Light**—Wednesday 1st May

**Confirmation**—Saturday 18th May

### Chess

Boys from 5th and 6th competed in an internal Chess League in recent weeks. Best of luck to pupils from 5th and 6th class who are selected to compete and represent the school in the upcoming Chess Tournament in Gaelscoil na nDéise on Tuesday 30th January. Thanks to Mr. Fitzgerlad and Mr. Rynne for organising the internal league and assembling our Chess Team!

### Stay Safe Programme

All classes from juniors to 6th class are covering the Stay Safe Programme in January/February. This is a personal safety education programme. The aim of the Stay Safe programme is to teach children personal safety skills so they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous. It deals initially with common situations which most children will experience at some stage or other, e.g. getting lost or being bullied. The programme also teaches children the safety skills necessary to protect themselves from physical or sexual abuse and emphasises the importance of telling a trusted adult about any problems they have. The Stay Safe programme is part of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum which all primary schools are required to implement. Co-operation between parents and teachers is essential to the success of this programme. It is important that parents are aware of the content of the Stay Safe lessons and are able to discuss the lessons with their children. Your child may bring home worksheets which will inform you on the topics being covered in class and how you can reinforce the messages at home. You can familiarise yourself with the content of the Stay Safe lessons at [www.staysafe.ie/teachers/resources](http://www.staysafe.ie/teachers/resources). Please contact the school if you wish to discuss the programme further. Thank you for your co-operation,

### Enrolment for 2024/25

The deadline for receipt of applications for the 2024/25 school year has now passed, as of 20/01/2024. All applicants will receive a communication from the school by 03/02/2024 with regard to their application.





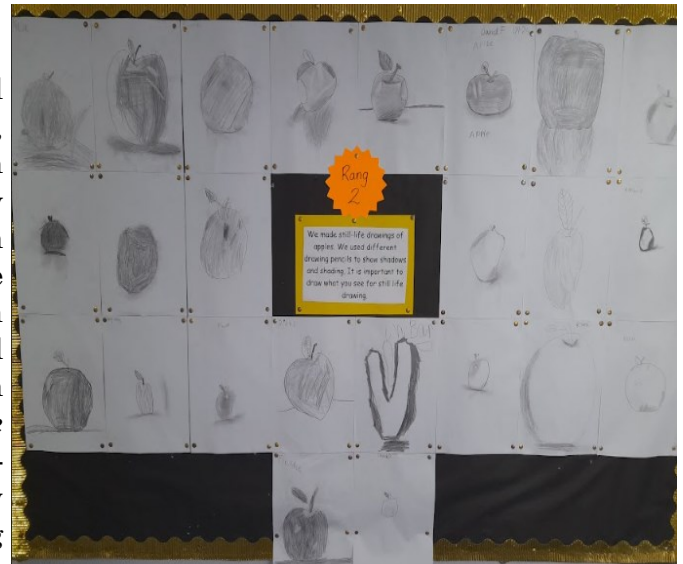
### Hot School Meals

St. Mary's BNS received approval for the Hot School Meal Scheme. This means that, in the near future, every pupil in our school will receive a hot lunch each day, along with the snacks that they currently receive. Parents and pupils will receive information relating to how the scheme works and will be able to select what meal they would like by using an App. The school is currently in the tender stage and will be selecting a company to provide the meals in the next couple of weeks. ***The start date for the scheme is not yet known***, but we will share further information regarding start date, menus, how the scheme operates etc with you in the coming weeks.



### Chromebooks

Pupils using IT to research new topics in SESE; reinforce what they are learning in Maths through online games/programmes; compiling and presenting project work to their peers; add to ePortfolios - just some of the ways IT is being used to support teaching and learning activities in St. Mary's BNS



**Above:** still life drawings from Rang a Dó using different pencils to show shadows and shading.

**Below:** 3-D Cups from Rang a Trí.



### New Parental Complaints Procedure

The revised parental complaints procedure agreed by the INTO and the management bodies of primary schools is designed to provide an open and clearly defined process to facilitate parents/legal guardians in raising concerns about their own child/children in an agreed, fair and transparent manner, with a view to seeking an early resolution of the issue.

The purpose of the revised procedure is for parents and legal guardians to engage constructively with schools where a concern arises and to have it addressed at local level in an efficient manner, in the best interests of all parties.

The procedures can be accessed under the Downloads tab on our school website or by [clicking here](#).