



# Corridor Echoes

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

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## Junior Achievement

Thanks to Kristina, our 4th class pupils and Ms. Kelly for their work in supporting the boys to participate in the Local Enterprise Achievement Programme (LEAP). The aim of LEAP is to encourage early stage entrepreneurship and enterprise spirit. It helps them learn how to become entrepreneurs and enables them to design a business plan. The final stage of the programme involved our 4th class pupils visiting SETU and presenting their business plans in the form of posters to the judges, otherwise known as FROGS (For Recognition Of Greatness in Students)! One of our groups received the award for having the best business plan. Well done to all involved!



## Athletics in the RSC

St. Mary's BNS had great success at the annual athletics competition in the RSC in May. All boys competed in trials and representatives from each class attended the competition. They did themselves proud on the day with a number of winners in different races while St. Mary's received first place in the all boys school competition and third in the overall competition for large urban schools. Well done to all involved. There are certainly some future athletes in our midst!



## Important Notice

**Parents, please note that:-**

**The following school fee is now due for each pupil for the school year 2023/24:**

**€35** fee for art and craft material for each pupil; photocopying costs; Aladdin; Administration costs. The school has issued an ePayment request to each family. You can pay this fee:

- ⇒ online using the secure link you received by email
- ⇒ by calling the office on 051851399

Please note, if any family is experiencing difficulty in relation to payment of these fees, you should contact the school on 051851399 or email [admin@ferrybankbns.ie](mailto:admin@ferrybankbns.ie) and we will be able to assist you.

Please note, this is the only fee charged as we no longer require book rental fees from families and we do not collect voluntary contributions. Please complete payment before the return to school on 31st August.

## Surveys during 2022/23

Thank you to all those who completed the surveys issued during Term 2 this year.

The survey around school opening times was completed by staff and parents. The results were discussed by the Board of Management and it was agreed that based on the results, the current opening / closing times will remain in place for the coming school year and may be reviewed again in the future.

The survey on the impact of Covid 19 provided our staff with a real insight into how your children have been impacted by school closures resulting from Covid 19. This information along with the survey results from our Parents Wellbeing Questionnaire will assist us in formulating our School Self Evaluation Report and School Improvement Plan for 2023/24 and we hope to share our targets and SIP with you in Term 1 next year.

## School Calendar

Our school calendar for 2023/24 is available on our website [www.ferrybankbns.ie](http://www.ferrybankbns.ie) or can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

## Staff for 2023/24

Junior Infants—Ms. Heffernan

Senior Infants—Ms. Cummins

1st class—Ms. Donoghue

2nd class—Ms. Walsh

3rd class—Ms. Wemyss

4th class—Ms. Kelly

5th class—Mr. Fitzgerald

6th class—Mr. Rynne

Our SEN team is as follows—Ms. Quillinan; Ms. Grant; Ms. Bulman; Ms. Power/Ms. Duggan; Ms. Whelan/Ms. Dooley; Ms. Tuohy.

We have two SNAs for the coming year—Ms. Farrell and Mr. Murphy.

## Attendance / Punctuality

One of the most significant impacts from Covid 19 on schools has been on attendance.

- ⇒ In 2017/18, fewer than 10 pupils missed 20 days or more—that's less than 5% of pupils
- ⇒ In 2018/19, 11 pupils missed 20 days or more—also less than 5% of pupils.
- ⇒ We now have a situation where over 80 pupils a year are absent for 20 days or more—that's almost 40% of pupils that are missing 20 days or more each year!

Pupils missing 20 days or more each year will actually miss the equivalent of one full school year by the time they reach 6th class! Pupils should be in school every day they are well enough to attend and should only be absent from school in exceptional circumstances.





## Green Schools

We were delighted to receive our 6th Green Flag this year for Global Citizenship and Litter and Waste. Members of our Green Schools Committee went to the awards ceremony in Hotel Kilkenny. Thanks to all the members of our Green School Committee and Ms. Quillinan our Green Schools Coordinator.

The Green Schools Committee had regular meetings; participated in the Game Changers Programme from Trócaire; collected batteries; reduced litter and waste in our school; learned about Global Citizenship; raised money through a Santa Dash for Juniors for Juniors in UHW and so much more. Well done to all involved!

## Sport

Term 3 has been a busy one here in St. Mary's BNS. We had our annual medals presentation to celebrate achievements in soccer, basketball, Gaelic football and hurling. The final of the John Collin's Tournament was played on 20th June in Ferrybank GAA club. We had martial arts classes with Paul Hearne in June. Our 5aside soccer team made it all the way to the Munster Finals and competed really well on the day in Cahir. Well done to all of the boys who participated so well during these competitions. It is great to see such a variety of sporting activities taking place again. Thanks to all of the teachers involved who organised these events over the last number of weeks! Without your support none of this would be possible so go raibh mile maith agaibh! A special mention to Conor Doheny who won the highly sought after Sportsman of the Year award. Very well deserved!



## **Sacraments**

Well done to all our pupils from 2nd and 6th class who celebrated their First Holy Communion and Confirmation in Term 3. The boys were very well prepared. Thanks to Ms. Walsh and Mr. Rynne for helping prepare the boys. Thanks also to Fr. Kieran and Angela in the Parish Office.

## **School Uniform and Tracksuit**

**All pupils, from 2nd—6th class must have a full school uniform and a school tracksuit in September.** **Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st class only require a school tracksuit.** They are not required to wear the school uniform in these classes. There is a great deal of active play in these classes and it was found that pupils are more comfortable and find it easier to engage in this form of learning when in their tracksuit.

## **Summer Stars Reading Programme**

Summer Stars is the public library national summer reading programme for children that runs from the 12th of June until the end of August. All children throughout the country are invited to join the adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer. Summer Stars is non-competitive and every child who reads even one book/e-book is regarded as having completed the programme – and it's all completely free! Visit the local library to find out more.



## **End of Year**

We would like to wish all of our school community a very happy and safe summer break. Also a sincere thank you to parents, pupils and staff for all of their hard work and support throughout this school year! We look forward to another busy year ahead!

## **Parents Association**

Thanks so much to our Parents Association who have been heavily involved in supporting our school during 2022/23. Proceeds from the Jersey Day (€469) were used to hire equipment for our sports day and went toward the cost of refreshments etc for our 6th class graduation.

€954.80 was raised in our Easter Raffle and we are extremely grateful to all who supported these initiatives.

Thanks once again and as always we would encourage parents to join where possible! A special word of thanks to Denise Mulally who has been on our PA for the last 10 years!

## **Keep in touch!**

To learn more about what is happening in our school on a daily basis please visit our school website [www.ferrybankbns.ie](http://www.ferrybankbns.ie) or our Twitter page - @stmarysbnsfb. You'll find plenty of pictures and information about the many activities taking place in our school on a daily basis! The school office will reopen the week before we return in August.