



Corridor Echoes

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Culture Day in St. Mary's BNS

We were delighted to celebrate our first Culture Day in St. Mary's BNS. It was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to learn about different cultures. Pupils spoke to their peers and other classes about their own culture and shared information around traditions, popular food, items of clothing, languages, sport and so much more. We have over 37 different nationalities in our school and feel very fortunate to have such a diverse pupil population where we can learn from each other. We would like to thank all our pupils for engaging so enthusiastically with this initiative. Thanks so much to our parents who went to such great lengths to celebrate this day by helping the boys complete their information booklets at home, by preparing traditional dishes/meals and sending them in with the boys and for preparing items of clothing and sharing these with us for the day. A big thank you also to Mr. Fitzgerald for supplying all the flags at the front of the school and Ms. Tuohy for organising and coordinating this day. Míle buíochas do gach duine!

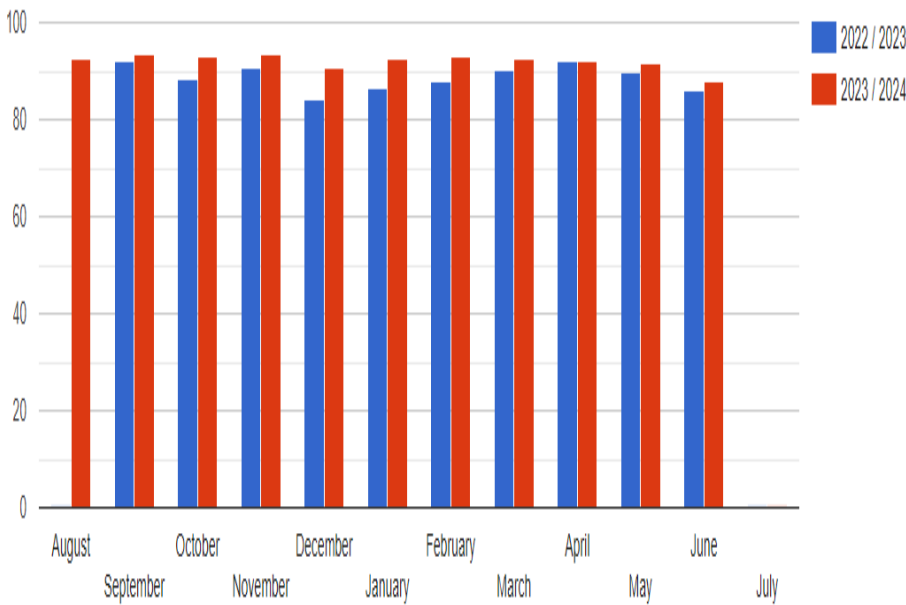


Attendance/Kindness Awards

Some recent winners of our attendance awards and awards given for acts of friendship/ kindness. All pupils need to do to be in with a chance of winning the attendance award in their class is to be present for the full week. Improving attendance rates was identified as a key priority through the school self evaluation process and is one of the areas we are working on in St. Mary's BNS. One of the aims for this area is for classes to achieve an average attendance rate of 95%. While we have not hit this target in 2023/24, the attendance rates improved every month when compared to the 2022/23 school year. Please see the chart and table below for further information.



Percentage present



Month	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024
August		92.4%
September	92.0%	93.6%
October	88.2%	92.9%
November	90.5%	93.5%
December	84.3%	90.6%
January	86.6%	92.4%
February	88.0%	93.1%
March	90.3%	92.6%
April	91.9%	92.1%
May	89.6%	91.8%
June	86.2%	87.9%, partial
July		
Total	88.8%	92.5%





Sacrament classes

Well done to all our pupils who celebrated their First Holy Communion and Confirmation in recent weeks. Thanks to Fr. Whearty and Bishop Coll for such a meaningful celebration on both occasions. Thanks also to Ms. Walsh and Mr. Rynne who put in so much work and prepared the boys to receive the sacraments.

Parents Association

Thanks to all our families who supported fundraising events throughout the year and in recent years. The school has purchased a number of picnic benches, fitted with gameboard tops (see image below) and will be installing these over the summer. Funds for this project were raised through the PA last year and we look forward to using these in the future. Thanks also to the PA for subsidising the cost of school buses for events during the year and for supporting the school in preparing for upcoming events such as the sports day and graduation.



Hot School Meals

We're delighted to see such a great uptake on the hot school lunches. A reminder to please send the lunch box, which was given to your son on the 8th of April, into school each day so they can bring home their lunch/waste each day. These will be collected from your son on the final day of school and returned to them in September.

End of Year

As we approach the end of the school year we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- ⇒ Parents will receive their stationary list and school calendar for 2024/25 next week via Aladdin Connect. Your son's teacher for 2024/25 will be marked on this document. These will be also available on the school website from the end of June. The school will provide all school books, textbooks and copybooks for your son for 2024/25.
- ⇒ Report cards will be released to parents on Friday 19th June via Aladdin Connect.
- ⇒ The End of Year School Mass is on at 11am on Monday 17th June in Sacred Heart Church in Ferrybank.

RSC Athletics

Well done to all of the boys who participated in the athletics trials in May and those that went on to represent the school in the RSC. It was a wet day but the boys performed extremely well and a number of pupils went on to win medals in the event. Thanks also to the teachers for organising the trials and attending the event on the day!

Pictured below: Members of our athletics team who competed in the RSC in recent weeks.



Pictured above: Our U-13 hurlers wearing the new jerseys sponsored by Freshtoday.



Languages Connect

Pupils from 3rd - 6th class entered an art competition following Irish Sign Language lessons. See below some of our winners plus sample entries.

