



Corridor Echoes

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It's been a very busy start to the term and we were delighted to welcome back our pupils following the summer break. A very special welcome to all our Junior Infant pupils, new pupils in various classes up through the school and their families. We hope that you will have many happy years with us.





Cross Country Competition

The annual Waterford City Primary Schools Cross Country Event was held at Waterford RSC Playing Pitches on Tuesday September 17th. Pupils from 1st—6th class competed in trials in school and the top 6 runners from each class group represented St. Mary's BNS at the competition. The boys performed really well on the day with a number of pupils receiving medals for their achievements! The boys ran distances ranging from 200m to 800m. Thanks to the teachers for organising the trials and accompanying them to the event!



Bake Sale

Our annual Bake Sale will take place on Wednesday 23rd October. All pupils are invited to bring in something for the bake sale (it can be homemade or not). Pupils can bring in a small sum of money to purchase items on the day. Thanks to members of our Student Council, led by Ms. Tuohy, who are organising the event.



School Calendar for 2024 / 2025

The school calendar is available to download from our website www.ferrybankbns.ie or by [clicking here](#).

School Fees

The deadline for payment of the school fee (€35 per pupil) was 1st September 2024. A reminder has been sent to families where this fee is outstanding. Please ensure this is paid before 25/10/2024.

Child Protection

It is important for parents to be aware that Mr Robinson is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP), and Ms Quillinan is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL). If there is ever a child protection concern it should be brought in the first instance to the attention of the DLP. If the DLP is not available the concern should be brought to the DDL. The school's Child Safeguarding Statement, Risk Assessment and Notification of the Board's Annual Review is available on our school website www.ferrybankbns.ie.

Left: Some of our 5th class pupils using IZAK9 cubes to problem solve in small groups.

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality was identified as an area of concern during the school self evaluation process. In an effort to raise awareness around this issue, the school sends a message and/or email when a pupil is absent for 5, 10, 12, 15 and 20 days. We saw a huge improvement in our attendance statistics last year and we look forward to making further improvements in 2024/25. Please see our [Attendance Policy](#) and [Statement of Strategy for School Attendance](#) for further information.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parents will have the opportunity to meet their son's class teacher in November. The meetings will take place between the 18th and 21st of November. Parents will be able to book their meeting time/slot via Aladdin Connect from 04/11/24. Please note, we will send you a notification once the time slots are made available to you. If there is a situation where parents require separate meeting times, please notify the class teacher or contact the office. The school uses the Aladdin Connect App to arrange meetings. If you have any queries about using Connect or how to set it up, please contact the school by emailing admin@ferrybankbns.ie or phoning the office on 051851399.

Parents Association

Our Parents' Association held a Bingo Night on 24/09/24 and raised €725. Thanks to those who were there on the night and to all those who supported the event by purchasing tickets. As always we would encourage all parents to support the work of our Parents' Association as it benefits all pupils in our school.

Spot prizes for the raffle were donated by Tom Murphy Car Sales, St. Dominic Credit Union, Ferrybank Barbers, King Coffee, Shades Salon Ferrybank, Park Lodge Cafe in Peoples Park, Aphrodite Beauty Ferrybank, Halo by Jane Reid. As always, we are extremely grateful to the local businesses in our community for their continued support!



School Uniform and Tracksuit

There has been a significant improvement in this area where pupils are wearing their full school tracksuit/uniform on the correct days. Thanks to parents and pupils for this effort.

In the event that your son does not have the correct tracksuit/uniform on a particular day, please notify the teacher via Aladdin Connect.

A number of families purchased the wrong tracksuit top from KSports. KSports are happy to give a full refund to any family in this situation and should be contacted immediately.



Tesco Blue Tokens

Thanks to our local Tesco in Ferrybank who donated €294 to our school in September through the Blue Token initiative. Thanks to all those who supported this initiative also!



Under our **school improvement plan** we selected a number of areas to prioritise based on feedback from pupils, parents and staff. Two such areas include wellbeing and attendance which is why we recognise/acknowledge attendance and kindness / friendship each week on Friday.

