



Corridor Echoes

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December 2021



Nollaig Shona Daoibh! Merry Christmas!
Wesołych Świąt! كُل سَنَة/عَام وَأَنْتُمْ طَيِّب/بَخَيْر
Veselé Vianoce! Linksmu Kalēdu!
Feliz Natal! Sretan Božić!
Veselé Vánoce! Crăciun fericit!
Häid Jõule! Pricīgus ziemassvētkus!



On behalf of all the staff in St. Mary's BNS, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of our families a very happy and safe Christmas. We hope you all have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the Christmas break. I would like to say a special word of thanks to all of our staff who have gone to great lengths to support each individual child and continue to work hard to ensure our school is as safe as possible. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all our pupils and parents who have been so supportive of all of the measures put in place which are there to keep all of us safe. It has been a challenging year for everybody in our school community but your support and cooperation is very much appreciated as always. Míle buíochas do gach duine. Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh! Le meas, *James Robinson* (Principal)

FINN

MAKER OF LEGO
BREAKER OF BELLS



@twisteddoodles

The Late Late Toy Show!

There was great excitement around the school recently as one of our pupils, Finn, appeared on the Late Late Toy Show! We were all very proud of him and Finn was amazing on the night. We all hope Finn and his family enjoy the trip to Legoland! All of the boys were thrilled and would like to say a big thank you to Finn for giving them homework off also!





Christmas Raffle



We are delighted to announce the details of our Christmas raffle. Once again we have some excellent prizes on offer including, but not limited to:

- Virtual Reality Headsets x 2
- Pink's meal voucher
- Heery's meal voucher
- Supervalu sweet hamper
- Cartumundi board game hamper
- Meat voucher
- Tesco sweet hamper
- McDonald's family meal voucher
- Christmas decorations from Michael Guiney
- Tipperary Crystal piece from Shaws
- Dunnes sweet hamper

Books of tickets have been distributed to the eldest in each family. Individual tickets cost €2 or a full book for €5. Please return all tickets (sold and unsold) by Friday 17th December. The raffle will take place in the school on 21/12/21. Your support is very much appreciated. A special word of thanks to Dave for organising the prizes and the local businesses for contributing so generously to our raffle!

New Resources!

The school would like to give you an insight into how the money collected from Book Rental fees and previous fundraisers has been invested so far this year. We've purchased new English schemes, Irish schemes and Maths schemes in a range of classes and this is extended each year.

We've also made a significant investment in levelled readers. Most recently, we purchased €2000 worth of readers including PM Readers; a variety of *Big Books*; Dandelion Readers; Jolly Readers and much more. This means that pupils will have a wide variety of reading material to suit all ability levels.

We've also purchased additional Math's resources for classes implementing the *Ready Set Go Maths* Programme. These hands on materials are a great resource as pupils begin to develop their mathematical skills and knowledge using concrete materials!



School Calendar for 2021 / 2022

Wednesday 22nd December: Half day. School closes for Christmas holidays

Thursday 6th January 2020: School re-opens

Thursday 24th & Friday 25th February: School closed for Mid-term Break

Thursday 17th March: St. Patrick's Day. School closed.

Monday 11th April: School closed for Easter holidays

Monday 25th April: School re-opens

Monday 2nd May: School closed

Monday 6th June: School closed

Friday 24th June: End of school year; school closes for summer holidays



Parents Parking Promise

We were thrilled to see such a huge response to the *Parents Parking Promise* and would like to say a sincere thank you to all those parents that have signed and returned the *Parking Promise*. We've noticed a significant improvement in the last 2 weeks and it is much safer for pupils as they enter/exit the school. We will be highlighting this initiative with all new entrants to the school and it will help make the school environment a much safer place for pupils, parents and staff, particularly during drop off and collection times.

School Fees

Junior Infants/Senior Infants/1st class:

⇒ **€36** (Photocopying, Art and Craft and Digital License Fee) due before 30/09/21

2nd to 6th class:

⇒ **€30** (Photocopying, Art & Craft) due before 30/09/21

⇒ **€40** (Book Rental Fee) due before 30/09/21

An email and text message containing an ePayment link has been forwarded to families where there are unpaid fees. As always, we would ask families to contact the school if they are experiencing any difficulty in relation to payment of the above fees. Thank you for your cooperation in relation to the above!

Child Protection

The Board of Management updated the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and conducted the Annual Review of this policy at its most recent meeting on 30/11/2021.

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.

Spanish lessons for 3rd—6th class

We would like to say a sincere thank you to Ms McHugh who has been providing Spanish lessons to pupils from 3rd-6th over the last number of weeks. The boys really enjoyed them and I'm sure got a real flavour for the language. Gracias Ms. McHugh!

Parent Teacher Meetings

Please note that parent teacher meetings will be held in February 2022. Parents will receive a message from the school before the end of January indicating that they can book a time slot to speak to their son's teacher. This will be done via Aladdin Connect. In the meantime, if you would like to communicate with the class teacher you can do so through the noticeboard feature on *Aladdin Connect*. If you do not have access to *Aladdin Connect* please contact the office on 051851399 and we'd be happy to help you set it up.



**ST. MARY'S BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL,
FERRYBANK, WATERFORD. ROLL NO: 18235D**



Annual Admission Notice

in respect of admissions to the 2022/2023 school year

Admission Policy and Application Form

A copy of the school's Admission Policy and the Application Form for Admission for the 2022/2023 school year is available as follows: -

- To download at <https://www.ferrybankbns.ie> (under Parent's Tab)
- On request through one of the following:
 1. Calling into the school (by appointment only)
 2. Emailing admin@ferrybankbns.ie
 3. Writing to: St. Mary's Boys' National School, Ferrybank, Waterford. X91AF80.

PART 1 – Admissions to the 2022/2023 school year

Application and Decision Dates for admission to 2022/2023 school year

The following are the dates applicable for admission to Junior Infants

The school will commence accepting applications for admission on	01/11/2021
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on	21/01/2022
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is	04/02/2022
The date by which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	21/02/2022

Data Protection

The school recently reviewed and updated our Data Protection Policy and Data Privacy Statement for Parents (both available under policies tab on our school website www.ferrybankbns.ie). The main update is that we will be storing Student Support Files and accompanying reports (Psychological, OT, Speech and Language etc) on our Admin system, Aladdin. This information is stored securely, password protected and only accessible to teachers who are working with that particular child. Teachers working with particular pupils need regular access to this information for preparing plans, setting targets etc.

Science Week/Maths Week

Science Week and Maths Week were celebrated in the school in recent weeks and classes were busy engaging in a range of activities and experiments. Thanks to Ms Tuohy for organising the science webinars and also to Kevin Burtchaell from Keltia Engineering who has been working with 5th and 6th class pupils.