



Corridor Echoes

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Information from the HSE

Bacteria and viruses from hundreds of homes meet at crèches, schools and day-care centres every day. It is a fact that the ten best things to spread bugs amongst children are the ten fingers on their hands.

Young children are at increased risk for contracting infectious diseases because they:

- ♦ Tend to sneeze and cough into their hands
- ♦ Are grouped together and are exposed to many germs
- ♦ Have immune systems that are not fully developed to fight germs
- ♦ Have personal habits that spread germs such as thumb sucking, rubbing eyes and putting things in their mouths.

The HSE have created a useful online resource which can be accessed on www.e-bug.eu/. e-Bug is a free educational resource for classroom and home use. It enables fun and accessible learning for all students around micro-organisms and the spread, prevention and treatment of infection.

The HSE Under the Weather website has been updated recently (www.undertheweather.ie) and there is information on how to manage common illnesses. It focuses on reducing the use of antibiotics and empowering people to self-manage simple illnesses such as colds, coughs, sore throat, ear ache, rashes and flu.

Christmas Raffle

Thanks a million to everyone who supported our Christmas Raffle before the holidays. The school raised €3,340. We appreciate all of the support from our pupils, staff, parents and members of the wider community. A special prize was awarded to 4th class who raised the most amount of money in the school and one of our 4th class pupils received a prize for collecting more than any other individual. Thanks to our Parents' Association and Dave for organising the fundraiser. Finally a big thank you to all the businesses and people who sponsored the prizes. Míle buíochas do gach duine a thug airgead/duaiseanna dúinn!!!

Enrolment

Enrolment for the Junior Infant Classes for September 2020 is now open. Parents/Guardians can come to the school to complete the application process or complete an application form on our school website www.ferrybankbns.ie. January 24th is the final date for applications.

Stay Safe

The Stay Safe programmes will be taught to all classes in January and February. Information regarding the Stay Safe programme was sent home last week so please look out for it. If you need any further information please visit <https://www.pdst.ie/Stay-Safe-Teachers> where you can view the material which will be covered by each class.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated from 26th January to 2nd February. The theme is 'Living in Harmony With God's Creation.'

Green-Schools

St. Mary's Boys' National School has received 5 Green Flags in recent years for making improvements in the following areas:

- ◆ Litter and waste
- ◆ Energy
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Travel
- ◆ Biodiversity

Our Green School's Committee is currently working to reduce the amount of waste going into our bins, ensuring pupils use the recycling and waste bins correctly and reducing our gas and electricity usage.

Pupils are reminded to bring all of their lunch related waste home with them including packaging, cartons, food, wrappers etc. The added benefit of this is that parents can see exactly what their child is eating while in school.

Each class has appointed a bin monitor to keep an eye on this area. Classes have also appointed energy monitors to make sure projectors and lights are switched off when they are not required. They will also keep all external doors closed to keep the heat in the building and reduce heating costs.

Book Rental / Photocopying+Art:

A gentle reminder to the small number of parents who still owe some money for our book rental scheme and the photocopying/Art charge. These schemes work when all parents pay the small fees that we charge. Teachers photocopy certain resources rather than putting them on a booklist to keep costs down for parents. If all parents do not pay this fee teachers will be forced to put these items on the booklist which will result in higher costs for parents.

Board of Management

The new Board of Management officially took up office on 1st December and will remain in place for the next four years. The members of the Board of Management are:-

Chairperson: Carmel Wemyss

Patron's Nominee: Fr. Kieran O'Shea P.P.

Principal Teacher: James Robinson

Teachers' Nominee: Tom Fitzgerald

Parents' Nominees: Elaine Brophy & Alan Galibert

Community Nominees: Barbara Wells & Jim Freeman

A special mention must go to Rosemary Hefernan who served on the Board for the last 20 years. Thank you so much Rosemary for your hard work, commitment and dedication to the school.

Important Dates for First Communion

- Tuesday 3rd March: First Confession (in the Church 7.00)
- Saturday 16th May: First Communion

Important Dates for Confirmation

- Thursday 25th March: Ceremony of Light (in the Church 7.00)
- Friday 3rd April: Confirmation

Please check the calendar on our school website www.ferrybankbns.ie for changes to our school calendar or upcoming events.

School Policies

We are currently reviewing and developing the following policies: *Substance Use Policy*, *Acceptable Use Policy*, *Parents As Partners Policy* and our *Anti-Bullying Policy*. If parents would like to make any amendments, they may forward their suggestions to the school by email. Policies may be viewed on the school website or in the school office.

Swimming

Swimming began on Tuesday 14th January. The boys in Junior Infants, 1st Class, 3rd Class and 6th Class are going swimming for the first 5 weeks. The 5 sessions for Senior Infants, 2nd Class, 4th Class and 6th Class will begin on Tuesday 18th February.

The full cost is **€45**. This can be paid in **three instalments of €15** or the entire fee can be paid. The Kingfisher Club charge by the number of pupils given by the school and the bus is a set fee. If paying in instalments this is the plan:-

- * €15 must be returned with the permission slip before the class is due to start the lessons. No child will attend swimming without a permission slip. The remainder must be paid within 3 weeks of the start date for swimming. This money is non-refundable.

On swim days the boys are asked to wear their swimming togs coming to school. They can wear their tracksuits on these days.

It is important to remember that Swimming comes under the Aquatics strand of the Physical Education programme. This will form the class P.E. programme for the 5 weeks. It is very important that all pupils take part. Please do not let the cost of swimming affect your child's participation in swimming. If there is an issue, contact the school office.

Every item of clothing must have the boy's name on it. Imagine 30 polo shirts, 30 pants and 30 tops—all the same—with no name on them! Who owns what? Impossible to know! It can be as simple as writing the name on the label with a biro. However, we must insist that names are on every item of clothing.

Junior Achievement Programme

Our 4th Class pupils will be engaging with the Junior Achievement Programme in the coming weeks. The 4th class programme will run for *40 minutes weekly for five weeks*. In this in-depth and action packed programme, students role-play business ownership, produce a product using different methods of production, look at the costs associated with running a business, create product advertisements, and take charge of their own businesses to make a profit! *Our Nation* studies business operations, resources and economic issues in Ireland.



LOLLIPOP DAY
Funding Oesophageal Cancer research in Ireland

Lollipop Day is the Oesophageal Cancer Fund's (OCF) national annual fundraising drive. We have been supporting Lollipop Day since our teacher, colleague and friend Jack Kennedy sadly died from oesophageal cancer in 2004. We will be holding our Lollipop Days on **Wednesday 26th** and **Thursday 27th** of February. The special lollipops cost just €1.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day (SID) is an EU wide initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people. It is promoted in Ireland by the PDST Technology in Education and Webwise. Classes will mark SID on Tuesday 11th February.



Contact Details

Please ensure the school has up to date contact details for your family. These are essential for emergency closures, if your son needs to go home early and passing on any other information you may require. Relevant contact details include an up to date

- ◆ Address
- ◆ Phone numbers (including home, work, mobile)
- ◆ Email address

Also, please ensure the contact details for the individual

Sport

Basketball: the 5th and 6th class basketball competitions will take place in the coming weeks.

Soccer: the SPAR/FAI Primary 5s competition will be played during the last two weeks in March.

The Jack Kennedy Memorial Cup will be played after Easter.

Hurling: The hurling competitions will begin soon for U-11 and U-13 teams. We will also be entering an indoor hurling competition. Details and fixtures have yet to be confirmed.



World Book Day 5th March 2020



Welcome to World Book Day at Scoil Mhuire, Ferrybank. Here are some of the events that we have planned to promote reading, celebrate books and open up the benefits of reading for everyone!



- ◆ Buddy reading; 6th class will present a story telling session for the infant classes.
- ◆ Design a book cover for favourite books.
- ◆ Dress up as a book character for the day.
- ◆ Write book reviews of favourite books.
- ◆ Create a poetry wall with samples of the boys work.
- ◆ Photo montage: We love to read!
- ◆ D.E.A.R. Time: Drop Everything And Read.
- ◆ Library scavenger hunt.
- ◆ Your favourite book questionnaire.
- ◆ Book Week table quiz.