



# Corridor Echoes

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

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## Mayor's Visit 21st October

The Mayor of the Metropolitan area of Waterford, Breda Brennan, was a very popular visitor to the school on Monday 21st October to present certificates to the boys with full attendance the previous year. Ryan Fitzgerald Flood, Conor Baldwin, Daniel Anthony, Matteo Hayden, Zack Mullally, Jason Zenon Ritter, Alex Brophy, Morgan Fitzgerald Flood, Kelvin Dibigbo, David Imiren, John Karankou, Patryk Bocz, Isaac Akinjewe, Michael Karankou and John Costello received certs. Well done boys! Thanks also to all of the parents who came along to celebrate this occasion. Our Chairperson, Carmel Wemyss, was also with us to mark this important date on our school calendar.



## Parents' Association Fundraiser

Thanks to our Parents' Association for organising our upcoming fundraiser. Pupils will be asked to sell tickets for a raffle at a cost of €1 per line. Prizes will include hampers and vouchers up to a maximum value of €150 so there will be some fantastic prizes to be won. The draw will take place on Thursday 19th December in the school. The money will go towards raising some much needed funds for the school to go towards purchasing resources including ICT equipment, Science equipment, Maths resources, books, sports equipment and subsidising the cost of buses for parents.

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## Important Notice

Parents, please note that:-

1. the €40 (+ €20 deposit if applicable) Book Rental fee should have been paid by 1st September.
2. the €30 fee for Photocopying/Art should have been paid by 30th September. This is a fee that covers some of the cost of Art and photocopying. It is not a voluntary contribution (we don't ask for a voluntary contribution) - it is a charge.

These fees/charges could also have been paid in instalments. Parents have always been informed to contact the office for details if they wished.

Sincere thanks once again to those of you who have dealt with these fees/charges.

All parents have had ample opportunity to pay what is due and/or to make suitable arrangements for same. Reminders will be sent to those who have not paid to date.

## Book Fair

The Book Fair will be open on 26th, 27th and 28th November. Pupils can bring in money themselves or parents can come in from 1:40-2pm or 2.40-3pm on the above dates.

## Parents' Association

All parents are welcome and encouraged to join the Parents' Association Committee. Ideally each class should have representation. We would encourage parents from all classes to join the committee.

The Parents' Association will work together with the Principal, Staff, Board of Management and all parents to build effective partnership between home, school and the local community to ensure the best possible education for their children.

We aim to offer all parents the opportunity to contribute towards enhancing their children's education through various activities within the community throughout the school year.

**Please contact your son's teacher, Jackie or the Principal if you would like to become a member of the committee that will work for the good of the school and all the boys in it. Thanks again to our current members for all of their support and continued commitment to the school.**

## School Calendar for 2019 / 2020

- \*Friday 20th December: School closes for Christmas holidays
- \*Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020: School re-opens
- \*Wednesday 8th January: School closes at 2pm for First Aid Training
- \*Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> & Friday 21st February: School closed for Mid-term Break
- \*Monday 16<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 17th March: School closed
- \*Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: School closes for Easter holidays
- \*Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April: School re-opens
- \*Monday 4th May: School closed - Public Holiday
- \*Friday 29th May – Monday 1st June: School closed
- \*Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June: End of school year; school closes for summer holidays

## Maths Week

Some classes were introduced to coding during maths week, which uses maths and science to create games and complete challenges in a fun way. I have no doubt we have some future mathematicians, teachers and computer scientists in our midst!

## Science Week

Check out our school website at [www.ferrybankbns.ie](http://www.ferrybankbns.ie) to see what some of our other classes were doing for Maths Week and Science Week. Our 5th and 6th classes had a Science Fair on Friday 15th. Pupils performed numerous experiments for children in the other classes and explained the 'Science' behind what was happening. Thanks to Ms. Heffernan and Mr. Nagle for putting so much effort into organising this event.

## Swimming

Swimming will take place as usual next term for all classes, Junior Infants to 6th Class. The venue will be the Kingfisher Club. Each class will get 5 swimming sessions as usual. There will be more details about the swimming programme in the next 'Corridor Echoes'.

## Board of Management

A huge thank you to all of our parents who engaged with the recent election process to identify our parent nominees for the new Board which will run from 2019-2023. A special word of thanks to those parents that made themselves available to fill these roles. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

## Shoebox Appeal

Sincere thanks to everyone who has participated in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. It has been brilliant to see so many shoeboxes outside the office and a big thank you to Ms. Grant who co-ordinated this initiative.

In 2018, Team Hope received over 250,000 shoeboxes. The shoeboxes went to countries like Albania, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine as well as African countries such as Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland. The boxes travel to Africa in huge shipping containers across the sea via various sea ports taking an average of 8 weeks to arrive. The boxes travel by truck to their destinations in Eastern Europe taking about a week. All these shoeboxes would completely cover 2 full sized football pitches, or, end to end they would stretch for 70 kilometres.

Photo of some of the shoeboxes we received



## Under 13 Gaelic Football

Our U13 footballers competed in the final of their competition on Tuesday 22nd October against Rathgormack NS. Pupils from 1st to 6th class went to Walsh Park to support the team. Rathgormack won by a narrow margin on the day. The boys gave an excellent performance and played some very good football. Thanks again to all of the boys involved and to Mr. Nagle for managing the team.

Thanks also to Mr. Rynne, Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Heffernan for organising and managing our U10 footballers.

## Road Safety

All pupils are asked to dismount their scooters or bicycles when entering and leaving the school grounds. Pupils were also reminded of how to cross the road safely at the traffic lights. Unfortunately this is made very difficult when parents park cars on the crossing or too close to the traffic lights. We would ask all parents to park their cars a safe distance from the crossing to ensure pupils can see left and right before crossing the road. We understand how difficult it can be to park outside the school but we want to make every effort to ensure the safety of our pupils. Your cooperation would be very much appreciated.

## Snippets.....

- Classes are busy preparing for Christmas plays
- We are also busy preparing for our Carol Service
- The boys are looking forward to the Little Red Kettle show on December 2nd
- Our Christmas tree lights will be switched on by a boy from Junior Infants on Friday 29th November

## Christmas

We are hoping to be able to bring our classes across town to be part of the Winterval experience as we have done in recent years.

You will receive the special Christmas Programme edition of Corridor Echoes very soon. This will contain details of events in the school, our Christmas plays and our Carol Service. Our Christmas plays will be performed on Wednesday 11th December.

Another detail for now — and the first event — is about the **Little Red Kettle** show. Little Red Kettle Theatre Company visit the school every year with their Christmas show. They will be here on **Monday 2nd December** with this year's show, "What a Calamity".

The cost for the play is €4 per child.

## School Uniform and Tracksuit

All pupils in our school must have a school uniform and a school tracksuit. Every family is made aware and provided with information about our rules regarding uniform and tracksuit, when to wear each and the options available as to where to buy them so it shouldn't be necessary to keep mentioning it. It is very important that all parents follow the simple rules about our uniform and tracksuit.

Proper school clothes in school only, please! If a pupil does not have the appropriate uniform for any reason a written explanation should be presented to the teacher.