



Corridor Echoes

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Issue 1

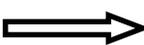
September 2021



Welcome Back!

Dear Parents,
It's great to be back at school and our staff were delighted to welcome everyone back to what no doubt will be another very busy school year. Thank you all so much for your cooperation and support, particularly in regard to the procedures and measures which have been put in place due to the current pandemic. 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.

Drop off/Collection procedures

- A drop and go system remains in operation. Parents can drop pupils between 9:10am and 9:25am.
- Please note that the drop off times outlined above apply to all pupils. The drop off system has worked extremely well and we would like to thank parents for their cooperation.
- Parents are asked to maintain social distancing when dropping/collecting and follow directions to the appropriate collection point.
- Collection times are indicated here 

1.50pm	Junior Infants
2.00pm	Senior Infants

First Holy Communion.

Our current 3rd class pupils celebrated their First Holy Communion on Saturday 11th September. Well done to all of the boys. You were excellent!

1.50pm	Junior Infants
2.00pm	Senior Infants
2.45pm	1st class
2.50pm	2nd class
2.55pm	3rd class
3.00pm	4th - 6th class

Book Rental Scheme: Our book rental scheme goes from 2nd to 6th class. We would like to thank all parents who have paid this fee. For those that have not paid the fee, you may do so through Aladdin ePayments; contacting the school secretary and paying over the phone; making an appointment to call into the office or by sending the payment in with your son. The book rental scheme can only remain in operation when all those involved contribute.

Advice for parents during Covid-19

If your child has any of the following symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school and contact your GP:

- A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- A new cough
- Loss or changed sense of smell or taste
- Fatigue
- Aches or pains
- Sore throats
- Headaches
- Diarrhoea
- Runny or stuffed nose
- Feeling sick or vomiting



If there is a positive case identified in our school, parents of pupils considered close contacts will be informed following consultation with the HSE and once the public health risk assessment is complete.

Seesaw

We will continue to use this platform during the year. Each pupil was issued a unique log in code and they should keep this somewhere safe at home.

We will be using this online platform in the following ways:

- As a digital portfolio tool where pupils can take pictures/videos of their work
- For homework. Some teachers may ask pupils to submit homework on Seesaw
- If your child is required to restrict their movements or self isolate for a period of time the class teacher and special education teacher will support your child via Seesaw ie assigning work, giving feedback etc



Spanish lessons for 3rd—6th class

In June 2021 the school made an application for participation in the Primary Languages Sampler Module. This initiative enables primary schools to deliver a sampler foreign language for a total of six hours. This scheme is aimed at 3rd to 6th class primary school pupils with its delivery within the normal school timetable hours. We recently received approval for this and therefore will be able to appoint a tutor to give pupils, from 3rd—6th class, Spanish lessons over a 6 week period. The classes will start after the Halloween break.

Pupil Insurance

Details in relation to Pupil Personal Accident Insurance have been issued to families. We would encourage all families to avail of this insurance.

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.

Applications for Enrolment for 2022/2023 School Year

St. Mary's BNS will be accepting applications for enrolment for the 2022/23 school year from 01/11/2021 to 21/01/2022. The *Annual Admission's Notice* and the *Application for Enrolment Form* will be available to download from our website from the 18th October 2021. The school will consider and issue decisions on late applications in accordance with the school's admission policy. This can be viewed/downloaded from the website—www.ferrybankbns.ie.

School Calendar for 2021 / 2022

Wednesday 1st September: Opening of new school year

Monday 25th Oct. - Friday 29th Oct.: School closed for Mid-term Break

Wednesday 23rd December: School closed for holidays

Wednesday 6th January 2020: School re-opens

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

Wednesday 17th March: St. Patrick's Break

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



Ferrybank Intermediate Hurling Team

Congratulations to the Ferrybank Intermediate Hurling Team on reaching the Eastern final against Dunhill next Sunday, September 26th, in Walsh Park at 4:30pm. The pupils in St. Mary's BNS are encouraged to wear their green and white on Friday 24th September to show their support for the team. Best of luck to all involved!



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 containing an ePayment link will be forwarded in the coming days 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!

School Rules:

Our rules are few in number and are very easy to keep. We ask all parents and guardians to ensure that the boys know and follow our simple rules. We make no apologies for enforcing our rules. A copy of the school's *Code of Behaviour* is available on our website and we would like to thank all the families in the school for your continued support and cooperation in relation to the above.

REMINDER

In line with the school's healthy lunch policy, Friday is "Treat Day". One treat, per child and no fizzy drinks please. Our *Healthy Eating Policy* is available on our website www.ferrybankbns.ie or can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Meeting the Class Teacher

Please note that the class teacher is the first point of contact if a parent has a concern. 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.

School Uniform and Tracksuit

All pupils, from 1st class to 6th class, must have a school uniform and a school tracksuit. Junior and Senior Infants are only required to have a school tracksuit but may wear the uniform if they wish.

Tracksuit

The school tracksuit is *only* available from Excel Promotions.

Uniform

Option A - The full school uniform (green jumper, grey shirt, grey pants and green tie) is available from Excel Promotions. There is a choice of crested or non-crested jumper.

Option B - The full uniform is also available from Shaws, The Quay, Waterford. Please note that only a non-crested jumper is available from Shaws.

The shirt, polo shirt and pants may be purchased in other shops also - provided they are the correct colour. No variations in colour or style are allowed. The school went through the process of dealing with school uniforms and tracksuits in the past as laid down by the Department of Education and Skills. It is very important that all parents follow the simple rules about our uniform and tracksuit. **In the event that your son does not have the correct tracksuit/uniform on a particular day, please notify the teacher via Aladdin Connect.**

Contact details for Excel Promotions

Address: Unit 12J, Six Cross Roads Business Park, Waterford.

Phone:(051) 379 606

Email: sales@excelpromotions.ie

Website: www.excelpromotions.ie



Aladdin Connect

The school uses the Aladdin Schools software service for administrative purposes and Connect will give parents secure access to messages from the school and to details of your child's attendance, test results, reports cards etc. via secure login from your internet browser or Aladdin Connect App.

Aladdin Connect enables parents to stay connected and informed about their child's education by:

1. Ensuring that the school has their most up to date contact information
2. Allowing schools to gather permission(s) from parents
3. Allowing parents to quickly and efficiently select preferred slots for parent teacher meetings
4. Keeping parents apprised of their child's attendance
5. Keeping parents up to date on school and classroom news via noticeboard messages
6. Allowing parents to view what items their child had for homework today
7. Keeping parents up to date on what library book their child is currently reading and if it is due/overdue to be returned
8. Allowing parents view their child's approved report card
9. Allowing parents to view their child's latest standardised test results
10. Parents can contact the class teacher or office directly using the noticeboard feature.

Along with strengthening our home/school partnership, we also envisage Aladdin Connect helping the school by:

1. Helping to improve attendance by allowing parents to keep track of any school days their child may have currently missed, along with late arrival and early leaving information
2. Helping to reduce the amount of class/school notes being sent home
3. Helping the school/ teachers communicate with parents when the need arises
4. Reducing costs by eliminating the need to send school report cards by post
5. Reducing costs by reducing the number of text messages that need to be sent

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.