

Halloween Dress-Up Day



Halloween dress up day is tomorrow, **Friday 22nd October, 2021.**

Instead of wearing their uniform to school, the boys may wear their Halloween outfits and there will be prizes for the 'best dressed' in each class. If you wish to donate, we will be collecting money towards school funds. The suggested donation is €2 per family. The money raised will be used to purchase additional resources.

N.B. No 'prop weapons' should be brought into school and no props are allowed into the yard during break times.

Please remember we are a **nut free school** and remember to **check that there are no nuts in lunches or treats on the day.**



Halloween Pumpkin Patch Competition

Our Pumpkin Patch Competition has been a huge success. We have over 200 pumpkins in the building from pupils, parents and teachers, and they have added great colour and fun to the school this week. There are some amazing creations ranging from traditional to spooky and quirky. Thank you to everyone who has taken part – you've made the last week of term, one to remember.

A special word of thanks to Ms Flynn for organising the event.

The winners for best pumpkin at each class level are:

- Junior Infants - Henry Gordon
- Senior Infants - Ruben Lorenzo
- 1st Class - Lance & Rohan Reguine
- 2nd Class - David Reynolds
- 3rd Class - David Sokolowski
- 4th Class - Seán Favre d'Echallens
- 5th Class - Mark McGowan
- 6th Class - Steven Donnelly



Staff News - Congratulations & farewell to Mr. Creevey



After 20 years working in St Mary's BNS, Mr Creevey is leaving the school for pastures new. He has a new role as Principal of Oristown NS in his native County Meath. This is a great achievement for Mr Creevey and one that is richly deserved. Mr Creevey has contributed hugely to our school – a very popular teacher with pupils, parents and colleagues alike, he has been to the fore in all manner of school activities and events over the years. His work with

sports teams, quiz teams, school musicals, sports days and the school podcast will live long in our memories. Behind the scenes Mr Creevey has been instrumental in planning for school reopenings and the day-to-day logistics while the building project takes place.

He will be sorely missed by his colleagues, pupils and the school community but we wish him every success and look forward to seeing him back at St Mary's for the opening of the new school in the near future.

Go néirí leat Mr Creevey!

Congratulations Ms. Toolan

Congratulations to Ms. Toolan on her recent marriage. We wish Ms. Toolan and her new husband a lifetime of happiness together.



Correspondence with school - Absences/early leaving

Explanations for absences can be explained by parents on Aladdin Connect. Once the teacher has marked a pupil absent, parents can enter a reason and explanation for the absence. Please do not email the school office to explain a pupil's absence unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Parents can continue to send written notes to explain absences should they wish to do so.

New School Building Project

Work on the new building continues at pace. Inside the building, classrooms are being wired and set out and externally, work continues to prepare for the installation of the roof.

The Board of Management recently received proposals for the internal colour scheme and while this is not finalised, it is an exciting step. The colour scheme is based on nature and the seasons – or moving through the seasons within the building.

The Percent for Art Scheme is also continuing with the number of artists shortlisted to four, all of whom have visited the school and shown great enthusiasm to be involved with the school.



No parking, drop-offs or collections in Bus Bay



As this area accommodates a high level of pedestrian traffic at peak times, and with the added complication of the site entrance, there is no parking, drop-off or collection by cars in this area. The bus bay is reserved for buses and disabled access/parking only. Cars attempting to use the bus bay will be moved on by the principal or caretaker.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation with this important safety measure.

FAI FUTSAL IN THE YARD BLITZ

On Thursday the 14th October, the boys in 2nd, 3rd and 4th Class took part in the FAI Futsal 'In The Yard Blitz' on the newly tarmacked yard area with the FAI's Kildare Development Officer, Pat Behan. Pat introduced the boys to the game of Futsal, using games and activities to improve agility, balance and coordination, while emphasising important Futsal techniques. Futsal is an exciting, fast-paced small-sided football game that originates from South America. It is widely played across the world. It is played on a hard-court surface using a smaller football with less bounce than a regulation size ball. The ball and the rules create an emphasis on improvisation, creativity and technique as well as refining ball control, passing and dribbling in small spaces. The boys all really enjoyed their coaching sessions with Pat and we're hoping that some of those boys will be future members of the school's Futsal team when inter-schools competitions get up and running again hopefully in the near future.

Thanks to Mr McGeady for organising a great day!

Coding

Free coding workshops from *DojoMór 2021*, funded by the Higher Education Authority of Ireland, will be running online, from 10am to 2pm, Saturday 6th November 2021, offering a range of activities to suit all ages and interests.

On the day, 20,000 students, from primary and secondary schools around Ireland, can learn to code in a fun and exciting virtual environment.

Bookings are open now.

For information and bookings - www.dojomor.ie

For updates and competitions - [@dojomor2021](https://twitter.com/dojomor2021)

Enrolments

A new enrolment policy is being formulated – it is necessary to do so to include provision for enrolments into the Special Needs Unit in September 2022. This will be available on the school website in due course and an enrolment notice will be published one week in advance of the window for applications.



Child Safeguarding Policy

The Board of Management completed its annual review of the child protection policy and procedures. The school's policy and risk assessment were reviewed and the new Safeguarding Statement will be available on the website shortly and is available from the office on request.

COVID 19 Update

Thank you to everyone for their cooperation to date.

- Parents are reminded that the Board of Management have requested parents and visitors to wear masks on the school grounds.
- Visitors to the school including parents should make an appointment in advance. Please contact the school by phone before arrival. The office phone number is 01-6293021.
- Please remember **do not** send your son to school if:
 - They or any member of the household has tested positive for Covid 19
 - They are feeling unwell, or if someone in their household is feeling unwell with symptoms of Covid 19
 - If they are a close contact of a confirmed case and/or awaiting a test or test results



All of the information you require in relation to Covid 19 is available on the HSE Isolation Quick Guide attached to this newsletter.

Dates for your Diary

Mid-Term Break (School Closed) 25th October – 29th October

Enrolment for Junior Infants 2021 TBC – Enrolment notice will be published shortly