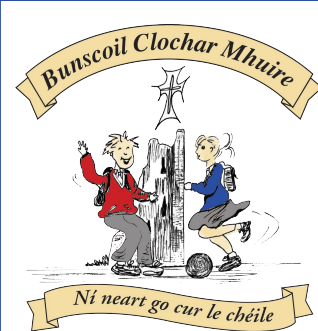




St Mary's Convent Primary School

Bunscoil Clochar Mhuire
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Príomh Oide: Fergal Kelly M.Ed. Leadership & Management

Leas Phríomh Oide: Siobhán Nally M.Ed.

Uimhir Rolla: 16646 O

Imlitir 2
15 October 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope that you find information in this newsletter that is useful to you regarding the workings and activities of the school. Our Parents Association are having a busy time as well so please check their activities on page 8 of this publication. We are also looking for volunteers for various activities so please give your name into the school for volunteering if you are interested. We also have our attendance statistics for September on the newsletter. As the page says, *every day counts* so it is pleasing to see good attendance right across the school and that there has been definite improvement in this area. We have so many projects and activities right across the classes but it is great to see the children busy and excited as we approach the Halloween break. Well done to the staff and children for the lovely displays and activities for Halloween around the school at the moment.

Admissions: Our admissions window for our Junior infant cohort and some of our special classes for September 2026 opens next Monday, 20th October and remains open for five weeks. Please see our website for more details.

Open Day: Our open day will be held a little earlier this year on **Friday, 7th November at 10:30am**. We understand that creche finish up times are close to 12 so all will be finished in good time for pick up. I would be grateful if you would let any prospective parents know about this initiative. It is an opportunity for the school to showcase our resources and activities to **parents** in order to give the school community a snapshot of a typical day in St Mary's. Grandparents also welcome of course! This Open Day is right in the middle of our enrolment process so it will be of particular interest to those parents.

Coffee Morning: We are hosting a coffee morning for parents of children in Junior and Senior Infants on **Thursday, 6th November at 09:45am** in the staffroom. It is also for any parents of new children from 1st-6th Class. This is a great opportunity to come into the school, meet some of the staff and the parents association and get to know each other in a social sense. We value the community in St. Mary's and we hope that you can make it. If you don't know too many people, please feel free to bring a friend with you.

Halloween Break: Please be reminded that the school will be closed for mid-term break from **Monday, October 27th to Friday, 31st October inclusive**. I hope everyone enjoys the break. I have been asked by the Gardai to remind parents and children of the danger of Fireworks and similar materials over this holiday period. School closes at 2:50pm on this date.

Spooky Walk: Our traditional spooky walk will take place on **Thursday, 23rd October** weather permitting. Children can of course dress up on the day. The parents association are also having a bun sale and there is more information on this and the P.A. activities on the following pages.

St Carlo Acutis: This month, many of our classes are learning about **St Carlo Acutis**, a teenager who used his love of digital media to share his deep faith in God. Canonised in 2025, Carlo is often called the “*patron saint of the internet*.” He reminds us that technology can be used for good — to connect, inspire, and spread kindness. Carlo lived a joyful, ordinary life filled with friendship, compassion, and love for the Eucharist. As our pupils learn about him, we hope they see that holiness isn’t distant or old-fashioned — it’s something that can be lived joyfully in everyday life.

Kind Regards,

Mr Kelly & Ms Nally

SCHOOL NEWS

Board Of Management Report

The board approved all teaching and ancillary staff appointments made since the last meeting. The application for the proposed amalgamation remains with the Department of Education and is still under review. Some board members were approved to make contact with relevant personnel in the DE to seek an outcome. A recent survey on the hot school meals scheme showed a wide range of tastes and preferences among pupils and families. Overall, the feedback was generally positive or neutral regarding the taste, menu, and variety of meals. The results will be forwarded to Glanmore so they can take the feedback. Applications for Junior Infants 2026 will open in late October and remain open for a 5 week period. . All schools in Trim will now follow the same enrolment timeline. The new criteria for special classes with ASD from Circular 39/2025 was also added.

Attendance Figures for August-September 2025

Room	Attendance	Room	Attendance	Room	Attendance	Room	Attendance
01	96.7%	08	94.7%	16	94.1%	27	94.9%
02	94.9%	09	96.8%	17	82.2%	30	93.2%
03	95.6%	10	95.5%	18	95.7%	31	95.2%
04	96.6%	12	98.1%	19	97%	35	97.9%
05	92%	13	95.2%	20	92.9%		
06	95%	14	94.2%	23 & 24	98.2%		
07	92.2%	15	95.8%	26	96%		

Every School Day Counts at St Mary’s!

SCHOOL NEWS

MATHS WEEK 13th – 17th of October

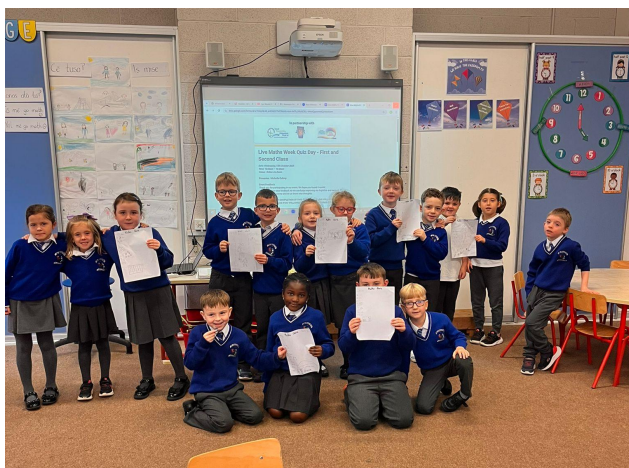
This week is Maths Week. Maths Week is committed to the spirit of 'Maths for All'. At school the children will be involved in games and activities which help to promote Maths in a positive and enjoyable manner.

At home, we can use this opportunity to focus on Maths in the environment eg shapes of buildings, telling the time, handling money in shops and getting change etc

For more details, information and to check out online events see www.mathsweek.ie I hope it will be a fun Maths Week for everybody!

MATHS QUIZ DAY

Room 13 took part in a Maths Week Quiz Day today on zoom, with other schools around the country. The students worked in teams to answer 10 fun and challenging maths questions. Well done everybody!



FOOTBALL

Our Football team had a fantastic win on Friday against the Gaelscoil from Bettystown. A place in the knockout stages awaits! Special thanks to all the support that came down!



SCHOOL NEWS

Be Active 'Spooky Walk'

Our **annual Spooky Walk for all pupils will be held on Thursday, 23rd October** after the first break. Children are invited to dress up in Halloween costumes on the day. Weather permitting, junior classes will do a short walk around the school/yard and church grounds. Senior classes will participate in a longer walk.

Due to the children being dressed up/wearing face paint, there will be **no swimming lessons on the day. These have been rescheduled for Thursday, 6th November.**

COFFEE MORNING

We are hosting a coffee morning for the parents of Junior and Senior Infant children here at the school on **Thursday 6th November at 09.45am** in the staffroom.

This is a great opportunity to come into the school, meet some of the staff and the parents association and get to know each other in a social sense. We value the community in St. Mary's and we hope that you can make it. If you don't know too many people, please feel free to bring a friend with you.



OPEN DAY 2025 - 2026

Our **Open Day** for existing and prospective parents for school year 2026-2027 will be held a little earlier this year on **Friday, 7th November at 10.30am.**

We understand that creche finish up times are close to 12 so all will be finished in good time for pick up.

We would be grateful if you would let any prospective parents know about this initiative. It is an opportunity for the school to showcase our resources and activities to **parents** in order to give the school community a snapshot of a typical day in St Mary's. Grandparents also welcome of course!

**NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY
24th OCTOBER 2025
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

**HALLOWEEN BREAK
27th -31st OCTOBER 2025
inclusive**

DLD AWARENESS DAY

On Thursday, 16th October, 2025, as a school we will be celebrating DLD (Developmental Language Disorder) Awareness Day.

Leaflets about Developmental Language Disorder (D.L.D) and useful tips/ activities how to encourage children's speech and language development, and other information will be posted in front of the office.

What is Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)?

DLD stands for Developmental Language Disorder. A person with DLD has significant on-going difficulties understanding and/or using spoken language. DLD emerges in early childhood and can persist into adulthood. There is no obvious reason for these language difficulties, for example, the child does not have autism, a hearing loss, physical, emotional or learning difficulty.

In the past, DLD was known as Specific Language Impairment (SLI), but recently the name has changed so that it better reflects the types of difficulties children have. A Speech & Language Therapist, after assessing a child, seeing them for speech & language intervention and monitoring the child's response to therapy, will give a child a diagnosis of DLD if their language difficulties:

- have a significant impact on progress at school/ on everyday life
- are not as a result of autism, hearing loss, physical, emotional, or learning difficulty
- are likely to persist past the age of five years
- are unlikely to catch up without help

Do we know the cause of DLD?

There is no obvious reason for DLD, for example, there is no hearing loss, physical or learning difficulty or autism that explains the communication difficulties. Scientists think that the part of the brain responsible for speech & language might be wired a little differently from that of a person with more typical language development- but differences are subtle and won't show up on a brain scan. Genes do play an important part in DLD but there is no medical test to see if a child has it or not. We do know DLD runs in families.

How common is DLD?

DLD is a hidden but common condition. DLD affects people around the world, no matter the language spoken. Studies in the U.K have shown that in five year olds, DLD affects about 2 children in every classroom in primary school (about 7.6%) and it is more common in boys than girls.

What sorts of problems would a child with DLD have?

For a child to be given a diagnosis of DLD he/she must have language difficulties that persist into school age and beyond. DLD does not affect children in the same way and the features of DLD vary with age, they may have some of these:

- Difficulty understanding what others say to them e.g. when asked questions/ given instructions
- Find it hard to join in and follow what is going on in the playground
- Difficulty remembering and sequencing their thoughts into words, even though they have the ideas and know what to say
- Difficulty remembering the words they want to say (word finding difficulties)
- Talk in sentences but have others find it difficult to understand their speech

A child with DLD won't necessarily sound like a younger child; instead their speech might sound disorganised or unusual.

Why is it important to recognise DLD?

In school, so much learning depends on being able to understand and use language. Children with DLD won't just "pick up" language, they will need support from a speech & language therapist, along with support teaching within the schools. Despite their difficulties with language, children with DLD can achieve well at school, both academically and socially. They just learn differently, the speech & language therapist advises the child's parents and teaching staff to know their child's best learning styles, their strengths and how to develop skills and strategies/ activities which will help develop their child's speech and language, helping them achieve their potential. It is important DLD is identified so the children can receive the supports they need.

What should I do if I feel my child may need help to develop his/her speech and language skills?

If you are worried/ concerned about your child's speech and language development, you do not need to go through your doctor or public health nurse, as a parent, you can refer your child for a speech & language assessment. You can contact your local HSE Primary Care Centre for a referral form. Your child's class teacher may also, after discussing with you, recommend that you/school refer your child to the Meath HSE Speech & Language Therapy Service. As parents, if you agree, you both need to consent to this referral by signing the referral form.

Kind regards,

Anngele Milner

Senior Speech & Language Therapist

GREEN NEWS

Trim Climate Action group launched their 'No Idling' campaign on Monday October 6th. Pupils from St Marys' and St Michaels' Green Flag Committees joined dignitaries and others from the community to formally promote the initiative. We would ask you to help us by implementing their initiative by turning off your engines when you are waiting in the carpark. This will ensure the air quality around the school is kept cleaner and healthier for all

Thank you for your support with this initiative. We look forward to working on many Green projects as the year progresses.



Remember Green is cool at home and at school!

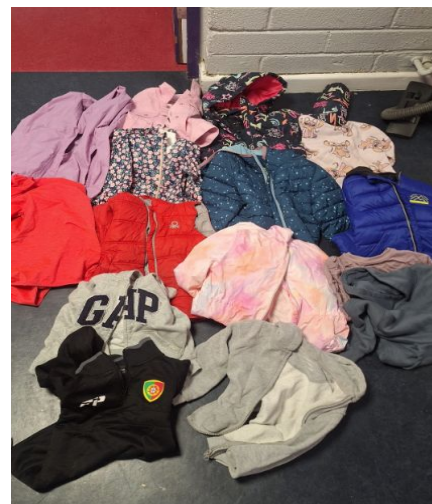
Nath na Seachtaine: Is maith liom Oíche Shamhna (I like Halloween)

Seanfhocal na Míosa: Giorraíonn beirt bóthar (A friend shortens the journey)

LOST AND FOUND

Reminder to please label your child's red and blue jumpers.

Aside from uniforms with no name, we also have lots of unclaimed coats in the lost and found.



Parents Association

Halloween Bake Sale -

Students... get ready for some 'spook-tacular' treats at this year's **Halloween Bake Sale taking place on Thursday, 23rd October from 9.20am – 10.50am at the school hall.**

For this bake sale, it is the turn of the following class years to kindly bake/send in buns and biscuits for us to sell on the day:
Senior Infants, 2nd Class, 4th Class, and 6th Class

All students will have a chance to buy delicious bakes at 50c per bun/biscuit (€2 limit per student), so don't forget to bring along some coins on the day for some frighteningly tasty goodie as we look forward to seeing some 'boo-tiful' bakes!

For those baking/sending in buns and biscuits:
Please drop off buns/biscuits to the school hall between 9am – 9.20am on the day. Please label any special dietary buns/biscuits and hand them in separately to an adult helper. **Note the school has a NO NUTS POLICY** due to potential allergies.



Christmas Card Fundraiser

Thank you to all the students who have submitted a personalised Christmas card design. These are being submitted to the printers this week, where they will be turned into a sample Christmas card. As soon as we receive these back, we will send the sample card home with your child, along with information on how to order.

Volunteers needed – help us make our events a success!

From fundraising events, such as our bake sales and book sale, to hosting receptions for Communion and our graduating classes, these events are only possible thanks to the support and help of dedicated parent volunteers. If you can give an hour of your time on the day, or help with planning behind the scenes, every bit of support makes a difference. It is also a wonderful way to meet other parents, see the children in their school environment, and be a part of the school community.

If you're interested in helping with our events whenever you can, simply submit your contact details using the link <https://forms.gle/EtCNMhFizCHQ4K6L8>. We will then add you to a dedicated WhatsApp volunteer group where we will share details of our upcoming events, and you can let us know your availability.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Trim Girl Guides



Ladybirds: (5-7)
Wednesdays 5:30pm
@ Diocesan Hall



Brownies: (7-10)
Saturday 10:00am
@ Scoil Mhuire Secondary School



Guides: (10-14)
Saturday 10:30am
@ Scoil Mhuire Secondary School

Contact Emma 0892070066

Over 18 and want to make friends, give girls confidence,
and discover your own potential?
Become a Leader today!



Irish Girl Guides

Giving Girls Confidence



This October the RSA's Check it Fits service will be visiting County Monaghan and Meath. Did you know it's the law that all children under 150cms or 36kgs must use a child car seat appropriate to their weight and height. In Ireland as many as 54% of child car seats are incorrectly fitted which can lead to serious injury or even death in a collision. Since the start of the service, the RSA's 'Check it Fits' Service has checked over 70,000 child car seats and restraints in Ireland.

The Check it Fits service is quick, it's easy, it's free. On the day our experts will advise on how to fix any problem, demonstrate how to fit the restraint correctly and answer any queries participants might have. Our experts aim to put parent's, grandparent's and guardian's minds at ease that their child's car seat is safely and securely fitted in their car.

We will be visiting the following locations in Monaghan and Meath:

Fleming's Toymaster, Church Square, Roosky, Monaghan, H18 WK60	10.00am - 5.30pm	Tuesday 28 October 2025
SuperValu Dunshaughlin, Shopping Centre, The Gables, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath, A85 KD90	10.00am - 5.30pm	Wednesday 29 October 2025
Smyths Toys Navan, Unit 2A, Navan Retail Park, Athboy Rd, Townparks, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 T384	10.00am - 5.30pm	Thursday 30 October 2025



**Circle of Security
Parenting Programme**
An internationally recognised programme facilitated by Terri O'Neill

Weekly Sessions
8 weeks
Oct 16th - Dec 18th
7.30 - 9.30pm

Online Learning
course handbook
provided with
detailed roadmap

Small Group
dedicated
support to suit
your needs

Apply Now
limited spaces

Contact @the.parent.connection for further information

Join me for

An 8 week online course

Exploring the Circle of Security parenting programme
involving:

- practical learning
- empowerment
- kindness and non judgement
- support
- opportunity to put your learning into practice
- peer support
- reflection time
- greater ability to regulate your emotions and hence that of your child

Parents

Are you struggling with:

- 5 soothing your child
- 6 getting your child to listen
- 7 understanding your child's behaviour
- 8 being consistent in your responses



Online parenting programme
Weekly sessions from 16th October to 18th December
facilitated by Terry O'Neill

With the evenings getting darker are you looking for a physical activity for your daughter to take up?

Robinstown FC have started girls only football training for girls born in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

It takes place on a floodlight astro pitch at the MDL Grounds. Its on pitch 6 every Wednesday evening 7-8pm.

Contact Eamon on 0862228246 for more information.



IRISH DANCING CLASSES IN TRIM

Carney Irish dancing classes for children are held on Wednesday from 2:50pm - 4:00pm at St Patrick's Hall in Trim.

We also intend to start Irish dancing classes for Junior and Senior Infants every Wednesday, from 1:50pm to 2:50pm starting the 5th November.

For children joining the class, they can be collected from St. Mary's School, Trim.

Cost per session is €10.00.

Please contact Ann Carney T.C.R.G. at 0876336495 if you would like to register your child or if you have any other questions.



Anne Maher School of Ballet

Anne Maher AIDTA
Director of Ballet Ireland
Ireland's National Ballet Company

Does your child love to dance?

Join us at Anne Maher School of Ballet where Anne and her highly trained, dedicated and passionate team will share their love of ballet with your aspiring dancer.



Classes in Naas, Newbridge and Trim

For registration and more
information see
annemaherschoolofballet.ie