



St Mary's Convent Primary School

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Uimhir Rolla: 16646 0



Dear Parents / Guardians

New Acting Principal for St Mary's.

I am delighted to announce that **Siobhán Nally** the current deputy principal and a familiar face to you all, will take over the day to day running of the school from January 5th to facilitate my appointment as principal of Scoil Naomh Pádraig as we move into the next important phase of planning and preparation.

Ms Nally brings a wealth of experience, professionalism, and a deep understanding of our school community to this role. Day-to-day school life will continue as normal, with the children's learning, wellbeing, and care remaining the central focus.

This leadership arrangement allows for continuity and stability in St Mary's, while also ensuring that appropriate leadership structures are in place to support the successful establishment of the new amalgamated school. I would like to sincerely thank Ms Nally for her willingness to take on this responsibility and I appreciate the continued support and cooperation of parents as we work together through this period of transition.

I would also like to thank **Ms Kathryn Dixon** who will step into the role of Acting deputy principal. Ms Dixon will be in charge of special education for the school and will be a great support to Ms Nally during this transition period.

For my part while I will not be involved in the day to day running of the school, I am not going too far away and I will continue to engage with the children, parents and staff as we plan for the opening of the new school. I would like to thank Peter Higgins and the board of management for their unwavering commitment of St Mary's and their support during my tenure.

The school will close for Christmas on Friday 19th December at 11:50am. School will re-open on the 5th January.

As we near the end of term I wish to thank you for visiting and supporting the school in the past few weeks to see your child in the various plays and activities. As you can see, December is one of the busiest but enjoyable months in the school calendar. We hope that the children enjoyed all the festivities at home and at school over the Christmas period. Over these past few weeks the various Christmas plays and shows were a great expression of the Christmas spirit here in St. Mary's. We had carol singing, concerts, special assemblies, visits to the cinema, theatres and library as well as all the classroom activities that took place. Congrats also to Ms Gorry and Ms Daly in St. Michael's on their beautiful carol service this week in St Patrick's Church. We wish them well as they are performing at Mass on RTE on Sunday. As usual they will make all our school community proud of their talents. There was a little poignancy in all the displays and performances in that this is the last Christmas that we will celebrate as St Mary's Primary School. Next year, Our Christmas will be celebrated under the new school name of Scoil Naomh Pádraig, but the comforting aspect of it all is that that as a new Catholic School, the customs, songs and messages will be familiar and reassuring.

This week was also tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to **Ms Carr** who has been appointed as principal of Broadford National School , Co Kildare. Mary is a current member of the board of management of St Mary's and has taught for 17 years in the school. Mary will be missed by all at St Mary's. On behalf of the school community we wish her the very best of luck for the future. Mary will make a great principal and the school is very lucky to get such a great teacher and person to take up the role.

Ms. Carmody, our senior infants teacher also leaves us to take up an appointment back home and we also wish her well in her endeavours.

This Christmas it was nice to share some of our festive activities with the school community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children, teachers, Special Needs Assistants, caretaker, cleaners and secretaries who give their time generously in support of all the activities that are planned and organised within and outside the school as we prepared for Christmas. Thanks also to Vicky and our parents association for all their activities and sound advice over the past year.

I would also like to remind you that ***the school will close for Christmas Holidays on Friday, December 19th at 11:50 am. The school will reopen on Monday, January 5th 2025 at 09:10 am.***

Finally, I hope that you all enjoy a happy and holy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy 2026.
Nollaig faoi shéan agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.





Scoil Naomh Pádraig Latest Updates

As you all know, the long-awaited amalgamation of St Mary's and St Michael's will officially begin on the 1st September 2026. This marks the culmination of a significant body of work, including, extensive consultation with the school community and key decisions making made at every level — the schools themselves, the Boards of Management, the Department of Education, Parish, and our Patron, Bishop Deenihan. I am delighted at the opportunity to be the first Principal of Scoil Naomh Pádraig and I will work together with the whole school community to ensure that the new school is a great success.

I have been working with our Chairperson Liz Sheridan and our Deputy Principal, Ms Clódagh Daly on some aspects of the new school.

Uniform: We had focus group meeting which was very constructive, where all aspects of the new uniform were discussed. The focus group discussed preferred styles and practicalities. The importance of gathering feedback from parents and staff was agreed, with a survey to be circulated in early January to inform decision-making and ensure the uniform reflects the needs of the whole school community.

School Logo/Crest: Thank you for all your contributions with regard to the school Crest. Many different designs were received and analysed. We hope to make decision on this in the New Year so that it is timed with the announcement of the new uniform.

Admissions: Our enrolment for Junior infants has closed but we have space to enrol more pupils as families still continue to come into the area. Please let anyone know that they need to contact the school in order to secure their school place. Please contact St Michael's with regard to admissions to our special classes for Autism.

Child Protection: Scoil Naomh Pádraig is compliant will all aspects of child protection and we have commenced the vetting process for all staff before the school opens in September. All existing staff of St Mary's and St Michael's have to be vetted in the New Year to comply with the procedures. **Grant Aid.** I have asked the Department of Education for possible grant aid for Information Technology, sanitary facilities, and roof improvements so that we can get off to the best possible start in terms of our physical environment.

Discussion and Engagement: Over the next six months I will be engaging with all the stakeholders around decisions regarding the new school. There is considerable talent and expertise across the two school communities and they will be consulted on all issues so that the best balanced approach can be reached before the opening of the new school in the Autumn. I look forward to the many opportunities for debate leading into key decisions to be made in the coming months.

Happy Christmas to all!



Fergal Kelly

SCHOOL NEWS

THE HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS SHOW

The 3rd and 4th Classes put in a lot of hard work and practice preparing for their Christmas show. The two performances were amazing and it was great to see an audience full of supportive parents and families! Well done to all the girls for their hard work and enthusiasm. All proceeds collected (€880.00) will go towards the ASD unit of St. Mary's.



NATIVITY PLAYS

Well done to all the classes that took part in Nativity Plays and Christmas Concerts. Sincere thanks to all the parents and guardians who supported the Meals on Wheels and St Vincent de Paul.



5TH CLASS VISITS ST. JOSEPH

The two 5th Classes paid a visit to the residents and staff at St Joseph's Unit in Trim. Everyone was in the Christmas spirit and dressed up for the occasion in Christmas jumpers, Santa hats and reindeer antlers! The pupils sang a variety of songs from Away In A Manger and Silent Night, as well as a few uplifting favourites such as Jingle Bells and Feliz Navidad. Tin whistles and ukuleles were played by some of the pupils, while others had an opportunity to recite some of their self-composed Christmas-themed poetry. We were delighted to be joined by Stephen from Music Generation. We thank the residents and staff for their warm welcome and for the wonderful treats they presented to us at the end of the performance! We wish everyone at St Joseph's a happy and healthy Christmas!



SCHOOL NEWS

Carol Singing at Care Choice

5th Class visited Care Choice yesterday morning for some carol singing. We also recited some poetry, and played some festive tunes on the tin whistles and ukuleles. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring some Christmas cheer to the residents and staff! We thank the residents and staff for their warm welcome and for the wonderful treats they presented to us at the end of the performance! We wish everyone at Care Choices a happy and healthy Christmas!

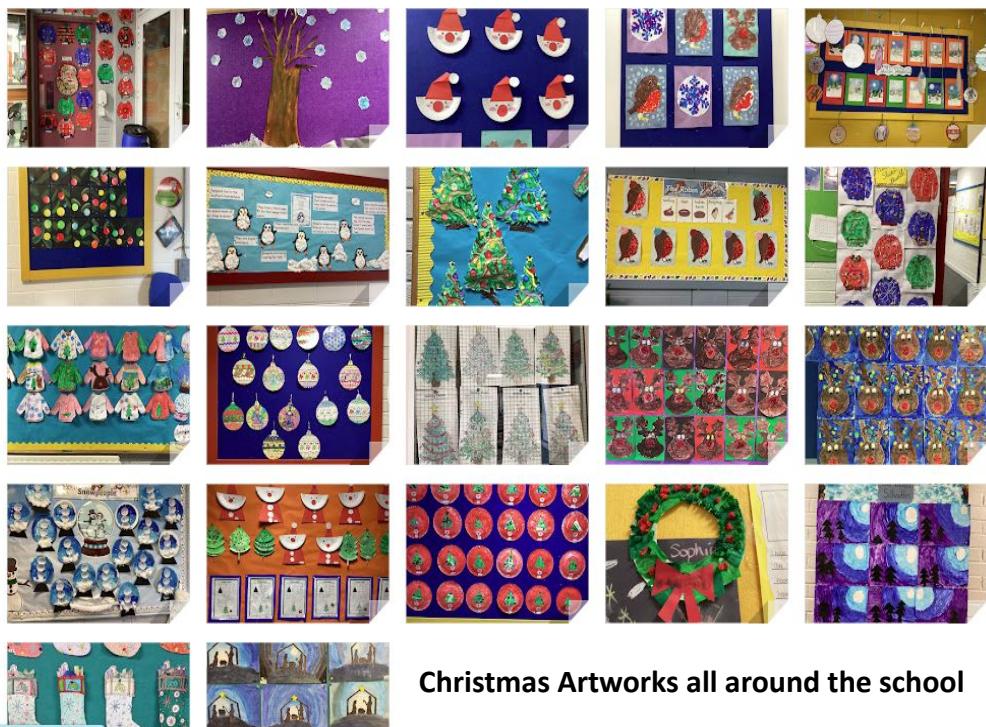


Annual Santa Dance n' Dash Event Today!

Our annual Be Active 'Dance n' Dash' event was held for all classes today starting with a mini disco in the hall followed by a few laps around the yard led by Santa! Children were encouraged to wear their favourite Christmas jumpers, hats or antlers for this fun event.



SCHOOL NEWS



Christmas Artworks all around the school

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve

Trim 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

Boardsmill 6pm

Christmas Day

Trim 9am, 11am, 12:30pm

Boardsmill 10am

New Years Day

Trim 11am

Christmas Confessions

Trim 7pm and

Xmas Eve 12nn-2pm

Attendance Figures for November 2025

Room	Attendance	Room	Attendance	Room	Attendance	Room	Attendance
01	85.8%	08	92%	16	91.6%	27	93.8%
02	88%	09	89.8%	17	85.8%	30	91.5%
03	94%	10	95.2%	18	95.5%	31	95.8%
04	92%	12	97.3%	19	93.5%	35	97.5%
05	86.4%	13	94.5%	20	95.5%		
06	94.8%	14	91.3%	23 & 24	92.7%		
07	89.2%	15	90.4%	26	92.7%		

Every School Day Counts at St Mary's!

SCHOOL MEALS

Glanmore Foods are happy to share that they've launched The Lunchtime Scoop – a complete nutrition guide. A new resource designed to give parents / guardians a clearer, more accessible information about the food we serve in your child's school.

Over the past few months, our nutrition team has been working hard to make this guide as helpful as possible. It's also part of a bigger effort to continually improve our meals. Since November 2024, we've reduced the salt in our hot school meals by 10%, total fat by 14%, and saturated fat by 9%, with more improvements on the way.

We hope you find this new resource helpful and reassuring as we continue working to provide nutritious, balanced meals for your children each day. In The Lunchtime Scoop, you'll find:

- Ingredients lists
- Nutritional breakdowns
- An explanation of the traffic-light labelling system
- Nutri-nuggets
- Information on where our food comes from
- Photos of our meals a helpful tool when exploring meal options with your child)

You can explore the guide [**HERE**](#).

Parents Association

The Parents' Association would like to wish all our students, staff and families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. We hope the festive season brings rest, joy, and time well spent with loved ones.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who have given their time and energy throughout this term. Whether helping behind the scenes or supporting events in person, your contribution has been really appreciated by the school community.

Warmest Christmas wishes,

St. Mary's Parents' Association



GREEN NEWS

On behalf of the Green School Committee, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and every green wish for the New Year. Perhaps you could incorporate a green resolution when drawing up your list for 2026! Here at school, we will be concentrating on our theme, Global Citizenship -Food and Biodiversity. We will be completing projects in various classes being mindful of food waste, food miles and Fair trade. We will be cultivating our garden space and growing our own crops. Any parent volunteers with an interest in this area are welcome!

Over the Christmas period, there will be many opportunities to recycle and reuse materials. Watch out for those opportunities! Christmas cards can be used as gift tags; much of the packaging used at Christmas can be recycled; and leftovers which are not eaten can be composted. Ideas for a sustainable Christmas can be found here:

<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/oxfam-in-action/oxfam-blog/ideas-for-a-sustainable-christmas/>

<https://www.anpostinsurance.ie/blog/article/recycling-at-christmas>

You could also check mywaste.ie



Keep safe and well and be green at Christmas!



The banner features the Team HOPE logo with the tagline 'Helping vulnerable children overseas'. Below the logo, the text 'CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL' is prominently displayed. The background is dark blue with decorative yellow and green shapes.

Would like to say a huge **thank you** to:

St. Mary's N.S.

for donating gift-filled shoeboxes to children affected
by poverty in Eastern Europe and Africa.



*thank
you*



Nath na Seachtaine: Nollaig Shona duit/daoibh

Seanfhocal na Míosa: Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin!

STEM CLUB

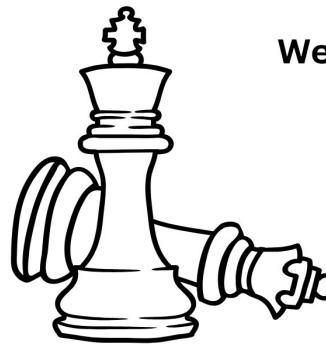
"Work with others to tackle real-world challenges, solve problems, and explore STEM through hands-on projects and teamwork-driven learning!"

Thursdays 2:50-3:50
From 8/1/25 to 12/2/25
€40 for 6 sessions
or €8 per session

Please fill out your child's name, age, and parent/guardian contact information on the back of the flyer or scan the QR code!
Places are limited so book early!



Please contact Mr. Casey on 0862242517 if you have any further queries!



Welcome to.....

CHESS CLUB

Over in St Mary's !

Join Chess Club to learn a new skill while making new friends! The classes will take place in Room 30 on Monday ! All levels are welcome !

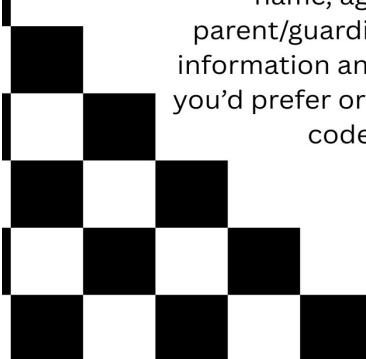
Mondays

After school to 3:50
Recommencing 5/1/25 to the 16/2/25
6€ per session

or

6 sessions for €30 until the Mid term!

Please fill out your child's name, age, and parent/guardian contact information and which day you'd prefer or scan the QR code !



Places are limited!

