



St Mary's Convent Primary School

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Imlitir 8
9th February
2026

Dear Parents / Guardians,

A new month, a new season, but regrettably no major change in the weather! St Brigid allegedly brings the spring, but we are still waiting! Nevertheless we must be grateful that Trim didn't suffer too much, compared with other parts of the country which bore the brunt of Storm Chandra.

Our Sixth Class pupils received the sacrament of Confirmation on Jan 30th. Bishop Tom Denihan spoke to the pupils, their sponsors and their families about the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as the pupils move on to the next stage of their lives. The ceremony was greatly enhanced by the beautiful music and singing provided by the combined choir from St Michael's and St Mary's. The Bishop thanked the children for their good work in preparing for the Sacrament, especially relating to the saints they chose for their Confirmation names. He encouraged the children to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to deepen their faith and to practise their faith, particularly at Sunday Mass in the parish. The Bishop also complimented the choir and all who helped to take part in the ceremony.

Tomorrow is safer internet day. It is an important day to highlight awareness of the impact technology has on our lives and the responsibility that must go along with the use of AI and other functions. The theme of Safer Internet day this year is AI - Safe, Smart and in Control. This theme invites parents, schools, educators, young people, and all stakeholders to consider how AI technologies shape children's experiences online. We are all too aware of the sophistication of AI technologies and the speed at which they are evolving. Advances in AI technology mean that fraudsters can easily create credible fake videos, cloned voices, and highly realistic fake websites which put us all at risk. Awareness is the first line of defence! Webwise offers many helpful tips for parents, teachers and pupils and provides practical advice and guidance on responsibly navigating AI. See the message below.

Next Friday, February 13, our hard working Parents Association will host Pink and Red Day. This busy group work behind the scenes fundraising for school resources and outings. We are indebted to them for their commitment and dedication. Thank you in advance to the classes who will be bring in baked goods: Junior Infants, 1st, 3rd and 5th Classes.

A little reminder about our code of behaviour policy regarding safety and general appearance. (See Health and Safety section below). Our policies are formal guidelines that underpin our ethos. They were a result of much consultation and collaboration to ensure safety and order in school. Let's work together in implementing these policies and keeping our pupils happy and safe in school.

Siobhan Nally
Principal

SCHOOL NEWS

PAIRED READING

We started **Paired Reading on the 4th February with First, Second and Third classes.** Parents/guardians with children in these classes are reminded to continue reading with your child each night and don't forget to record the books read on the sheet provided. A certificate will be awarded to the children who complete the Paired Reading booklet.



PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent teacher meetings for Junior infants will take place on 10th and 12th February (Tuesday and Thursday). It is useful to have these meetings at this stage of the year so we can get a good indication on how your child is progressing.

Special Education meetings will take place on 13th and 16th February. Friday and Monday, please ensure you book your meeting slots via Aladdin Connect.

ATTENDANCE: Recording of Pupil Absences

Regular attendance in school is essential, not just for academic achievement, but for wellbeing, social development and long-term life outcomes. Children can be absent from school for a variety of reasons and it is important that parents/guardians provide the school with explanations for each and every absence. Aladdin Connect is a secure app through which you can submit this information directly to the school. Please make contact with the office should you require any assistance in setting up or indeed navigating Aladdin Connect. For anyone not intending to use Aladdin Connect for recording absences, we ask that you provide a written explanation to your child's class teacher. He/she will then upload the reason to the Aladdin portal on your behalf.

Well done to pupils in Rooms 4, 13, 31 and 35 on their super attendance figures for January!

Attendance Figures for January 2026

Room	Attendance	Room	Attendance	Room	Attendance	Room	Attendance
01	92.6%	08	89.3%	16	93%	27	92.7%
02	90.6%	09	93.2%	17	85.7%	30	92%
03	91.8%	10	94.3%	18	92.2%	31	95.8%
04	97.6%	12	92.1%	19	92.3%	35	95.6%
05	90.4%	13	95.3%	20	90.4%		
06	93%	14	93%	23 & 24	93.4%		
07	91.8%	15	93.6%	26	91.8%		

Every School Day Counts at St Mary's!

SCHOOL NEWS

JUNIOR INFANTS PLAY RUGBY

Rugby Coaching in Junior Infants continues for the infants classes with Joshua Bond from Leinster Rugby. The children are really enjoying their Monday morning sessions in the hall or on the Astro! It's a great way to start the week.



COMPUTER ROOM NEWS

There is a great buzz coming from the computer room at the moment with students in 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes working on learning to make animations in Scratch. Scratch is a free programming software that can be used at both home and school. The link to Scratch is as follows: <https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Students in 4th, 5th and 6th classes have been learning to use Google Sheets. They have learnt how to input data, use basic formulas and graph the results of their work.

HISTORY LESSON ROOM 14

Ms Mulligan and her class tried out the old seats in our historical classroom when they were studying schools of the past. The Grandparents spoke about their experiences at school when they visited.



HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework Club will continue on **Monday, 23rd February**, and will run for **five weeks**, concluding on **Thursday 26th March 2026**.

The club is open to children in **2nd–6th class**. During Homework Club, children will:

- receive assistance with their homework
- be provided with a small snack
- be supervised in a quiet, supportive environment

Further information & application forms available from Ms. Harte (Rm.29) or Mrs O'Brien (Rm.17)

CREDIT UNION MONEY CLUB

Sharon from the Money Club will be coming to the school tomorrow, **Tuesday February 10th**.



HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

SAFE INTERNET DAY 2026

Safer Internet Day takes place on Tuesday, 10th February 2026. This is an EU wide initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people. This year's theme is **"AI Aware: Safe, Smart, and in Control"**. Parents, schools, educators, young people and all stakeholders to consider how AI technologies shape children's experiences online. While these technologies have benefits, they also raise important questions about safety, reliability, bias, privacy, overreliance, and ethical and responsible use. Please check out the following links for more information.

<https://www.webwise.ie/saferinternetday/>
<https://www.webwise.ie/aiaware/>
<https://www.webwise.ie/category/parents/advice/>



HEAD LICE

We have been made aware of head lice in some of the classes. Please check your child's head regularly and keep them home if he/she has head lice to avoid spreading in school.

KEEP WARM!

Please ensure your child is well wrapped this season. He/she should always have a warm coat to avoid catching a cold.

HEALTHY LUNCH

The school continues to promote healthy eating. Packing a healthy snack or lunch is very important. Please refrain from bringing junk food to school, And remember, we are a nut free school!

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

May we remind parents that under our Code of Behaviour policy and for health and safety reasons, pupils are not allowed to have acrylic or false nails at school or to wear drop earrings or make up to school. Only stud earrings are allowed. Pupils are not allowed to have dyed hair at school.

Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform to school. Hoodies, leggings and non uniform clothing is not allowed except when specified on dress up or non uniform days. If your child has specific or diagnosed sensory issues, please inform the class teacher to make arrangements for this. We appreciate your cooperation with the Code of Behaviour policy.

(excerpt from Code of Behavior Policy)

Appearances – Safety Issues

'Children may not attend school wearing make-up or having their hair dyed. For health and safety reasons, children are not allowed to wear acrylic or false nails. For safety purposes pupils may not wear drop earrings and may only wear one stud earring per ear lobe. No other jewellery in any other pierced body part is permitted during school hours.'

SCHOOL NEWS

DELL TECKNO PROGRAM

Room 30 were delighted to welcome Pierce O'Donoghue for the past 4 weeks from the Dell TecKno programme to-discuss the importance of IT skills, awareness and internet security!

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience. So hopefully we will have a few computer scientists from St Mary's in the future!



CHESS COMPETITION IN BALLIVOR

Well done to all our girls for representing St Mary's in the Ficheall Meath Competition on Thursday, we've received our first of many certificates, with the girls also competing against some of the boys from St Michaels. Well done to all !



SCHOOL NEWS

ST BRIGID'S DAY CELEBRATION

Students from different classes made lots of lovely St. Brigid crosses to celebrate one of our national saints. St Brigid's crosses when displayed in a house are believed to bring the blessings of St Brigid for the remainder of the year. Other classes designed Saint Brigid's cloak which, according to legend, grew and grew when she asked the king for some land on which to build a convent.



GREEN NEWS

CLIMATE LITERACY PROGRAM FOR 5TH CLASS

Our Green Schools theme is Food and Biodiversity - Global Citizenship. Mr Galligan's class recently completed their 8 week Climate Literacy Programme. These students might consider forming a Sustainability Squad to create meaningful environmental change at school.



Remember a GREEN school is a COOL school!

IMPORTANT DATES

First Confession
11th February, Wednesday @ 6pm

Pink and Red Day
13th February, Friday

Midterm Break (NO SCHOOL)
19th and 20th February inclusive

Teacher Training
(No school for pupils)
30th April, Thursday

First Holy Communion
23rd May, Saturday

Photographs for Communion
25th May, Monday

Nath na Seachtaine: Tá brón orm (I am sorry)

Seanfhocal na Míosa: Ní hé lá na báistí, lá na bpáistí!

(Rainy days are not for children!)

Parents Association

Valentine Bake Sale

The Parents' Association will be hosting the school's annual **Valentine Bake Sale on Friday 13th February**.

For this upcoming bake sale, it will be the turn of the following class years to kindly bake/send in buns and biscuits for us to sell on the day:

Junior Infants

1 st Class

3 rd Class

5 th Class

To add to the fun, children are also invited to wear pink and red on the day.

More information to follow nearer the date.



St. Mary's Parents Association
Valentine's Day
BAKE SALE

FRI 13TH FEB • 9:20-11:00

- Each bun will cost 50c (€2 limit per child)
- Please drop off baked goodies to the school hall from 9am
- Label any special dietary items and hand them in separately
- Nuts are not recommended
- Children can wear pink/red on the day!

BAKERS: We kindly ask Junior Infants, 1st Class, 3rd Class and 5th Class to bake.

The poster features a central image of a heart-shaped cake with the word 'Love' written on it, surrounded by pink hearts and a decorative border of baking tools and ingredients.

Used Book Sale

To celebrate World Book Day, we will be holding a **Used Book Sale on Thursday 5th March**. If you have any children's books at home that are no longer needed and you would like to pass them on, we would be delighted to receive them for the sale. It is a fantastic opportunity to have a clear out of books that your children are no longer reading and for them to replenish their libraries for their appropriate age group.

Warmest regards,
St. Mary's Parents' Association



Meath Primary Care Psychology Service

Spring Evenings 2026 Workshop Series

We invite you to scan the QR code/s to attend any or all of the workshops.

Fear-Less Parenting

Supporting your Child with their Worries and Fears

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 7:00pm – 9:00pm



Finding the Calm

Helping your Child Manage Emotions

Wednesday 11th March 2026 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Trust Me, You've Got This!

Parenting Teenagers

Tuesday 24th March 2026 7:00pm – 9:00pm



All About Autism

The Power of Different

Tuesday 31st March 2026 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Decoding the Message

Understanding & responding to your child's behaviour

Tuesday 7th April 2026 7:00pm – 9:00pm



If you have any questions or require assistance accessing the Workshops please do not hesitate to contact [your local team](#).

• Ashbourne Primary Care Centre Tel: 01 6914600
• Bettystown Primary Care Centre Tel: 041 215 2100
• Dunshaughlin Health Centre Tel: 01 8024100

• Navan Child & Family Centre Tel: 046-9098816
• Trim Primary Care Centre Tel: 046 942 0801