

St. Mary's Primary School



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Amber Flag

We have been awarded the Amber Flag this month. This is in recognition of all the work we have done in our school to promote positive mental health. In April, we celebrated wellbeing week. Our students engaged in activities related to each day's theme: Mindful Monday, Thankful Tuesday, Wellness Wednesday, Triumphant Thursday, Feel-Good Friday. A special word of thanks to the Amber Flag committee who worked so hard in planning the week: Miss Fingleton, Sadhbh, Katalina, Zofia, Julia, Maggie, Ruth, Catherine, Saoirse and Skye.

Camogie

Well done to the St. Mary's camogie team on their performance against Clonmacnoise in the semi-final. Unfortunately, they narrowly missed out on a final spot, but they should be proud of their effort and commitment all year.



Sports Week

Sports Week took place from the 26th – 30th of May. There were many events taking place during the week. The pupils enjoyed activities such as soccer, football, dance, yoga, orienteering, boxing, athletics and much more. On Friday we had our walk and disco. All classes took part and had a great time. A big thank you to the Parents' Association who had some ice pops for the pupils after the walk and to Ms. McDermott who organised the week. It was a fantastic week of fun filled activities and was enjoyed by all.

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to our final school newsletter of the 2024/25 year! As you read through this edition, we hope you'll agree that it has been a fantastic year here at St. Mary's for all our amazing pupils and staff.

I'd like to say a big well done to all our students and a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff for making the year so enjoyable.

A special thank you also to all our parents and our Parents' Association for your continued support throughout the year. I'd like to give a particular mention to our outgoing Parents' Association Chairperson, Áine Connell, for her incredible work in supporting the pupils, parents, and school during her time as Chairperson. Míle buíochas, Áine!

Finally, we send our very best wishes to the pupils graduating from our 6th Class and Réaltaí Beaga. Best of luck to you all as you begin the next chapter of your journey.

Wishing all our families a safe and happy summer. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new term with fresh energy and smiles.

Bainigí taitneamh as an tsamhraidh — enjoy the summer! Beir bua agus beannacht,

Niall Spain and Staff

Confirmation & Communion

Second class pupils received their First Holy Communion on Saturday May 10th and the sixth class students celebrated their Confirmation on the 7th of June in St. Mary's Church. Well done to the children for all their preparation in the run up to the days.



Sixth Class Graduation

The parents and students of 6th class enjoyed a wonderful evening in St. Mary's Hall to celebrate this year's graduation. Thank you to the Parents' Association for organising the refreshments and the parents of 5th class for donating treats.

School choir

A huge thank you to our school choir for their beautiful singing at both First Holy Communion and Confirmation in St. Mary's church. Thank you also to Ms. Stone, Ms. Cunningham and Ms. McDonnell for all of the work you have put into the choir this year.



Fiddle Fiesta

Over 33 pupils who are taking violin lessons as part of Music Generation participated in "Fiddle Fiesta" in Athlone with renowned music educator Veronica Urrego. They played with other musicians as part of a huge string orchestra working on rhythm, melody and ensemble playing. It was a fantastic experience for all involved.

School tours

The annual school tour is always a highlight of the year for our pupils, and this year was no exception. If you are looking for some inspiration for days out over the summer holidays, check out where all our classes went.

Realtá Beaga – Kidz & Co

Junior Infants – Lullymore

Senior Infants – Clonfert Pet Farm

First class – Fort Lucan

Second class – Emerald Park

Third class – Butlers Chocolate Factory & JumpZone

Fourth class – Explorium

Fifth class – Alive Outside

Sixth class – Bay Sports



Music Generation

The pupils from fourth class recently took part in a Music Generation performance in the Athlone Indoor Arena. The pupils formed a choir with pupils from 10 other schools and had a great time performing songs for their family and friends. A huge thank you to Danna Davis for all of her help in preparing the classes.

Our Outdoor Classroom

Our school is fortunate enough to have an amazing outside space. Over the past few months, Bernard our school caretaker has been very busy building a new outdoor classroom for the pupils of St. Mary's. The teachers are thrilled to have this outdoor space where pupils can be immersed in learning about nature. There is a whole world waiting to be explored beyond the classroom walls. Our new outdoor classroom provides a space for learning, for exploration, for being with nature, for caring for our environment and providing learning experiences that are child-centred and creative. A huge thank you to Bernard and Ms. Kenny for planning, designing and creating this wonderful space for our pupils.

Trip to Baldonnell

Our fourth class pupils were very lucky as they were invited to the Air Corps Headquarters in Casement Airport, Baldonnell. Here the pupils got to see lots of aircraft that are used by the Air Corps and they even got a sneak peek into the Presidential jet! They also met lots of Edenderry locals who work there and they gave the children a super tour.



Réaltaí Beaga

Congratulations to all the boys and girls in Réaltaí Beaga who had a great time on Friday afternoon with their families at their graduation ceremony. They continued the celebrations this week with a trip to Edenderry Fire Station.

Réaltaí Beaga Play Area

Bernard has also been busy enhancing the Réaltaí Beaga play area. He has added a lovely pergola to provide some shelter and he is currently increasing the size of the playground. Thanks again to Bernard who never stops improving our facilities for our pupils.



Offaly Athletics

16 pupils travelled to Tullamore on June 6th to take part in the Colin Dunne Offaly Schools Track & Field competition with Ms. Fingleton and Ms McDermott. The children took part in the 100m, 600m, shot putt and long jump. All four teams finished in the top 15 in their respective competitions.



FAI Soccer Tournament

Four teams (2 boys' teams and 2 girls' teams) recently took part in the FAI 5-aside soccer tournament in Leah Victoria Park in Tullamore. All of the teams represented the school extremely well with one team reaching the final of their group. Well done to all the pupils and teachers involved.

Well-being surveys

Thank you to all parents who filled out our Well-being and Anti-bullying surveys recently. We really value your thoughts and suggestions. We were delighted to see that over 90% of parents and pupils feel that the school is a safe and happy place and that the school is committed to dealing with and preventing bullying behaviour. The suggestions that you have made to improve the well-being of our pupils have been taken on board.

Dates for the Diary

- Tuesday June 24th – school closes at 12pm for the summer holidays
- Thursday August 28th – school reopens after the summer holidays
- October Midterm Break – school closing on Friday October 24th and reopening on Monday November 3rd