

November

St. Mary's Friday 12/11/21

In November, We Remember



Principal's Message



The week began in St. Mary's with a collection of reptile friends coming to visit, much to the delight of our intrepid First Years. Reptile Haven was a great success and despite the attraction, I was really happy to see all the creatures slither home. Thank you to the Science Department for a great Science Week.

Our Anti-Bullying week runs from the 15-19th November, it is important to remember that one kind word can go along way to support mental health and wellbeing and that no one is an exception to that.

The pastoral structure in the school includes a Form Teacher for every class. Form time is given to every class so that the class and their Form Teacher have time to explore pastoral issues. The work of the Form Teacher together with the Year Head and school pastoral team is vital. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Staff who work as Form Teachers and Year Heads for all the tremendous support that they give the girls.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as we move forward with education in this pandemic.

Edel Greene

Together We Remember

During this time of the year we call to mind, as a school community, all our family and friends that have died.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.



May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.



St. Mary's Secondary School
Baldoye

November Events

Science Week

Many thanks to Ms. Patricia Duffy who organised a week of STEM talks. These talks were enjoyed by the Senior Students who are actively planning and preparing for their future careers. A colouring competition and science displays throughout the school was arranged by Ms. Holton and Ms. Doyle.

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to all the students who brought in Shoe Boxes, once again the generosity of families has been outstanding. Sincere thanks to Ms. Hall, Sr. Marie Therese, Mr. Fennell and the Sixth Years for all their work on the Shoe Box Appeal.

Online Parent Teacher Meetings

The decision to move our Parent Teacher Meetings online was not taken lightly by the school. It aims to provide the safest possible option for both Parents and Teachers, by allowing for a virtual meeting and feedback through Microsoft Teams.

I am very grateful to all the participating parents and teachers for their support on this. We look forward to seeing you virtually over the coming weeks and months.

After School Extra Curricular Activities

Supervised study continues for the students this term, this is a great opportunity for students to get some very productive work done in school before going home and focusing on their studies.

Rugby

After school tag rugby is up and running thanks to Mr. Fennell, Mr. Mulvey, Mr. Fanning, Mr. Pettitt and Mr. Cleary.

Soccer

Soccer is now back thanks to Mr. Ryan and Mr. Cleary. Best wishes on your upcoming matches.

All students participating in after school activities can wear their tracksuit in on the day of training.

Dates to Note

November 25th Sixth Year PTM Online

November 26th Christmas Assessments Begin

School Canteen

Please note that due to the Department of Education and Skills guidelines on social distancing, our school canteen is now required as a classroom to facilitate Art classes and other classes.

We encourage students to bring a packed lunch to school which is healthy and nutritious.

It is unfortunately not possible for us to provide kettles and or microwaves for student use for insurance and supervision reasons.

The following link [Healthy Lunchboxes \(hse.ie\)](https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/foodandnutrition/healthy_lunchboxes/) provides some good suggestions and resources for the girls to consider when packing their lunch.

We have always liked having the option of a hot meal for the girls in the day, however, this is just not possible now with the current restrictions.

The canteen needs be a viable option for a company to operate the service and this is influenced by our numbers as a school and daily uptake.

We will continue to engage with the DES and actively pursuing various options.



2021 Stand Up Awareness Week

Choose words that **heal**, not hurt.

 Supporting LGBT+
Young People in Ireland



Student Council

St. Mary's Student Council are working with Staff and students to raise awareness of the importance of acceptance and inclusion in our school.

Respect, tolerance, knowledge and understanding are the foundations to a safe, welcoming and empowering climate of belonging.

Book Club

Thanks to Mr. Burke and Mr. O'Neill for the school Book Club. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to socialise, share in a love of literature and take time out to read. All welcome Thursday's lunch time.

Transition Year

The Transition Year enjoyed a day of Segway Training thanks to Ms. Convey and Mr. Ryan. A fun day was had by all.

Creating Our Future

You may have heard of the Government of Ireland campaign "Creating Our Future". The idea is that members of the public engage in a dialogue on research and to submit their ideas on what they would like researchers to explore. The ideas can be anything from the environment and technology to arts and humanities. You can find all the details on www.creatingourfuture.ie.

Jigsaw



Jigsaw aims to make sure that every young person's mental health is valued and supported.

Mental health can affect every aspect of a young person's life. We believe every young person must have the support that's right for them, whatever they are going through.

Please check out Jigsaw [Visit Jigsaw.ie](http://VisitJigsaw.ie) | [The National Centre for Youth Mental Health](http://TheNationalCentreforYouthMentalHealth)

Some interesting articles:

- [Supporting young people to stay motivated | Advice for parents | Jigsaw](#)
- [Talking about sleep difficulties with a Jigsaw clinician - YouTube](#)