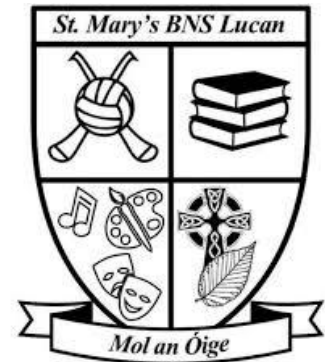


# Parents Association Newsletter Summer 2026

## Looking back on a year of fun, kindness and great memories

As another fantastic school year comes to a close, the Parents Association would like to say a heartfelt **thank you** to all our parents, families, staff and boys for the support, kindness and enthusiasm shown throughout the year. It has been a year filled with fun, and many memorable moments that we are sure the boys will remember for years to come.



## How it Started

We kicked off with our AGM in October, where the new Parents Association Committee was voted in. It marked the beginning of another busy and rewarding year supporting our school community.

At the AGM we welcomed **Joanna Fortune** as our guest speaker who kept us entertained and engaged throughout the evening with her insightful, practical and relatable advice for parents.

A highly respected **Psychotherapist and Attachment Specialist**, Joanna has over 20 years of experience working with children, adolescents and families.



Joanna shared valuable guidance on supporting children's emotional wellbeing, strengthening family connections and navigating the challenges of parenting in today's world. Her warmth, expertise and down-to-earth approach made for a thoroughly enjoyable and informative evening, leaving parents with plenty of practical tips and food for thought.

Our first meeting with the newly elected Committee and PA members set the tone for what would become a fantastic year. Together, we mapped out a roadmap of events, initiatives and goals, with great ideas and enthusiasm around the table. As the saying goes, *a good start is half the battle*, and that first meeting laid the foundations for everything that followed.

## The Christmas Spirit alive & well in St Marys

Our first fundraiser was the Christmas Calendar, which proved to be a wonderful success. Featuring photos of each class it made a lovely keepsake for families and a thoughtful Christmas gift for grandparents, relatives and friends.

The festive spirit continued with our incredible **Christmas Door Art Display**, which brought colour, creativity and excitement to every corner of the school.

The imagination, effort and artistic talent on show were remarkable, transforming the corridors into a festive wonderland and creating a magical Christmas atmosphere and camaraderie for staff, students and visitors alike.

The **Art Display** also featured a friendly competition, with prizes awarded. Choosing the winners was no easy task, as the effort shown by every class was simply incredible. The standard was so high that the judges had a very difficult job! To recognise the fantastic participation and enthusiasm across the school, we were delighted to provide treats for all the boys as a thank you for getting involved and helping to create such a magical festive atmosphere throughout the school.

The door art displays provided the perfect backdrop and preamble for our much-loved **Christmas event**, where the boys enjoyed a special visit from Santa, delicious hot chocolate, and a festive Winter Wonderland in the school hall complete with decorations, Christmas music and dancing. The attire for the day was pyjamas with even some of the staff wearing their favourite PJs!



Highly commended





A special mention must go to some of the talented **6th Class boys**, who kindly did their bit to support and did face painting for the junior classes.

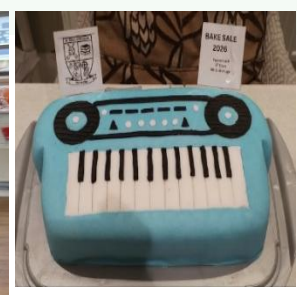
Their kindness brought huge smiles to the younger boys and it was wonderful to see the senior students giving back in such a positive way. Moments like these really capture the spirit of the school and the leadership shown by the older boys while showing off the budding art skills!



The raffle was nothing short of incredible, with over **70 fantastic prizes** up for grabs and great excitement as families waited for the lucky winners to be announced. Thanks to the generosity of parents, local businesses and our wider school community, the event raised an impressive **€14,000 for the school** - an absolutely incredible achievement and will support the building works required in the school in the very near future.



There was some serious talent on display at the **Bake Sale**, with an incredible array of cakes, buns and sweet treats that looked almost too good to eat! The standard was exceptionally high, making it a very difficult task for our judges, so many tasty treats on display!





This year also saw the launch of our very first **Minted Shop** - our own version of Vinted! Parents kindly donated pre-loved school uniforms, tracksuits, sports gear and coats, which were then made available to families at fantastic bargain prices

The initiative was a great success, offering families the opportunity to pick up uniforms and school gear at bargain prices while promoting reuse and sustainability. It was a simple but meaningful way for the PA to give back and support our school community. 💚 If you wish to donate uniforms no longer needed please do get in touch with the PA.



We are extremely grateful to those on the PA who gave up an extraordinary amount of time to organise this event and also to everyone who donated prizes, purchased tickets, baked, or supported the event in any way. It truly was a remarkable success so all the hard work paid off and the day itself was lots of fun and I'm sure the boys enjoyed visiting the hall.



## Supporting New Initiatives

This year also saw the introduction of our Re-Turn Recycling Initiative, with the addition of the school's recycling bin. We continue to encourage families to support this by sending in cans and bottles from home. Not only does this help the environment, but it also has the potential to become a valuable ongoing fundraiser for the school. We are delighted that the initiative has already raised €180 in its first few weeks, demonstrating how small actions can make a big difference. If any parents are willing to help Niall out emptying the bin occasionally, please get in touch 😊



## Sports Day Fun 2026

We recently enjoyed a fantastic sunny **Sports Day**, filled with energy, encouragement, fun and friendly competition. Sports Day is always a special and unique event, as it sees the boys' and girls' school Parents Associations work together to create a wonderful day for both school communities and a great family day out.



There was something for everyone, from exciting **track events** and **football penalty shootouts** to **hula hoop challenges**, **bouncy castles**, and plenty of other activities throughout the day.



The atmosphere was fantastic, with the children giving it their all and families cheering them on every step of the way. The fun wasn't just for the children! Parents also had the chance to get involved, taking part in their own races and the ever-popular, fiercely competitive **tug of war**, which drew lots of laughs and enthusiastic support from the sidelines.



## And everything in between....

We were also delighted to support a number of important school events throughout the year, including the **Junior Infants Coffee Morning**, **Grandparents' Day** and the various **sacramental celebrations**, where we were proud to provide refreshments for parents, families and guests.



Thanks to all the teachers for their support and commitment in helping make these memorable events so special for the boys and their families.



We are also looking forward to supporting our **6th Class Graduation evening**, a very special milestone for the boys as they prepare to begin the next chapter of their journey. We hope they enjoy wearing their graduation hoodies as a lasting reminder of the friendships, memories and experiences they have made along the way.



And of course, no year would be complete without the much-anticipated **ice cream van visits**, which is a highlight for the boys. Im sure they enjoyed a well-earned treat on a sunny school day. A wonderful reminder of the simple moments that make school memories so special!



## It Takes a Village

It has been a real privilege to work alongside such a dedicated group of parents who have given their time, energy and enthusiasm so generously. Together, we have raised significant funds for the school while also creating enjoyable experiences, special moments and lasting memories for our boys.

**A massive thank you to our brilliant volunteers.** None of these events would have been possible without your support, whether helping behind the scenes, baking, selling tickets, organising activities, setting up for refreshments, clearing away or simply stepping forward whenever an extra pair of hands was needed. Any contribution makes a difference and we are so grateful.



A very special thank you goes to **Clodhna, Shelly and Margaret** who will be leaving the Parents Association this year as their children complete their journey in St Mary's. On behalf of all the parents and boys, thank you for everything you have done, and we wish you and your families the very best for the future.



As we look ahead, we would be delighted to welcome **more parents next year**. Whether you can volunteer regularly, help from time to time, or lend a hand as a once-off, every contribution is valued and we always have good fun!

Of course, none of what the PA has achieved this year would have been possible without the incredible support of the school itself.



A special thank you to **Dara and Fintan**, who work so closely with us throughout the year. Their guidance, encouragement and unwavering support help turn ideas into reality, and we are incredibly grateful for the partnership we share.



We would also like to recognise our unsung heroes, **Donie and Denise**. So much of what makes our events and activities successful happens behind the scenes, and they are always there to lend a hand, solve a problem, or keep things running smoothly. Their hard work, dedication and willingness to help never go unnoticed.



To Dara, Fintan, Donie and Denise - thank you for everything you do you are true legends, and St Mary's is all the better for having you.



## SO LONG, FAREWELL

To all the families whose boys are moving on from St Mary's this year, we wish you every success and happiness for the future. Thank you for being part of our school community, and we hope you leave with many wonderful memories of your time at St Marys BNS.

To everyone returning in September, we hope you have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to seeing you all again for another great year ahead.



## Save the Dates

|                         |                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>First PA Meeting</b> | <b>9th September</b><br>Come along to hear our plans for the year ahead and find out how you can get involved.                                  |
| <b>PA AGM</b>           | <b>14th October</b><br>Join us for our Annual General Meeting and help shape another brilliant year for our school community. Guest Speaker TBC |

We look forward to welcoming both familiar and new faces and encourage everyone to come along, hear about our plans, and get involved in whatever way you can.

If you would like to provide feedback or get in touch, please email:

[parents.association@stmarysbns-lucan.com](mailto:parents.association@stmarysbns-lucan.com).

## Committee Members

| Role                  | Name              |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Chair</b>          | Tricia McGarrigle |
| <b>Vice Chair</b>     | Michelle Twomey   |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Fiona Ferguson    |
| <b>Vice Secretary</b> | Gillian Raftery   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Louise Carthy     |
| <b>Vice Treasurer</b> | Caitriona Conway  |

**Have a wonderful summer, and we'll see you in  
September!**

**St Marys BNS Parents Association**

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