

# MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Number 1**

**7<sup>th</sup> September, 2010**

We wish to welcome back all our pupils and their parents and, in particular, those who are starting in our school for the first time this year. We hope you enjoyed your summer and that we can look forward to a happy and fruitful year.

Newsletters will issue every two to three weeks and will contain important information such as dates for events and activities in the school as well as details of what has been happening. ***Please check your child's bag regularly.***

We remind you that a full uniform should be worn every day and that the school tracksuit be worn on PE days. Dark-coloured shoes or runners should be worn with both uniform and tracksuit. Timetables will be finalised this week and you will be notified of your son's PE day as soon as possible.

## **Staff Meeting**

The first staff meeting of the year takes place **tomorrow Wednesday 8th September**, and the **children will go home at 12.30** (new Junior Infants will finish at 12.15pm). On staff meeting days, we would appreciate if you could collect your child promptly so that the meeting can commence on time.

## **School Times**

Please remember that the school day commences at 9.20a.m. Children should be brought to school as close as possible to this time. There is supervision from 9.10a.m. only. We particularly ask that pupils do not arrive late for school and this is a good time of the year to establish and emphasise good habits with them.

On wet mornings we usually open the P.E. Hall when supervision becomes available at 9.10a.m. We recommend strongly that your son not arrive before this time as there is very little shelter available before then.

Note: With so many pupils to accommodate we cannot allow adults accompany the boys into the hall as there is simply not enough room!

## **School Calendar**

In this Newsletter you will find a copy of the school calendar for the coming year. Please retain this for your records. It will also be available (to download) on the school website shortly.

## **Staff**

This year we are sorry to say goodbye to Ms. Jennifer Ring. We wish her well in her new position. We would like to welcome to our staff Ms. Fiona Finn who is teaching Senior Infants and Ms. Jemma McCabe, who joins us as a Special Needs Assistant.

## **Book Box**

To avoid having to carry heavy schoolbags, pupils are permitted/encouraged to leave books, not needed for homework, at school. If doing so, a box must be provided for the

safe/tidy storage of the books. The box should be appropriately sized – reasonably small – so that there is room for the box, your son's bag and his feet, under the desk!

### **Pupil Belongings**

We would like to remind you of the importance of labelling your child's belongings, items of clothing in particular. Unmarked coats, jumpers, tracksuits, etc., can be very difficult, (if not impossible), to locate and return to its owner.

### **Bus Safety**

If your son travels to/from school by bus, please talk to him about the need for top class behaviour on the bus. The alternative is... having to walk!!

### **Holidays During School Term**

We remind parents that withdrawing children from school for holidays during term time is strongly discouraged and we encourage families to plan holidays around school breaks.

***Please Note:*** In the event of a pupil being withdrawn during term, teachers should not be asked to prescribe work for the period. Parents may wish to make their own arrangements to obtain the homework through other children in the class, on an ongoing basis during the absence.

### **Graduation**

Last June, we said goodbye to the pupils of Mr. Fenton's & Mr. McGeady's 6<sup>th</sup> classes on Graduation night. The format of the evening was a fun table quiz for the boys and their parents, refreshments, the premiers of two short films produced by the 6<sup>th</sup> class boys and the formal presentations. We wish to acknowledge the generosity of Mr. Johnny Nevin and the Post Primary School for the use of their premises for the occasion. It was a very enjoyable night and a lovely way for pupils, parents and teachers to say farewell. We wish the boys well in the rest of their academic careers and look forward to hearing good things about them in the future.

### **Contact Forms**

Contact forms will be circulated shortly. We ask parents/guardians to complete fully each section of these forms as the information requested can be essential in the event of an emergency. ***Please complete and return the forms immediately upon receipt.***

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

Over the next couple of weeks we will be making arrangements for various extra curricular activities. We will advise you of booking times, etc., in due course.

### **Peanut Allergy**

There are a number of children through the school who are allergic to peanuts. If they are exposed, or come into close proximity to peanuts or peanut products, the consequence can be very serious and even life threatening. Consequently the Board of Management has banned all peanuts and peanut products from the school. We ask you to be particularly vigilant in avoiding these products in your son's lunch.

### **Book Grant**

It was well publicised in advance of the 2009/10 school year that Book Grants were abolished. What was not well publicised was the reintroduction of some grant aid for the current school year. In fact, schools weren't notified until during the last week in June – when it was too late to do anything about it. The DES has issued the following guidelines for eligibility under the Necessitous Book Grant. For the purpose of the scheme, a needy pupil is a pupil from a family where there is genuine hardship due to:-

- Unemployment
- Prolonged illness of a parent
- Inadequate means to support a large family
- Being a single parent family
- Other circumstances which would indicate a similar degree of financial hardship

Application forms are available from the secretary's office. Documentary Evidence must be provided with your application.

### **Adults near School Playground**

At the beginning of the school year, there can be a temptation for some parents to come to the playground, or its perimeter, at breaktimes, with a view to observing their child during the break. We strongly request that this is not done as it can have an unsettling affect on their own child and can cause upset to other children who may be concerned about 'strangers' (to them) watching them. You may rest assured that the boys are well supervised with 7/8 adults on duty at each break.

### **Parents' Association**

The next Parents' Association Committee takes place this evening, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 8.00p.m.

### **Mobile Phone Recycling**

Last year we received an Interactive Whiteboard from the collection of old mobile phones. We hope to repeat this over the next few months, with a target of 400 old phones. Can you help? If there are any old/unused phones at home, please send them in to your son's teacher to help us acquire another Interactive Board.

### **Danger to Post Primary Students**

The management of Maynooth Post Primary School are concerned for the safety of their students going to and from classes in their pre-fabs located next door to our school. It has been pointed out that vehicles collecting children from our school are turning and parking there and that the school authorities consider this to pose a significant danger to these students. We have been asked to notify you that this is Private Property and unauthorised drivers should not enter this area.

### **Children's Eyesight**

The Association of Optometrists Ireland is running its annual 'Bright Eyes for Back to School Week' from 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September. Its aim is to highlight the importance of maintaining good vision with early diagnosis and management being key to a child's health development. A 6 point vision assessment is available at all Independent Optometrists displaying the bright eyes posters for a nominal cost (usually around or less

than €10). Further information available on Parent's Noticeboard, just inside school main entrance.

### **Fr. Paddy Joe O'Connor R.I.P.**

It was with deep sadness that we received the news that Fr. Paddy Joe passed away during August. A well loved figure in Maynooth, he was a member of the Salesian Order and in his retirement, resided at the Salesian College in nearby Celbridge. Affectionately known as "The Bishop of Ladychapel" he supported the Parish by being the regular celebrant of Sunday mass at Ladychapel.

He had a special place in his heart for Maynooth BNS and was always present and involved in special occasions such as First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. In fact, his last formal occasion at our school was when he blessed and officially opened the All Weather Play Area.

A native of Castlegregory, Co. Kerry, he had a love of football agus don Ghaeilge – Chaith sé 'an fáinne' go bródúil i rith a schaol. When his health began to deteriorate a few years ago he returned to his beloved Castlegregory to live and be cared for. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis.

### **Board of Management**

Although primary schools operate under the guidelines and rules of the Department of Education & Science, the school is managed by the Board of Management. The members of the Board of Management are:

Fr. Paul Coyle CC	Chairperson
Mary McInerney	Patron's Nominee (& Treasurer)
Gráinne Dunne	Parents' Nominee
Francis McGeough	Parents' Nominee (& Recording Secretary)
Peter Coakley	Principal (& Secretary)
Róisín Murphy	Teachers' Nominee
Padraig Ó Murchú	Community Representative
Tom Ashe	Community Representative

### **Milk**

We have just received details of this year's milk scheme. The cost for the entire year will be €33. Application form is listed below. Please send this back as soon as possible, but **no later than Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

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Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Class Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

I wish my son to participate in the school milk programme and enclose the sum of €33.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Maynooth BNS

### School Calendar 2010 – 2011

Month	Date	Day	Note	
August	31 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b> (Senior Inf – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class)	
September	1 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	Junior Infants Start School <b>10.00am</b>	
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Close at <b>12.30pm</b>	Staff Meeting
October	6 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Close at <b>2pm</b> Staff Meeting	
	25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mon – Fri	School Closed	Mid-Term Break
November	24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Wed & Thu	Close at <b>2.45pm</b>	Parent Teacher Meetings
December	8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	School Closed	Feast of Immaculate Conception
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Thursday	Close at <b>12.00pm</b>	Christmas Holidays
January	10 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>	
February	21 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mon – Fri	School Closed	Mid Term Break
March	17 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	School Closed	St. Patrick’s Day
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	School Closed	School Holiday
April	15 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Close at <b>12.00pm</b>	Easter Holidays
May	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tuesday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>	
June	6 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Closed	Public Holiday
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Close at <b>12.00pm</b>	Summer Holidays

Staff Meetings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> terms will be advised at a later date.

## **School Building**

2009-2010 was a long year in terms of building and construction at the school. The summer was no exception, as a complete new heating system was installed throughout the school. A large amount of insulation was also applied to the white panelling areas under the windows. This project is due for completion over the next few weeks so hopefully we can look forward to a nice cosy winter at Maynooth BNS.

## **Maynooth GAA Barbeque**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 8pm – 12pm for adults. Entry €15. Bull Riding competition, music and food.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Children's' Barbeque 2pm – 6pm. Entry €5. Bouncy Castles, party rides and lots more.

All funds raised are in aid of new pitches development so will be used by your children in the future. Please come along and support.

## **Class List Contact**

There are occasions when we are asked to provide a list of names and contact phone numbers to a parent (of a pupil in a class) in order for them to organise an event such as a birthday party or other class based activity. Data protection laws do not allow this from our current database.

On foot of a number of requests we will compile such a list at the beginning of each year, but only with the names and phone numbers of children who have consented to being included.

Inserted below is a permission slip. Could you please complete it (whether you wish to be included on the list or not) and return to your son's teacher by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

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**Pupil Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class** \_\_\_\_\_

I am happy to include my son's name and a contact number on a class contact list for release to parents of a pupil in my son's class only during the 2010-2011 school year.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**If yes to above, please indicate the phone number to be given.**