

# MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Number 1

12<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

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.

## 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. The Board of Management cannot take responsibility for the safety of pupils before this time. 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.



As part of a healthy lifestyle, we strongly encourage all children to *walk to school*. (Park and stride, cycle also).

On *wet mornings the new shelter* will provide cover for pupils until we open the P.E. Hall when supervision becomes available at 9.10a.m.

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.

## 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. Note: Iron-on name tags have proven to be a very popular solution. The school does not recommend any provider in particular, but the following companies provide this service:

mynametags.ie  
irononnametags.ie  
namelabels.ie  
mystuff.ie

Dalkey, Co. Dublin.  
Cootehill, Co. Cavan.  
Naas, Co. Kildare.  
Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.



## 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.

If your child is absent it is **not necessary to telephone the school**. Please forward a note to the class teacher on his return

## 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.

## 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 effect 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 AGM

Don't forget – the AGM of the PTA will take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 8 p.m. in the school hall.

## School Improvement Programme

Over the summer months, the Board of Management undertook a larger programme of school improvements/developments. Among the work undertaken were:

Stair Handrails: A second handrail on each of the 3 stairs.

New Aquarium Stand.

New Trophy Cabinet.

New Front Door/Porch.

P.E. Hall Floor: Sanded and laquered.

External painting (of the older buildings).

New crest on entrance floor.

New section of fencing (to make playground more secure).

New Wall: continued existing low wall along the length of Junior Yard (damaged tarmacadam due to be replaced).

Repairs to guttering and blinds.

Classroom and corridor painting.



We hope that these works will provide improved conditions and a fresher, brighter and safer environment for all.

## Combined Projects

The Board of Management and the Parents' Association collaborated and jointly funded two significant projects over the summer months. These were:-

**New Pupil Shelter:** Located at the Parish Office entrance area, this attractive shelter will provide cover at the beginning/end of the schoolday.

**New School Sign:** This is clearly visible inside our wall beside the Kilcock Rd/Moyglare Rd junction.

## Letters from the School

We regularly receive requests for letters confirming attendance at the school. As the office can be extremely busy, we require a **week's notice** for such requests.



## After School Club



The new facility for pupils from Junior and Senior Infants to remain at the school from 2-3p.m. has commenced this year. Children can be booked in by term, by week or on a casual day to day basis. Costs are; daily rate €5.00; weekly rate €20, term rate available on request.

If you would like more information or would like to book a place please contact Jennifer Kelly on (086) 3854958. *Fully insured, garda clearance and member of the I.P.P.A.*

## New Display Screens

On Thursday last, two new 42" screens appeared in the school corridors. The boys were asking lots of questions such as, "Is it for the Rugby World Cup?" will they have Sky Sports? and so on. However, and very soon they were actually looking at familiar faces – students and staff!

A very generous benefactor, who supports the school in introducing "cutting-edge technology" has provided this system which has wireless connection to the school computer network. It will have a variety of applications and uses, to include displaying activities and events, pupil work and notices, as well as promoting and supporting the curriculum. Watch the ~~spot~~ screens!

## Dogs

"Dogs are a man's (boy's) best friend!" However true this may be, unfortunately, the school playground is not the best place to bring a dog. While most of the children love to see them and most are extremely friendly, there is always a chance that excited or exuberant children may frighten a dog with undesirable consequences. We have to err on the side of caution, so we must ask that *dogs are not brought onto the playground*. (If you do take the opportunity to bring the family pet for his 'constitutional', perhaps you might tie him securely at the extremities of the premises.)



## Sick Children

If your child is unwell, please do not send them in to school, they will not be up to the usual school day activities. Under Child Protection and Health and Safety guidelines we cannot oblige requests to allow pupils stay in the building during the breaks. In particular, as all staff are either having their lunch or supervising on the playground, there is no supervision available.

## After School Activities

Enrolments for After School Activities will take place on **Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9.10- 9.20 in the P.E. Hall**; class teachers cannot accept applications. Please note that applications must be IN AN ENVELOPE with the application form below and the appropriate fee enclosed. The envelope must also have marked on it: Pupil's Name, Class & Teacher, The Activity and the Amount Enclosed. For administration purposes, applications cannot be accepted unless in this format.

All classes will run for 6 weeks. Places are limited and will be on a first come, first served basis. Cheques should be made payable to Maynooth BNS.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Class After School Sports Club

Every Thursday 3-4 p.m. commencing Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Class After School Sports Club

Every Monday 3-4 p.m. commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class After School Sports Club

Every Tuesday 3-4 p.m. commencing Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September

### Guitar Classes (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class)

Guitar lessons will begin on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September (Beginners) and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September (Improvers). Anyone who attended last year's beginners class may now join the Improvers Class. Mr.

Davis will take a maximum of 18 pupils only in each class. The lessons will take place in Mr. Creevey's classroom at the back of the school.

**Arts and Craft (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class)**

Every Tuesday 3-4 p.m. commencing 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2011. The lessons will take place in Ms. Buckley's classroom (Room 4).

**Homework Club (2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class)**

Homework Club will commence (**depending on demand**) on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. If the classes are not going ahead, the children who have registered will be notified by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September and money will be refunded on that day.



I wish my son to partake in (please tick)

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class After School Sports Club	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class After School Sports Club	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Class After School Sports Club	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday Guitar Classes (Beginners)	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday Guitar Classes (Improvers)	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday Arts & Crafts	€35	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homework Club	€60	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed € \_\_\_\_\_

**Mobile No. to text if a session has to be cancelled** \_\_\_\_\_

**Search for Dogs**

**Milk**

We have just received details of this year's milk scheme. The cost for the entire year will be €36.00. Application form is listed below. Please send this back as soon as possible, but **no later than Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September.**



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

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

I wish my son to participate in the school milk programme and enclose the sum of **€36.**

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

**Maynooth BNS**  
**School Calendar 2011 – 2012**

Month	Date	Day	Note
September	1 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	School Re-opens 9.20am (Senior Inf – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class)
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday	Junior Infants Start School <b>10.00am</b>
October	31 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mon – Fri	School Closed Mid-Term Break
November	7 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>
	23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	Wed & Thu	Close at <b>2.45pm</b> Parent Teacher Meetings
December	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Friday	Close at <b>12.00pm</b> Christmas Holidays
January	9 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>
<i>*February</i>	<i>13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Mon-Wed</i>	<i>School Closed Mid-Term Break*</i>
February	16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Thu – Fri	School Closed Mid Term Break
February	20 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>
March	19 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Closed Public Holiday
*	30 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Close at <b>12.00pm</b> Easter Holidays*
<i>*April</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Mon - Wed</i>	<i>School Closed Easter Holidays</i>
	5 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Thu – Sun	School Closed Easter Holidays
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>
May	7 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Closed Public Holiday
June	4 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Closed Public Holiday
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Close at <b>12.00pm</b> Summer Holidays

*\*In the event of the school having to make Exceptional Closings (due to snow, power loss, etc.) these holidays may be cancelled to make up the lost days. (This is a Department of Education guideline, Circular 34/2011.) This should be taken into consideration when making plans for the holidays, trips, etc.*