

MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

No. 12

15th May, 2012

Reminder

Meeting for parents of new Junior Infants **Wed 16th May 8pm**

Morning Procedures

The school officially opens at 9.20am. As it is not possible for all pupils to arrive at exactly 9.20am, we recommend that your child should aim to arrive in the 10 minute period before this, i.e. 9.10-9.20am.

While the school becomes responsible for the children from the official start time of 9.20am, we endeavour to have teacher presence a little earlier when possible. Please note, that there is no supervision before this time.

Wet Morning - On days when rain is likely/forecast, pupils should wear coats to school, preferably with a hood (or have a hat). In the event of light rain, the coats/hoods/caps, combined with the school shelter, should provide sufficient cover for the 10 minutes before school opens. The school cannot allow pupils into the building unless they are under the supervision of teachers. See: www.allianz.ie - Other Products - School Insurance - Safety & Security in School - Supervision of Pupils. Hence, it is not possible to open the doors and allow them enter their classrooms.

In the event of heavier rain, the boys will be permitted to enter the P.E. Hall, through the Moyglare Rd/Parish Office door, where supervision by a small number of teachers will be possible. As entry is through the door where the shelter is located, we ask that adults avoid gathering under the shelter so as to allow access for the pupils.

Reports

You are asked to send in a stamped addressed envelope to your son's teacher by Friday 1st June, so that your son's end of year report can be forwarded to you. (Separate envelopes if you have children in different classes please.)

N.B. If a stamped addressed envelope is not received, the report can only be obtained in September by request.

Sponsored Walk

We would like to express our thanks to all who supported the PTA organised Sponsored Walk last Sunday. It was lovely to see so many of the boys and their families – mams, dads, grans, granddads, brothers, sisters and even the family pets.

Could you please send in the Sponsorship cards and money collected this week. We are hoping to reach our target of €4,000 to fund the purchase of 5 Interactive Projectors for the last 5 classrooms which were without Interactive Whiteboard Solutions.

The raffle for the bicycle takes place on Friday. All cards returned will be entered into the raffle. Again, thank you for your support.

Phone Messages for Pupils

Recently, there has been a significant increase in the number of phone calls to the school requesting messages to be passed on to pupils. There can vary from serious emergencies right down to fairly trivial messages.

It has gotten to the stage where it can cause real disruption to the function of the reception office. With one secretary in the afternoon, 10-15 messages for pupils spread across the school can leave the office virtually unmanned and phones unanswered for a large part of the afternoon.

There is also the aspect of a message not being delivered due to perhaps a class being out at P.E. or the secretary being distracted by another more immediate pressing matter. We:

- ask that you try to avoid contacting the office to pass on messages to students unless in the case of emergencies.
- cannot guarantee being able to have phone messages delivered to students, due to the busy nature of the school office.

Is your son leaving?

At this time of the year we are already making plans for the next school year. If you expect to be moving before next September, it would be a big help to us if you could let us know. (If you let us know and subsequently cancel your move, your son will **NOT** lose his place in the school.) We would appreciate you advising us by Friday 1st June.

Standardised Testing

Standardised testing will be carried out on Tuesday 15th May and Tuesday 22nd May for pupils in 1st – 6th classes. We ask that you try to avoid any absences of pupils on these days unless absolutely necessary. This testing should not cause any worry to the boys and extra studying, or preparation, is not necessary.

6th Class Confirmation Donation to DEBRA Ireland

Congratulations to the boys in 6th class who recently donated €1,000 of their Confirmation money to DEBRA Ireland. Susan Woodcock, a representative from DEBRA, visited the school and spoke to the boys about the charity's work. She explained how the boys' generous contribution would go a long way towards helping patients and families affected by the rare genetic skin condition, EB.

Volunteers for 6th Class day in June

Volunteers are needed for the 6th class Fund Day being held in NUIM on Wednesday 13th June 9am – 3pm. For more information, please contact Eleanor Jones 0876846066 or Jenny Kelly 0863854958.

Maynooth Post Primary

Open Day- Maynooth Post Primary School are organising an Open Day on Tuesday 29th May. Boys in 6th class who are transferring to MPPS next September will be brought there by their class teachers for the 1.30pm start. The visit finishes at 3.00pm, so they will be able to go home directly after their visit.

10K Challenge - Maynooth post primary 10k challenge takes place on the 20th May 2012. It will be a run, crawl and walk for anyone interested, around the historic centres of learning that is Maynooth. The event is being held to raise money for the development of GAA playing fields on the Moyglare Road. The facility will include 6 pitches and a 1.3K running track. Also provided will be full shower and dressing rooms. The Challenge so far is supported by Carton house hotel and St. Patrick's College. Application forms for the run are available at www.runireland.com/events/maynooth-post-primary-school-10k-challenge-O. Forms are also available in The Maynooth Newsletter and from Maynooth Post Primary School.

Birthdays

Invitations - While we are aware that it may be inconvenient, we are requesting you not to issue birthday invitations on the school grounds, or ask teachers to do so, unless all pupils in the class are included. This is to avoid a situation where a child, or children, in a class feel “left out” when invitations are issued. Anything that is organised in school involves all pupils being treated equally and issuing selective invitations is contrary to this. Thanks for your cooperation.

Treats/Parties - While the intention can be well meaning, we hope you will understand that we cannot facilitate distribution of treats, cake or other ‘party’ items in the classroom to mark the occasion of your son’s birthday. Any such arrangement might have the effect of putting pressure on others to do the same.

Under 10 Football

The boys have played two games so far in the campaign. In the first game they beat Kilcock by 10 points but lost narrowly to Celbridge in a very entertaining second game, in dreadful conditions. Eoin Walsh has been outstanding in goals with Eoin Kelliher and Adam Jordan excellent in defence against Kilcock. Adam Byrne, Ciaran Mahon and Luke Murnane all contributed well in attack with Cathal McCabe getting vital scores in both games. A semi-final is at stake when Maynooth play Clane next Thursday, 17th at 2pm at Maynooth GAA.

Kool Kids Summer Camp

Kool Kids Summer Camp for children from Junior Infants to 6th class will take place from Monday 2nd July – Friday 6th July from 10am – 3pm. Cost is €75 per child with a reduction of €10 for each additional child. Lots of activities will be happening, sports: art, cooking, gardening and much more. Book early to avoid disappointment! For more information visit www.maynoothbns.ie or contact Ms. Kelly/Ms. McLaughlin in school.

Board of Management Report

The Board of Management met on 26th March. Items discussed at the meeting included:

- Staffing Levels – the impact of the cuts imposed at the last budget, loss of 2 teaching position in September and half of the middle management structure wiped out due to the moratorium on posts of responsibility.
- Child Protection – Amended Policy approved.
- Maintenance Matters.
- Use of Croke Park hours – in particular towards addressing the Literacy & Numeracy strategy.
- The Board acknowledged the tremendous input from the school staff since Christmas in so many extra activities (including Quiz success, Mini 7's, Open Day, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Catholic Schools Week, Science Day, Maths Day, Choir, First Confession, Confirmation, Gardening, Seachtain na Gaeilge, etc.)
- The Board also expressed its appreciation to the PTA for its on going support in not only providing resources for the school, but organising activities for the benefit of parents and pupils. In the recent past they have organised the Santa Visit, provided refreshments on Confirmation day, run the Coin Trail fundraising event and organised a coffee morning.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on Wednesday 6th June.

School Summer Tours

Jnr Infants	Tue 29 th May	Lullymore
Snr Infants	Thu 14 th June	Tayto Park Ashbourne
1 st Class	Tue 5 th June	Causey Farm Co. Meath
2 nd Class	Wed 13 th June	Croke Park
3 rd Class	Thu 24 th May	Viking Splash/Dublinia
4 th Class	Wed 30 th May	Tayto Park Ashbourne
5 th Class	Fri 22 nd June	Clara Lara
6 th Class	Thu 14 th June	Aquatic Centre & Bowling