

# MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Number 1

7<sup>th</sup> September, 2015



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.



We remind you that a full uniform should be worn every day and that the school tracksuit be worn on PE days. ***Plain Black shoes or runners (with no lines/logos etc. in another colour) should be worn with both uniform and tracksuit.***

## Staff Changes

We are delighted to welcome Ms. Dineen in Junior Infants, Mr. McGrath in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and Ms. Gallagher in Learning Support. We would also like to welcome Edel Vanduyvenvoorde who has also joined us in a Special Needs Assistant position. We hope they will be very happy in our school. We were sad to say goodbye to Teachers, Ms. Hoban, Ms. Kirwan and SNA Linda Garrigan. We wish them all well.

## Parent Nominees to the next Board of Management

The current Board of Management is coming to the end of its 4 year term of office. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to each outgoing member for their contribution to the organisation and management of the school during their time on the Board. Go n-éirí libh.

The process for electing the 2 parent nominees to the new Board – a mother and a father - is now commencing. The Patron has arranged for an election to be held during the Parents' Association AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 8pm in the school hall.

- At this meeting, there will be a ballot to elect the nominees.
- Nominations will be sought for a mothers' panel and a fathers' panel.
- If there is only one nominee for either panel, the nominee(s) shall be deemed to be elected.
- If more than one nomination is received for either of the panels, a secret ballot shall be held at the meeting. Two tellers shall be appointed.
- Each parent attending will be entitled to have one, non-transferable vote for each panel.
- The votes shall be counted in public.
- The election shall be determined on a plurality of votes (i.e. the first past the post system).
- In the event of a tied vote between nominees the election of the nominee(s) shall be determined by the drawing of lots. However, where the ballot has been conducted at a meeting and where agreed by the majority of voters present and voting therein, the election of the nominee(s) shall be determined by a further vote at that meeting. Such a vote shall be confined to the tied nominees.

## School Calendar

In this Newsletter you will find a copy of the school holidays calendar for the coming year. Please retain this for your records. It is also available on the school website at [http://www.maynoothbns.ie/blogs/?page\\_id=1553](http://www.maynoothbns.ie/blogs/?page_id=1553)



Meanwhile, be sure to check our online calendar frequently, as it will be updated regularly with planned events and activities. Over the next few weeks, as items are organised for the coming year, details will start to appear. So, if you want to keep yourself well-informed, see: [http://www.maynoothbns.ie/blogs/?page\\_id=1449](http://www.maynoothbns.ie/blogs/?page_id=1449) regularly.

## School Times

Please remember that the school day *commences at 9.20 a.m.* Children should be brought to school as close as possible to this time. While there is frequently supervision from 9.10 a.m. the Board of Management cannot take responsibility for the safety of pupils before school starting time at 9.20 a.m.



We particularly ask that pupils do not arrive late for school. 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 & stride and cycling are also strongly recommended).

On *wet mornings the shelter* will provide cover for pupils until we open the P.E. Hall when supervision becomes available after 9.10a.m. Entry will be **ONLY** through the door at the shelter on these wet mornings.

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



## Roll Call

If your child arrives after 9.45 a.m. it is likely that he will have missed the Roll Call and so, while having had the benefit of school that day, he will be recorded as absent.

Note: If your son has a planned appointment, such as a medical/dental appointment in the morning and will be coming to school afterwards, please notify the teacher in writing, in advance, and his attendance can be recorded.

## Star Past Pupils

Congratulations to past-pupils Daniel Courtney who plays in mid-field for the Kildare Minor Football Team. Daniel had an outstanding performance in the Semi-Final against Tipperary, but sadly they lost out by a two point margin. Congrats also to Daniel O'Sullivan, also a past pupil and a member of the Kildare panel. Both represented the school teams when they attended Maynooth Boys' NS.

## 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!!

## NEWB Reports

Under the National Education Welfare Act schools must make returns each quarter for all pupils who have been absent from school for 20 days or more. The National Education Welfare Board must be notified regardless of the reason for the absence.



(Please Note – a verbal message is not sufficient and in such a case, a child's

absence must be recorded as “unexplained”, until the written explanation is received by his class teacher).

If your child is absent it is **not** necessary to **telephone the school**. However, it is necessary to send a written explanation to his teacher explaining the absence on his return. This is an Education Welfare Act requirement.

### School Security Procedures

In the interest of safety, the school has a secure entry access system. Please remember that:

- All visitor entry to the school must be through the Main Entrance via reception.
- Any person having official/approved business in the school will be required to sign-in and will receive a Visitor ID.
- If any member of staff encounters an adult/visitor without the required Visitor I.D. he/she will be requested to go immediately to the Reception Office and to sign-in.
- Children arriving late, being collected for/returning from medical appointments, etc. will be administered via the office. The adult collecting will be required to wait at the seating area in the entrance foyer.
- If anyone seeks to enter via another door, perhaps where a class is entering, they will be refused entry and be asked to go through the main entrance.

These measures provide for security and safety of pupils and staff, as well as reducing interruptions to class teaching. We look forward to your co-operation in their implementation.

(Note – It will be important that children arrive to school on time and enter in the line with their classmates).

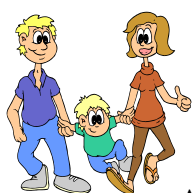
### Holidays during School Term

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.

### Resource Books/Readers

If, by any chance you find labelled supplementary reading books at home, could you please return them for attention Ms. O'Connor. Many thanks.



### Morning Lines

The Junior Yard is designated as a children only area in the morning before school.

***This allows space for the children to play and assemble and to line up safely when the bell goes, while at the same time giving a clear line of vision to the school staff who are supervising them.***

Adults accompanying children to the school are asked to remain on the senior yard (i.e. the far side of the white line).

Your co-cooperation and continuing support in successfully implementing this child friendly routine is appreciated.

### 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.) Naturally, guide or assist dogs are exempt.

### **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.

### **Parents' Association**

On behalf of all the parents, the PTA would like to thank the Book Rental committee and volunteers for their continued work in providing books for the pupils in the school again this year. The cost savings have been greatly appreciated by all the parents of the school.

A big Thank You to all the parents and school staff involved.

### **Healthy Eating Policy**

We encourage children to eat a nutritious lunch. Crisps, chewing gum and glass bottles are not permitted. As part of this policy school milk is available. Money is collected at the beginning of each school year and milk is supplied to children at lunchtime.

"Junk Food" is discouraged. A treat may be included with Friday lunch.



### **School Immunisation and Screening Programmes**

The HSE have notified us that they intend to carry out the following programmes this year:-

- Booster of 4/1 (Diphtheria/acellular pertussis/tetanus/polio) to all Junior Infant pupils.
- MMR (Measles/Mumps/Rubella) to all Junior Infant pupils.
- Vision screening for Junior Infants and Fifth Class.

Further details will be notified to parents of these classes when they are made available to us.

### **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.

### **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 have been used by some of our parents in the past:

mynametags.ie  
namelabels.ie  
mystuff.ie

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



### **Mobile Phones**

If you wish your son to carry a mobile phone to school, you must sign a Mobile Phone consent form. These can be obtained through the office or on the school website under School Office/Policies.

## Safe Parking

There has been increasing concern regarding the increasing unsafe and illegal parking around the lay-by/drop off area to the front of the school. There has been an alarming decrease to safety of pupils, pedestrians and motorists due to the thoughtless, selfish and downright dangerous behaviour of a very small number of individuals.



Currently we have:

- Disabled parking spaces (absolutely necessary for particular families)
- A bus bay essential for safe access to the children travelling by bus
- Emergency Services Access points (gates) which should never be blocked

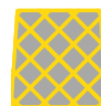
## Reckless parking:

- *Prevents users getting in and out of the Disabled Parking Spaces*
- *Prevents the buses from parking in the Bus Bay*
- *Blocks the Emergency Service Access routes to the school (recently during a Fire Drill both gates were blocked by parked cars!)*
- *Causes a danger to children and adults outside the school*

We ask that all motorists collecting children from the school, observe fully the rules of the road. We particularly highlight the following in relation to the lay-by area:

## Double Yellow Lines – no parking

**Yellow Boxes** – No parking in these areas (They are necessary for Emergency Services Access Routes and also to allow buses to turn safely onto the Moyglare Road.)



**Disabled Parking Spaces** – you must have a disabled parking badge to use these. These spaces outside the school are intended for the use of parents (disabled badge holders) who are picking up children from this school.



**Bus Bay** – no parking from 8.30am – 9.30am and 1.30pm – 4.30pm



**School Gates** – should **NEVER** be blocked. These are the Emergency Services access routes.



## 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. While they may be ready in 2/3 days, be aware that it may take the full week.

## Olympic Handball Training Commences

Our senior team was set up last year and had great success at the inter-schools annual competition in Confey GAA, competing strongly to win all matches played.

Olympic Handball trials are taking place this week and next week for the current sixth class and fifth class boys.



A panel of four teams will be selected from trials and they will participate in skill based training sessions every Tuesday to prepare for this year's competition. Training will run up to Christmas with a fun friendly at the end where all four teams will play in speed drills against a rival school. The boys have shown a great interest in the sport so far and I am excitedly looking forward to our first game to display the wealth of talent we have in our school.

Keep up the hard work boys and good luck in trials!

Ms. Kelly.



## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

### Morning Club

Morning club will resume on Monday 31st August, 2015. This is a supervised facility available from 8.00 a.m. onwards. Children are welcome to participate in play, reading, drawing and other games and activities. There is a small fee – weekly rates, daily rates and reduced rates for multiple members in a family are all available. New children welcome. If you are interested, please contact Ms. McMahon (4<sup>th</sup> Class) or Ms. Dunning (Senior Infants).

### After School Club 2-3 p.m.



The facility for pupils from Junior and Senior Infants to remain at the school from 2-3 p.m. continues this year. Children can be booked in to Jen's Den by term, by week or on a casual day to day basis. Costs are: daily rate €5.00. 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.*

**[Note: While Junior Infants are on the 'short' day, until Friday 12th September, this service will be available from 12.15pm]**

### After School Club 3-6 p.m.

This new facility is available for primary school children of all ages – Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class. "The After School" is open from Monday to Friday and children can be booked in daily, per week or by term. Rates or further information available from Lisa Coonan on (087) 8557478. *Fully insured, Garda clearance and member of the I.P.P.A.*

### Milk

We have just received details of this year's milk scheme. The cost for the entire year will be €40.00. A link to the ePayment Collection will be sent to you, please follow instructions if you wish to get milk for your son. Please quote the ePayment reference number on the attached form.



### Milk Order

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

Class Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ ePayment Ref: \_\_\_\_\_

### PTA Corner

New PTA Committee members are as follows:

**Chairperson**

**Vice Chairperson**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**PRO**

Barbara Gillen

Mary Murtagh

Bridget McCaul

Kathy Morrissey

Wendy Raleigh

### Coffee Morning

Junior Infants' Parents and Parents of New Students

9:30 – 10:30

Friday 11th September

A chance to meet some parents in your son's class in the P.E. Hall

Sponsored by the PTA



### AGM

23rd September (Wed) at 8pm

7:45 tea/coffee

\*We strongly encourage parents to attend!!

## After School Activities

Enrolments for Session 1 of After School Activities will take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September from 9.10 a.m. to 9.20 a.m. in the P.E. Hall; class teachers cannot accept applications. The application form below must be in an envelope and the appropriate fee enclosed. The envelope must 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. Please complete attached registration form below.



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

Beginners classes are every Monday 3-4 p.m. commencing Monday **14<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.** Boys who were in beginners last year can either return to that class or move to the Improvers class on Tuesday.

Improvers classes are every Tuesday 3-4 p.m. commencing Tuesday **15<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.** Boys from last year's improvers' class return to this class.

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

Every Monday commencing **14<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.**

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

Every Tuesday commencing **15<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.**



### \*\*Arts & Crafts (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class\*\*)

Every Tuesday commencing **15<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.** (\*Classes will go ahead depending on numbers).

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class After School Sports Club

Every Thursday commencing **17<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.**



### Homework Club

Homework Club is on Monday – Thursday and commences **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.**



I wish my son to partake in (please tick)

Monday Guitar Classes (Beginners)	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> After School Sports Club	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday Guitar Classes (Improvers)	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday Arts & Crafts	€35	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> After School Sports Club	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Class After School Sports Club	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homework Club (Mon – Thur)	€40 * (four weeks)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Class \_\_\_\_\_

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



## Jersey Day

This school fundraiser will take place on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2015**. If not connected with Dublin or Kerry, the boys can wear their favourite jersey or other outfit. For the privilege of not wearing the uniform, we request a contribution of €2.00 (per family, **NOT** per pupil).



### School Calendar 2015 – 2016

Month	Date	Day	Note
August	31 <sup>st</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens 9.20am (Senior Inf – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class)
September	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	Junior Infants Start School <b>10.00am</b>
October	26 <sup>th</sup> –30 <sup>th</sup>	Mon – Fri	School Closed Mid-Term Break
November	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>
December Holidays	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	Close at <b>12.00pm</b> Christmas
January	6 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>
February	18 <sup>th</sup> –19 <sup>th</sup>	Thu – Fri	School Closed Mid-Term Break
February	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>
March & Easter	16 <sup>th</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> – Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	Close at <b>12.00pm</b> School Closed Easter Holidays St. Patrick's Day
*March	21 <sup>st</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup>		<i>School Closed</i> Holidays Easter Holidays*
April	4	Monday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>
May	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Monday	School Closed Public Holiday
	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tue – Fri	School Closed Mid-Term Break
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens <b>9.20am</b>
June	6 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Closed Public Holiday
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	School Closed School Holiday
Holidays	30 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Close at <b>12.00pm</b> Summer

*\*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 16/2014.) This should be taken into consideration when making plans for the holidays, trips, etc.*