

MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Number 2

13th October, 2015



Be Safe Be Seen

This is one of the top messages that are being highlighted during our Road Safety Week. During this week, all classes will be focusing on road safety, with each level having a slightly different focus.

To ensure that all the boys will Be Safe Be Seen, each pupil will receive a High Visibility safety aid. Depending on age, these will vary from High Visibility Vests, Rucksack Covers, Discs, Armbands. We hope these will help to keep the boys safe as we approach the dark evenings and mornings ahead.

Parents – your homework is to reinforce the message and ensure your son wears his ‘high vis’ item on the way to and from school!

Digital Schools of Distinction Award

Most of you will be familiar with the Green Flag Award, which promotes the concept of environmental awareness in school communities. Maynooth Boys' NS has an excellent record in this programme, having achieved 5 Green Flags awards.

There is a similar type of award structure for schools achieving excellence in its use of ICTs in teaching and learning. *“The Digital Schools of Distinction Award recognises excellence in integrating ICT into learning and teaching. This award – open only to primary schools at present – aims to build on progress, and to encourage improvement.”*



We are proud to tell you that last week, following a visit from a DSoD validator, the decision was taken to make this award to our school. It is a wonderful recognition of the work that is done by school staff on a daily basis, integrating ICTs seamlessly into the teaching and learning and into school administration. Special thanks also to our PTA and Board of Management, without whose support in the provision of ICT equipment and resources, this achievement would not have been possible. We look forward to the formal presentation of the award, which will take place this week.

Irish Flag delivered by Army

On Tuesday 29th September, we hosted a very special ceremony at the school. In advance of the Centenary Celebration of the Easter 1916 Rising, members of the Irish Army presented to important items to the school – a copy of the 1916 Proclamation and an Irish Flag.



Initially, Lft. E. Harney addressed the entire student body and parents/grandparents who had assembled on the playground for the occasion. She gave some background about the flag.

Then came the presentation of the flag. Chosen to receive the flag on behalf of the school were 6 pupils who had relatives directly involved in the 1916 rising. These included:-

Nicholas (1st Class) & *Cillian Swift* (3rd Class) whose great granduncle was actively involved in the Rising in Tipperary.

Sean & Gerry McDonagh (both 4th class) whose great grand uncles were organiser and Captain in North Tipperary, were interred after the Rising and both subsequently elected to the Dail as TDs.

Leo Murphy (Sen. Infants) whose great great grandfather fought in Boland's Mill under Éamonn De Valera and his great great granduncle fought and was shot dead in the Battle of Mount St. Bridge.

Darragh O'Donnell (Jun. Infants) whose great grandmother was a first cousin of one of the Seven Signatures of the 1916 Proclamation, Seán MacDiarmada.

The second part of the ceremony was the presentation and reading of a copy of the 1916 Proclamation. Corporal Tony O'Neill read the Proclamation with the help of Cian O'Neill (6th class), who made a wonderful delivery of the 4th paragraph. Pádraig Mac Piarais

During the coming year, we hope to record further detail of these brave men and other relatives of our pupils who were involved, or have information about that time.



Coats/Jackets

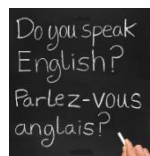
There has been a noticeable drop in temperature in recent weeks. Also, despite the sunshine this week, we have already had several wet days this term. We ask that, from now on, all children coming to school should have some form of jacket/coat (preferably with a hood). Sometimes it becomes colder or we get unexpected rain and have found that a number of children badly caught out by this. So please ensure your son has some protection from the cold/rain when coming to school.

Upcoming Events

- Autumn Arts Programme – some events planned, with more to follow
- Book Fair 16th – 20th November
- Parent Teacher Meetings – 18th & 19th November

Congratulations

Congratulations to Stephen Kerrison, 5th Class, and his U11 cricket team, Leinster CC who recently won the All Ireland Cup in Waringstown, Co. Armagh. It was a terrific game, real nail-biting stuff. Stephen himself played a major role in the victory. His team have won the treble this year (League, Cup and All Ireland) and, in fact, they are unbeaten!



English Classes for Parents

Free English classes are running for speakers of other languages for parents of children attending primary schools in the area and will run for 10 weeks. For further information you can contact Ms. Stefanie Larkin (01) 6292602.