

Christmas Holidays

Don't forget that the school will close on Tuesday 22nd December at 12 Noon for the Christmas holidays. PLEASE ENSURE PROMPT COLLECTION. School will re-open on Wednesday 6th January 2015 at 9.20 a.m.

We would like to say a big thank you to all who helped the school in so many different ways over the past year and, in particular, to our Parents' Association who work tirelessly to support the pupils and the school. Míle Buíochas agus Nollaig Shona díobh go léir.



Cake Sale



We will be holding our Annual Cake Sale on Friday 4th December, 2015. We hope you will consider doing some baking for this important school fundraiser. All baked goods can be sent to the PE Hall on Friday from 8.50 a.m. to 9.20 a.m. If possible, could cakes be sent in disposable containers, or in a plastic container with your son's name on it so that they can be returned to the 'rightful owners'. All classes will visit the cake sale with their teachers on the day where the children can purchase some treats (children should bring a ziplock bag/plastic container for their treats).

Baker of the Year

This year we are introducing a "Crazy Cupcake Competition". Enter your 6 craziest cupcakes and be in with a chance to win this year's "Baker of the Year". All cupcakes for inclusion will be displayed in the Infants corridor.



Coffee Shop

Just in case you think the adults are being left out...they're not. The P.T.A. will be running a Coffee Shop on that day also (in the pre-fab adjacent to the playground) from 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Why not arrange to meet your friends there?

Special Visitor??

There is a rumour that Santa will be in the Maynooth area on Friday 11th December and we are hoping that he will call in to see us on Friday morning. It might help in persuading him to visit, if all the boys are in bed early on Thursday night!



Polish Mass

On the second Sunday of each month, there is a Mass in Polish in St. Coca's Church, (Kilcock Parish Church). The next Mass will be on 13th December, 2015 at 10 a.m.

Intel Mini Scientist Winners



Congratulations to all our 5th class boys who participated in the annual Mini Scientist Competition. This year we had 22 entrants between the two classes. All entrants received a 'goody' bag from the sponsors Intel. The winning team were from Mr. McGeady's 5th class and now go on to the Regional Finals in Intel on Friday the 11th December next.

1st Place - Mr. McGeady's 5th Class - 'Rainbow Tube'
Constantin Melega, Dimitir Romascu & Eniola Odumade.



2nd Place -Mr. Murphys 5th Class – 'Fantastic Foamy Fountain'
Patrick Mahoney, Leon Mitchell, Jack Gilligan and Conall Meehan,



School Policies

Copies of School Policies available on School Website (under 'School/Office') or by request from the school office.

Folens Christmas Annuals

Folens Christmas Annuals are now available from the school office. We highly recommend these publications for their fun, creative, interesting and educational content. Cost is €4.00.



Wet Morning

Just a reminder that, on wet mornings, the safe entry of pupils has to be our priority. This is managed through the door at the shelter.

On these rare (we hope!) occasions, the front door will remain closed until 9.25 am. In order to keep the corridors clear for pupils accessing their classrooms, we will not be able to accommodate visitors to the office until then.

[Note: The outer front door will be open, but the inner door will remain locked until 9.25 a.m.]



Trócaire acknowledged our Lenten donation of €480.93 and thanked us for making a “real and lasting difference and helping the poorest and most vulnerable in our world to make a better future for themselves”. Well done boys.

Feast of Immaculate Conception

This is a Holy Day of Obligation. All classes from 1st - 6th class will attend Mass in St. Mary's Church from 1.15-2.15pm approximately. There will be no supervision facilities in the school so if a parent doesn't wish their son to attend, they may collect him early that day. If you intend to take this option, please send a note to his teacher in advance.

Nativity Plays

We have two Christmas and Nativity Plays taking place this year in St. Mary's Church. If you have a son in Junior Infants or Senior Infants then be sure to mark the dates below in your diary/book your time off - whatever you need to do - to be available on:



Senior Infants – Friday 18th December @ 1.00 p.m.

Junior Infants – Tuesday 22nd December @ 11.00 a.m.

[Note: Parents attending on either day may take their children home directly from the Church]



St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Appeal

Maynooth B.N.S. will be supporting the annual Saint Vincent de Paul Food Appeal. You can help people in need in our community this Christmas by supporting the appeal. Donate non-perishable festive food items to help families and individuals enjoy an extra-special Christmas meal. All food will be distributed to the local people who need it most. All donations must arrive at the school by *Thursday the 10th December, 2015*. When we have received all donations the food will be collected by Saint Vincent de Paul and distributed in your community by our local Saint Vincent de Paul Volunteers. Last year St. Vincent de Paul were extremely thankful for the generosity shown by all

who contributed to the appeal. We hope the boys will enjoy helping those who are in need of a little extra help again this Christmas. **Nollaig shona! Ms. Kelly and Ms. Patten.**



Carol Singing

Every year, some of our children engage in Carol Singing to raise funds for the Maynooth branch of St. Vincent de Paul – St. Patrick's Conference.

This year Mr. Davis is co-ordinating a group of staff members and 4th class boys and they will be singing at Tesco's on

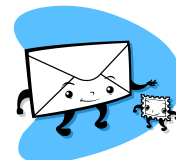
Thursday 17th December from 3-4.15 p.m. The boys need to wear their uniform and a

Santa hat. If you are free, do come along and support/enjoy the festive atmosphere – and don't forget your Santa Hat!



Postage Stamp Re-cycling

Our school is involved in the collection of postage stamps which help to save Irish bogs. Please save your Christmas stamps and drop them into the office. Thank you.



School Carol Service

Monday 21st December the whole school Carol Service will take place in St. Mary's Church, where all the classes will be singing their Christmas song.

Please Note: If you do not wish your son to attend there, you may collect him early from school on that day. If you intend to take this option, please send a note to his teacher in advance.

Olympic Handball 5th Class Tournament

On the 23rd of November we attended a Olympic handball tournament in Confey G.A.A club. In the morning at 10:40am we got on the train to Leixlip. The journey took about 7 minutes. When we arrived at Confey station we walked over the bridge to the G.A.A. Club. We started getting set up by doing a couple of drills with Ms Kelly before the tournament. In the first match we cruised through San Carlos with a four nil-win, with three goals from Eoin Wallace and one from David Sumera. Each match was about nine minutes long with breaks in between. In our second match we were not so successful, losing two-one to Lucan East. Our goal came from Conor Walsh. We had a two match break and then it was half time in the tournament, so we all had a bite to eat. In the second half of the tournament we played San Carlos again in our first match and won again one-nil with the goal coming from Cillian Geraghty this time. Again we had a break before we played our last match against Lucan East. We won quite comfortably this time, with a three-one win. The goals came from Samson Dumitru scoring (2) and Conor Walsh (1). In the end we did not get to play the Maynooth Gaelscoil. Unfortunately they won the tournament but we came second with San Carlos coming third and Lucan East fourth. Overall we played well and tried our hardest and most importantly of all enjoyed the day out in Confey. Special thanks to Ms Kelly for the great coaching and for arranging the tournament.
By Eoin Wallace and Tom Lanigan



Squad: Cillian Geraghty, Conor Walsh, Samson Dimitru, Jean Libert, Eoin Wallace, Simon McDonagh, Tim Kelly, Francis O'Hanlon, Tom Lanigan, Conall Meahan, Constantine Melega and David Sumera.

Artist for a Day – Paul Woods – World War 1 Landscapes

On Friday the 27th of November, Paul Woods (an artist) came in to show us how to paint WW1 landscapes. He also had an assistant called Alex. Paul Woods paints WW1 art using inspiration from aerial photographs and perspective.

Paul started off by showing us examples of WW1 paintings. Some of the famous WW1 paintings were painted by Paul Knash and his brother John Knash. They were paintings of scenes that they had experienced during the war.

Next we started to paint! We all had a sponge each and we mixed the colours orange, red and yellow to paint the sky of WW1. Paul also painted with us! We had to wait for that to dry before we could paint the mucky, damp ground. Once it had dried we began the next stage using brushes.

This allowed us to add more detail. We painted burnt down trees, razor-wired fences, airplanes, mind blowing bombs and massive zeppelins.

After all that, he showed us some of his own paintings from his website www.paulwoodsart.com. Most of his paintings are magnificent inspired by WW1 art. He is currently studying WW1 history in Maynooth University.

We would like to say a massive thanks to Paul Woods and his assistant, Alex. We have learned a lot and we had a great time! We would like to wish Paul Woods the best of luck in the coming years of his studies. *By: Tom Kelly and Rakan Atmeh.*



NPC Anti-Bullying Training for Parents

Anti Bullying sessions for parents have been arranged in a number of venues throughout the country. The sessions will enable you to support your child regarding issues of bullying and will also inform you about the Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools. Those that have still to be held are listed below.

Wednesday 2 nd December	Westmeath	Sheraton Hotel, Athlone
Thursday 3 rd December	Carlow	Dolman Hotel, Carlow
Thursday 3 rd December	Dublin	Drumcondra Education Centre
Monday 7 th December	Longford	Longford Arms Hotel, Longford
Tuesday 8 th December	Kilkenny	Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny
Thursday 10 th December	Tipperary	Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel
Thursday 10 th December	Waterford	Traceys Hotel, Merchants Quay

All sessions will commence at 7.30PM and last for approximately two hours. To attend you must register in advance, please click [Anti Bullying Training](http://www.npc.ie/training-page.aspx?contentid=6771) to select your preferred venue and date.

(<http://www.npc.ie/training-page.aspx?contentid=6771>).

All parents are welcome and admission is free.



FREE English Language Classes

Where? Maynooth Community Space (beside post-office Carton Park)

When? Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

All are welcome. For further information call (089) 953 4078 or email

failte.isteach.maynooth@gmail.com.

Parents Plus: Children's Programme in February 2016.

TUSLA, the Child and Family Agency, will be running The Parents Plus Programme which is a practical and positive course for parents of children aged 6- 11 years who want to:

Help their children learn and reach their full potential,

Develop a close and warm relationship with their child/ children,

Set rules and establish positive routines in the home,

Manage difficult behaviour and discipline problems,

Solve childhood problems in a positive way that helps the child to learn.

The course will commence on the 10th of February 2016 10.30am to 12.30pm and will consist of six weeks of parent group meetings which will run in Leixlip Library, Captain's Hill, Leixlip, Co. Kildare. Cost €10.

Booking Forms will be available on the school website from tomorrow.