

# MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Number 1

7<sup>th</sup> September, 2016



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

Meanwhile we are delighted to welcome back Ms. Meehan and Ms. Duignan. We were sad to say goodbye to Ms. Maunsell who taught in our school last year and wish her well in her new school.

## 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.



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 entrance door at the shelter 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 building.





### 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 only – other doors will be closed at this time.

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.]

### 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. Please be aware that this cannot be changed subsequently.

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.

### 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 please do **not telephone the school** to explain his absence (unless there is an important reason that we need to be aware of immediately). 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.

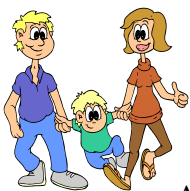
### Resource Books/Readers

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



### School Bag Donations

A big thank you to the boys and their families who donated school bags to the Maynooth Social Justice group for distribution to school children in Zambia. Your support is very much appreciated.



### 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 him in to school, as he 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. A big Thank You to co-ordinators Barbara Jordan and Lorna Beirne and to all the parents and school staff involved. The cost savings have been greatly appreciated by all the parents of the school.

## Staff Student Soccer Match

Sadly this major event in the school calendar was rained off last June. This was the first time ever that this has happened. The staff will just have to wait another year to regain their title!

## 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. Please note that the treat on a Friday should be ONE SMALL ITEM ONLY.

## 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.

Senior Infants have had their hearing tests carried out this week, as they were not done last year while in Junior Infants.

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.

## 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. There is an administrative fee of €2.00 for each of these letters.



## 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 note that this is an **optional payment** and if you do not wish to order milk, please ignore it. Please follow instructions **if** you wish to get milk for your son. Payments can be made through the link until Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

## 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

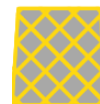


## Reckless parking:

- *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.



The Gardaí have notified us that, as a result of the seriously high level of illegal parking in the vicinity of the school, they plan to significantly increase their presence in the area around the school, with regular patrols. The school management has been asked to bring this to your attention.

## **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL**

### **Morning Club**

Morning club has resumed. 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 (Resource).

### **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 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.*

### **PTA Corner**

New PTA Committee members are as follows:

**Chairperson**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**PRO**

Wendy Raleigh  
Bridget McCaul  
Kathy Morrissey  
Keelin Fitzgerald

### **Roald Dahl Day**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September has been designated Roald Dahl Day. This is in honour of his significant contribution to children's literature. To mark the day, classes will be marking it in different ways. Keep an ear out for what is happening in your son's class.

### **Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show**

This week, a number of pupils from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes were interviewed on their views of school and school related matters. We will be advised of when this is due to be aired and will email the scheduled date/time in case you would like to listen in!



# Maynooth Boys' NS

## School Calendar 2016 – 2017

Month	Date	Day	Note
August	31 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	School Re-opens 9.20am (Senior Infants – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class)
September	1 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	Junior Infants Start School <b>10.00 a.m.</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 9.20 a.m.
December Holidays	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	Close at <b>12.00 Noon</b> Christmas
January	9 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens 9.20 a.m.
February	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Thu – Fri	School Closed Mid-Term Break
February	27 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens 9.20 a.m.
March	17 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	School Closed St. Patrick's Day
April	7 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Close at <b>12.00 Noon</b> Easter Holidays
*April	10/11/12 <sup>th</sup>	Mon – Wed	School Closed Easter Holidays
April	13 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Thurs – Fri	School Closed Easter Holidays
April	24 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Re-opens 9.20 a.m.
May	1 <sup>st</sup>	Monday	School Closed Public Holiday
June	5 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	School Closed Public Holiday
June	6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Tue – Fri	School Closed School Holiday
June	30 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Close at <b>12.00 Noon</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 16/2014.) This should be taken into consideration when making plans for the holidays, trips, etc.*