

Coffee Morning for Parents of Junior Infants and any new parents



The Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) of St Mary's Boys' National School would like to invite all parents of Junior Infants and any new parents to a coffee morning on **Friday 6th October from 9.30 to 10.30 am** in the Main P.E. Hall

The purpose of this event is to give you, the parents, an opportunity to get to know the other parents in your child's class and the other junior infant classes, over a cup of tea or coffee. If you wish, contact numbers can be exchanged for the purpose of birthday parties, play-dates, checking homework, etc.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Parent Teacher Association AGM

The Parent Teacher Association AGM is being held on **Wednesday, 11th October at 8p.m.** in the PE Hall.

All parents are invited to attend, so please add this date to your diary.

This is a really important event in the school calendar, where you will hear not only of PTA activities, but also updates on other major school issues. Don't miss out – plan to be there!

New School Calendar Date

We have just received notification that the school will be closed on **Friday 23rd February 2018** for teacher in-service on the new Primary Language Curriculum.

Note that this new closing ***does not*** appear on the calendar issued on Newsletter No. 1 on 14th September 2017. An updated calendar has been attached to the end of this newsletter.

After School Activities

2nd Class After School Sports activities will commence on Friday 6th October.

3rd/4th Class After School Sports will be starting back next Monday 2nd October.

5th/6th Class After School Sports will be commencing on Thursday 5th October.



Registration forms were sent home on Wednesday 27th September to the classes involved.

Please return the forms to the relevant teachers running the activity, along with the fee.

Places are limited and will be offered on a first-come first-served basis.

After School Guitar Lessons



Guitar Lessons (for 1st – 6th classes) will commence on Monday 9th October for beginners and each Monday afterwards for 6 weeks.

Improvers classes begin on Thursday 12th October and will run each Thursday for 6 weeks.

The cost is €30 for the term and please bring your own guitar.

Registration forms will be sent home on Monday 2nd October, and as places are limited they will be offered on a first-come first-served basis. Please return the completed form with money to Mr. Harraghy.

Homework Club



Homework Club is starting again Monday 2nd October. It will be running on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for the school term ahead. Ms. Meehan and Ms. Kelly will distribute booking forms this week to the pupils in 1st to 6th classes.

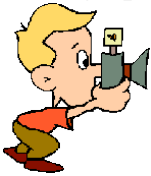
Party Invitations

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.



Photography



Class Group Photos

Kevin Carr will also be taking group photos of all classes on **Tuesday, 3rd October**.

Junior Infant Photos

The school photographer Mr. Kevin Carr, will be visiting us on **Tuesday, 10th October**, to take individual photos of the new Junior Infants. Consent forms will be sent out shortly.

Uniform Donations

We are currently looking for SMALLER size school uniform items. If you have any of these which your son has outgrown, in good condition, we'd be delighted to take them off your hands.



Substitute Teacher Crisis

I felt it important to bring this issue to your attention. This crisis is particularly evident in the greater Dublin area and surrounding counties, where substitutes are "scarcer than hen's teeth", so to speak.

The smaller number of substitutes that were available at the beginning of September have all but disappeared, as schools with vacancies have been offering them positions. There have been shortages in the past, but never this bad so early in the year.

The reason that I highlight this to you now is that, in the unfortunate event of your son's teacher becoming ill, it is most probable that we will not be able to locate a substitute teacher. In that case, the only alternative available to us at the moment is to split the class. This means placing your son in another classroom for the day where he will be supervised.

Naturally, the school will do its' utmost to locate a substitute teacher, but I feel it appropriate to inform you of the reality of this shortage.

(Peter Coakley, Principal)

Friendship Week

As part of our Friendship Week, the boys have been discussing in their classes, the importance of friendship and being kind to each other.

This Friday's Pupil Assemblies will be focusing on Friendship and they are being led by the 2nd classes (Junior end) and 3rd classes (Senior end). We are really looking forward to their presentations.



TY Coaching Programme

This week saw the commencement of the GAA Fitness and Coaching Programme in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes. Each Wednesday a squad of Transition Year, trained coaches will work with the boys for approximately 30 minutes. The programme, which is organised and co-ordinated by Maynooth GAA Club, covers both fitness activities as well as games skills.

Thank You



Thank you for your co-operation in keeping the school side of the playground as an adult free zone in the morning before school. There has been a significant improvement in this over the last couple of weeks, which greatly helps in maintaining a safe space for the children that can be safely supervised and monitored by school staff.

Maynooth Boys' NS
School Calendar 2017 - 2018

Month	Date	Day	Note
August	31 st	Thursday	School Re-opens 9.20am (Senior Infants – 6 th Class)
September	1 st	Friday	Junior Infants Start School 10.00 a.m.
October	30 th –3 rd Nov	Mon – Fri	School Closed Mid-Term Break
November	6 th	Monday	School Re-opens 9.20 a.m.
December	22 nd	Friday	Close at 12.00 Noon Christmas Holidays
January	8 th	Monday	School Re-opens 9.20 a.m.
February	15 th – 16 th	Thu – Fri	School Closed Mid-Term Break
February	19 th	Monday	School Re-opens 9.20 a.m.
February	23 rd	Friday	In Service Day – Primary Language Curriculum
March	19 th	Monday	School Closed Public Holiday
March	23 rd	Friday	Close at 12.00 Noon Easter Holidays
*March	26/27/28 th	Mon – Wed	School Closed Easter Holidays
March	29 th – 6 th Apr	Thurs – Fri	School Closed Easter Holidays
April	9 th	Monday	School Re-opens 9.20 a.m.
May	7 th	Monday	School Closed Public Holiday
May	8 th – 11 th	Tue – Fri	School Closed Mid Term Break
June	4 th	Monday	School Closed Public Holiday
June	29 th	Friday	Close at 12.00 Noon 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 & Skills requirement Circular 09/2017.) This should be taken into consideration when making plans for the holidays, trips, etc.*