

Green Flag Ceremony & Garda Band

On Thursday 25th September the whole school (including many parents and family members)



enjoyed the Green Flag Raising Ceremony at the school. The ceremony included a special visit from the Garda Band to mark the occasion. Not only did they perform a great variety of fun and enjoyable music and get the boys actively involved, they even got some of the parents and all of the teachers to perform as well!

It is traditional that a Special Guest or VIP is invited to raise the flag. This year's VIP was selected on the basis of his huge interest in all things environmental and for his track record in consistently leading the green initiative in the school for the past 11 years, culminating in our 5th Green Flag this year – it was none other than our own Mr. Donal Downes.

To 'add icing to the cake', we even had another surprise special visitor on the day. The Six Nations Trophy, which is currently held by the Irish Rugby Team, was visiting Maynooth that day. When they heard about our special celebration, the cup paid a brief visit to the school – much to the delight of the boys.

Christmas Cards Time Again



No we haven't gone crazy Yet! It really is Christmas Card time, but not in the sense that you might be thinking. For the past few years; our PTA have co-ordinated the pupil-designed Christmas Card initiative. Each pupil gets to create their own Christmas Card and parents have the opportunity to purchase a set of those cards to send to family and friends. In order to have the cards ready in time for you to post at Christmas, the art work needs to be done at this stage of the year.

On Monday we will distribute templates to every child in the school. The picture that each boy draws on the template will be the front of the Christmas Card. All pictures will have to be *completed by Friday 17th October, 2014*. When we return after mid-term break, we will have a sample card for each boy in the school who has submitted a picture. At this point you can decide if you wish to place an order. You might like to help your son to practice his Christmas artwork over the next few days. Don't forget Friday 17th is the last day for submission of artwork for the cards.

School Calendar



If you want to be up to date with what is happening and being planned in the school, be sure to check in on the School Calendar - now active on the website. (Link on top right of Home page.) Click on an item for further information about it.

Morning time on the Playground

Since we had the playground lines re-painted a couple of weeks ago, it is now possible to clearly see the children's assembly area. Thank you for your co-operation in maintaining this as an adult free zone, which has helped create much more space for the children to play, especially for the smaller boys.

PTA News

AGM: The AGM for this year was held on 24th September, 2014 and was very well attended. It was great to see so many familiar faces but also a good number of new parents too. At the end of the meeting a local lady Gillian Duff, chef and kitchen coach, gave an engaging demonstration of some simple lunch box ideas and tips – and those that were present got to sample a few items she made on the night!

Donate an Hour: The PTA are encouraging parents to partake or "donate an hour", whenever you can, in the many activities run in the school with the support of the PTA. There is no shortage of events where help is needed so if you can help once a year or a number of times a year your time is always appreciated and welcome.

PTA Meetings: For those whom evening time is their preferred time, our monthly meetings take place the first Tuesday of every month. All meetings take place at 8pm in the computer room of the school and new parents are always welcome to join us for any meeting they are available to attend. Don't forget, if you are a parent of a boy in the school, then you are a member of the PTA and welcome to attend. The next meeting will be 7th October, 2014.

Next Activity: The next activity is our first fundraiser of the year, the Christmas card "project". This begins in October when every boy in the school gets the opportunity to create his own Christmas card and each card will be available to order, if desired, a little closer to Christmas. As with all fundraisers this takes considerable organising behind the scenes and once a date is fixed for orders to be finalised we will need help. More details to follow on this a little later in the month.

Contact the PTA: To contact the PTA there is an email link on the school website or email mbns.pta@gmail.com

School Uniform - Footwear

Just a reminder that all pupils are expected to have the correct school uniform footwear – plain dark shoes/runners, preferably black, but dark navy is acceptable.



Credit Union Art Competition

The annual Credit Union Art Competition is being co-ordinated locally again by Maynooth Credit Union. The theme this year is "Artfest" and the closing date for entries is 22nd October. The boys will be given the opportunity to do their artwork during school. You may discuss and help them practice at home, but only pupil's unaided work may be entered. (Entry also includes an understanding that the Credit Union may use images of work in publicity material including newspapers, magazines, internal publications and web based and social media outlets).



Senior Infant Library Visit

On Friday 19th September the boys in Miss Dunning's Senior Infants made a very special visit to Maynooth library. The boys were treated to a very exciting magic show by the wonderful magician *Jack Flash*. *Jack Flash* entertained the boys with his AMAZING magic tricks, juggling skills and funny jokes.

Some of the boys even got to help *Jack Flash* with his tricks. Leo Callan was shown how to stand on his hands while *Jack Flash* balanced him on his 'special' board. Joseph O' Connor put his magic skills to the test with his wands. Daniel Groarke and David Konan held a pen while spinning a ball. Some other boys put their fear to the test while Jack Flash tried to terrorise them with some scary tricks.



It was clear from the boys' faces and laughter that they all really enjoyed the morning. Check out our website for some pictures of our visit.



Request for Books for Class Library

We would be grateful for donations of books your children are finished reading and found enjoyable. We are currently trying to restock the class libraries, so if you'd like to clear out some of the shelves at home, we could put them to good use. (Naturally, books should be in good condition).

Under 11 Hurling

On Thursday 2nd October our U-11 hurlers started the defence of their crown with a hard-fought but deserved victory over a strong Naas side. Played in sunny conditions, our new look team took the game to their opponents from the off, tackling and blocking as if their lives depended on it. Scores were at a premium but Pearse McKeever and Cillian Kearney got priceless first-half goals which proved to be the difference in the end. Team Manager, Mr. Fenton, said that the whole team was marvellous on the day and deserve great credit for their effort. Next up in the competition is an away game vs Celbridge on Thursday 9th October, 2014.



First Communion – 2nd Class



You will have received a letter from Fr. Liam with a Consent Form attached regarding the Sacrament of First Holy Communion 2015. This should have been returned to your son's Class Teacher by Friday 3rd October. If you have not already returned it, please do so as soon as possible. There will be a meeting in the Glenroyal Hotel on 15th October, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

First Communion this year will take place on Saturday 23rd May, 2015.

Confirmation – 6th Class

Parents of boys in 6th class should have received letter inviting you to a meeting on 22nd October from 7.30 -9.15 p.m. in the Glenroyal Hotel. The Consent Form which was attached to the letter, should be completed and returned to your son's Class Teacher not later than this Friday, 10th October. The Enrolment Ceremony will take place on 12th November, 2015 and the date for the Sacrament Confirmation is 3rd March, 2015.



Parent Teacher Meetings

This year's Parent Teacher Meetings are scheduled to take place on 19th and 20th November. Your son's teacher will be in touch with you to arrange an appointment after the mid-term break. Meanwhile, you may wish to make a note of these dates in your diary.

Puzzles and Construction Toys

We have received some really lovely puzzles/jigsaws/board games recently. These, as well as the sets of bricks, blocks, leg, k'nex and other construction materials that parents have donated to the school go to really great use.



As well as helping us to develop children's concentration and fine motor skills, they are great for keeping the boys occupied during breaks when it's raining outside.

Thanks to all who have given us these resources which are no longer of use at home. They are really appreciated.