



Maynooth Educate Together Newsletter

September/October 2018

Introduction and Welcome to new staff: Mary, Thomas, Naomi, Sarah, Lorraine.

School Staff 2018-2019

Principal: Marie Hand

Deputy Principal: Elaine Phelan

Assistant Principal 1: Aimee Egan

Class Teachers

- Clare Dooley: Junior Infants
- Elaine Phelan: Junior Infants.
- Catherine Collins: Senior Infants.
- Robert Leonard: First Class.
- Noel Carey: Second Class.
- Mary Quinn: Third Class.
- Angela Langan/Mary Doran: Fourth Class.
- Aimee Egan /Noreen Keane: Fifth Class
- Thomas Treacy: Sixth Class

ASD Teachers

Stephanie Mc Cormac : Junior ASD class.

Robert Potter: Senior ASD Class.

Support Teaching Staff:

- Claire Dixon
- Eoin Mac Domhnaill
- Noas Connaughton
- Naomi Burke

Special Needs Assistants:

- Pat Cannon/Cristina Onofreiciuc
- Alison Monaghan
- Joan Eley
- Anne Downes
- Eileen Neary
- Pamela Brunton
- Sarah McCarthy
- Lorraine Flynn.

School Secretary: Hilary Kellett

School Caretaker: Martin Maher

Ann Weigel: Bus Escort

Carmel Kelly: Bus Escort

Dates to Remember:

European Day of Languages: September 26.

Maths Week October 13-21

Spooky Sponsored Walk: Thursday October 25

***RSE meeting in school with parents of 5th and 6th class pupils:
October 15 at 8pm.***

- **RSE in school workshop with 5th class :October 23rd**
- **RSE in school workshop with 6th class: October 24th**

Parent/Teacher meetings: Week beginning Nov 19th.

Science Week: Nov 12-16:

- **Intel Science Fair: Nov 7th**

Book Fair: Nov 5/6/7.

Winter fair/Class Performances: Thurs Dec 20th.

School Calendar: The 2018/2019 school calendar can be found on the school website www.maynoothet.ie. Just click on the Parents tab on the homepage and click on school calendar. This calendar is also in the pupil homework journals.

Our School Events Calendar, included in this newsletter, is posted on our website also.

Our School Website is a communication tool between school and home and will be updated regularly.

October update on building works

Very sincere thanks for your co-operation with us at arrival and dismissal times. Our front ground works have begun and as from this morning we are on a reduced set-down area. As communicated by email last week, the following arrangements for arrival and dismissal remain in place for the remainder of the school year, unless you are notified otherwise.

Arrival: Pupils will be accepted from 8.15am onwards

- *All pupils will enter the school through the main front door and proceed to the back-yard for play time and line-up. The gate at the end of the building (currently used) will be closed, as is the case on wet days.*

- *Only parents of Infant children will be permitted to accompany children to the back yard.*

Dismissal:

- **Infant Dismissal at 1.10pm:** *Children will line up at the front door area for collection.*
- **Dismissal classes 1st- 6th:@ 2.10pm:** *All classes will line up in the ASD yard area for collection. Pupils who walk home or are collected by bus will exit from the main school hallway at 2.10pm.*

In order to minimise the number of cars on the school grounds daily, we strongly suggest that pupils walk to and from school if at all possible. We are very lucky to have footpaths on both sides of the road from the town and also pedestrian crossings. These facilities will enable children to walk to and from school safely.

Infant Children: Our infant children are well settled back at school and have become very confident in the school yard. It is now time to begin to move towards greater independence. We ask that parents move towards saying goodbye to your infant children at the school door. This may not happen overnight, but over the days as the children see other classmates on the Yard without parents, they will be confident to make this move also. Be confident that, as all exits are closed, your children are safe on the school yard which will be supervised each morning.

Epayments of School Payments :

The link on our parents page to facilitate *online payments* to our school is a permanent feature of this page. This is in response to being frequently asked about such a facility which is common in other schools. We strongly encourage all parents/guardians to use this epayment system to make school payments.

Our school uses the Aladdin software service for administrative purposes and the ePayment system will give you access from an internet browser on your computer, phone or tablet to make secure payments to the school using your credit or debit card. The purpose of the ePayment system is to facilitate the easier payment of school money collections for parent/guardians and to reduce the amount of cash and cheques being sent into our school in line with recent central bank directives.

Aladdin uses state of the art security to safeguard information entered by you and the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish data protection laws.

Payment process:

- Payment is set up in school office. This may be an individual payment or a family payment.
- School notifies parents of payment.
- Parents go to [epayment icon](#) on payments section of parents page.
- Enter your email address and click send. You will **receive a text/email message** containing your **payment access link**.
- This link will bring you to a payment page which will contain all payment requests for all siblings in a family.

- Once you have completed your payment, you will be issued with a reference number. You will also receive an email receipt which will contain details of the transaction and reference number. *Please quote this reference number in any queries you may have as regards this payment with the school*

We hope that you will find the Aladdin ePayments facility useful and that it is a very successful system for all. Marie or Hilary, the School Secretary will welcome any feedback or questions you may have.

Update of parent email addresses and mobile phone numbers:

Please contact the school office if you have changed your email address or mobile phone number.

Pupil Expenses letter: a letter from the Board of Management requesting payment of €50 pupil expenses was sent home from school in early September.. This letter outlines the expenditure covered by this payment. There are a number of pupil expenses payments and also book rental payments still outstanding. **Please make this payment as soon as possible.** Junior Infants do not pay this expense as the enrolment fee covers payment.

Allianz Pupil Insurance: We have bulk purchased pupil insurance at a reduced rate. Your payment of this insurance is included in the €50 pupil expenses that we request is paid for each pupil in our school.

Other Important School Information

Nut Allergy Awareness

We currently have children with nut allergies attending our school. To ensure that children with a nut allergy are protected from an unintentional exposure to nuts **we do not permit nuts or nut products in lunch boxes ie nutella, peanut butter, nutty bars etc.** Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this very serious issue.

School Attendance (As per our school attendance policy)

Maynooth Educate Together NS recognises the direct link between school attendance and pupil progress. Therefore we promote good attendance throughout the school year and request that all absences from school are explained. Parents are requested to provide the class teacher with a written explanation for all absences.

Attendance: Annually we report all absences to Tusla, the Statutory Educational Welfare Services. We also submit a referral to Tusla where we have a cause for concern over a students' attendance. We work closely with families where there are genuine difficulties re school attendance and we request that all parents keep us informed of these difficulties.

Absences : **All absences must be explained in writing.** Please use the forms attached to explain absences to your child's teacher. Otherwise please send in a written note. This note should be sent to the class teacher on the day the child returns to school. As these notes are filed and remain in the school we

ask that parents do not write the note in the school journal. A separate note works best.

School text re: unexplained absences: At the end of each calendar month we will audit the absences. A text will be sent to parents to provide a written explanation for all unexplained absences. When class teachers receive this written explanation, the absence will be recorded as explained.

Late arrivals: We ask that parents do their best to ensure that children be brought to school punctually each morning, despite the current disruption to our set-down area. Significant time is lost by pupils arriving late to school.

Roll Call: Each morning, the roll call will be taken at 9.30am. Any child not present at school by 9.30am will be marked absent.

Permission to leave school unaccompanied by parent/guardian: All pupils who wish to travel home from school unaccompanied, must provide the class teacher with a signed permission slip. These permission slips have been sent home with the children for signing.

Children leaving early or arriving late: Parents are required to sign out children when collecting them during school hours and sign them back in if returning to the school during school hours. This facility is in the school office.

Sick children: if your child is sick, do not send them to school. Many infections are spread by children coughing and sneezing in the classrooms ie droplet spread or airborne spread. Sometimes it is better to keep children home for a day or two.

School Entrance: Our school reception office is located in Room 8, adjacent to the entrance hall. Hilary, our School Secretary will deal with all queries from this office. All visitors to the school are required to sign in at Reception.

Parking: We request your continued co-operation with our parking arrangements, thus ensuring that our school buses will be able to access the bus parking areas each morning. Martin, our School Caretaker, will continue to supervise this area in the mornings. Parents are asked to be mindful also at the pedestrian crossing area, to drive slowly and to avoid parking on the crossing areas. Please do not drop your child off just inside the school gate. This disrupts the flow of traffic and also is very dangerous. Pupil safety is paramount and we require the co-operation of everyone to ensure this.

Child Protection Policy: The Designated Liaison Person is Marie Hand. The role of DLP is to accept reports of child protection concerns and to report these concerns to the Health Services Executive. Our Child Safeguarding statement and our Child Safeguarding risk assessment is on display in the school entrance hall and in the school office.

Administration of Medicines: Administration of Medicines is not permitted without the approval of the Board of Management. This applies also to children self-administering eg. inhalers. Students should not carry an inhaler or medication to school in their schoolbag. Please familiarise yourself with the procedures set out in our school policy which may be viewed on the school website.

Homework: Class teachers have informed parents on the expectations for homework in this school year. Homework

should be completed to a high standard and please keep teachers informed if homework is creating difficulties for your child.

School Policies: All school policies, curricular and organisational are available in hard copy from the school office.

Parent/Teacher Communication: In the interests of your child's education, it is essential that all parents/guardians establish a good and consistent communication relationship with the child's class teacher. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher please contact the school to arrange this meeting. Please inform the teacher of anything that may affect your child's schooling. Please do not engage in lengthy communications with class teachers in the school yard. Teachers are responsible for their classes on the yard.

Notes to Teachers: Children need to inform the class teacher of all notes written by parents into the school journal, as teachers do not routinely check each child's journal on a daily basis.

Healthy Eating Policy: Please ensure that your child has a healthy lunch each day in accordance with our Health Promotion Policy. This policy may be viewed on the school website and is also available in hard copy from school reception.

Educate Together Journals: Pupils have received their homework journals from the Educate Together Head Office. These journals are produced to a very high standard and contain useful information for parents. Please ensure that you check that your child is writing down the assigned homework each day. This journal contains the calendar for the school year.

Aistear: in this school year we plan to expand the delivery of the Aistear programme in both our infant classes. The national Council

for Curriculum Assessment has published: *Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework*. Aistear is for all children from birth to six years of age. It can be used in the whole range of early childhood settings including in infant classes in primary schools. Highlighting the fact that children learn many different things at the same time, the Framework uses four interconnected themes to describe the content of childrens learning and development: **Well-being, Identity and Belonging, Communicating and Exploring and Thinking**. Aistear highlights the critical role of play, relationships and language for young childrens learning, In doing this, it provides a guide to using play, interactions, partnerships with parents, and assessment to help childrens progress in their learning and development. In the course of the school year, Elaine and Clare will organize play areas to complement the theme currently being taught in the classroom. A variety of play areas will be used to engage children and to cater for different learning opportunities. A number of resources will be purchased by the school for these play areas, and parents may at times be asked to contribute to our resource bank for a particular theme.

School Library: Our school library is located on the ground floor. This room will be locked at the end of each school day.

Afterschools sports club: This club is up and running every Tuesday for 1st class to 3rd class and Thursday for 4th to 6th classes until the Halloween break

For the attention of parents of 5th and 6th class pupils:

Relationships and Sexuality Education: As in previous years Mary Glynn, **RSE facilitator**, will meet with parents of 5th and 6th class pupils on Monday October 15 in the school at 8pm. She will outline the RSE programme that she will teach to the 5th and 6th class pupils. The programme will focus mainly on the Busy Bodies booklet . On **Tuesday October 23rd** she will teach the puberty section of the RSE policy to 5th class children. On **Wednesday October 24th** she will spend the day with 6th class teaching them the puberty, relationships, conception and birth elements of the programme. *It is very important that parents attend this meeting and also that parents familiarise themselves with the BusyBodies booklet which will be sent home next week. This programme may be viewed online also. Please return the Busy Bodies booklets to the school after the Halloween break.*

Flute lessons: Afterschool flute lessons have resumed. Pupils will perform at events throughout the school year and there are trips away from the school planned for later in the year. More to follow.

Parent Volunteers: The Board of Management encourages parents to volunteer in the school in a number of areas e.g. school library, school outings and trips, paired reading, in-class support in curricular areas, school events etc. We look forward to further expanding this volunteering in this school year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Marie, School Principal, or your child's class teacher.

All parents volunteering must be Garda Vetted by the National Vetting Bureau. Please contact Marie, Principal, for the Garda Vetting forms. Please note that when Parents or other want to volunteer in the school they must specifically indicate the area of

activity in which they want to volunteer and may not commence volunteering until they have their Garda vetting status confirmed by the School Principal.

We encourage all parents to come to the school to share aspects of culture, food, crafts, traditions, language etc. with our pupils. Children learn so much from these visits and it brings their book learning to life. Please talk to your child's teacher if you are willing to speak to the pupils

School Accident Insurance: The Board of Management has approved the purchase of a school Pupil Personal Accident Insurance policy from Allianz, which provides 24 hr accident cover. This reduces the price for each pupil by 33% making it more affordable for families. This cover can prove very beneficial as a relatively cheap cover from which to claim back medical expenses. The premium is included in the school expenses fee of €50.

Parents Association: The AGM of the Parents Association will take place in the school on Wednesday October 17 at 8.00pm. At that meeting a vote will be taken on becoming a Parent Teacher Association. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Parent concerns: If you have any concerns regarding your child's education, I encourage you to contact me or your child's teacher as soon as possible. Issues brought to our attention at an early stage are very often sorted quickly and satisfactorily. Good and constant communication is very important as we work as partners in the education of the children in our students. Contact School Principal: principal@maynoothet.ie.

September School News

FAI 11 a side

The FAI 11 a side soccer tournament is run in Kildare each year. This is the first year that Maynooth ETNS have entered the competition. Naos and Eoin decided to take the time to organise the match and logistics involved and all children from 5th and 6th class were given the opportunity to represent the school. There was a boys and a girls team entered and each team was guaranteed a minimum of 2 matches.

The girls who represented the school so well were: from 6th class were, Anna, Ivana, Lucy, Maya, Noreia, from 5th class, Rachel, Isabella, Olivia, Faye, Emily, Rhia, Lara, and from 4th class, Naomi, Kareena, Alienor, Niamh, Katie and Isabella. The girls started with a tough away game to Newbridge Gaelscoile. We were beaten on the day but the girls were fantastic advocates for our school with the effort shown by all members of the team. A home match against Two-mile house followed this game. Again the girls were brilliant and came out on the wrong side of a fantastic game that ended 4-3.

The boys who represented the school were: from 6th, Felix, Efraim, Max, Saul, Eugene, Adrien, Tadgh, Nathan, Cristian, Ethan, Sam and Matthew, and from 5th class, Andrew, Ben, Dominas, Ethan, Ian, Jago, Martynas, Matthew, Merowech, Orlando, Paddy, Robert, Ronan and Shi Hing. The boys started with a very tough away match to Kildare Town ETNS. After playing into a strong wind we went in at half time 1-1 thanks to a Ben Lowings goal from a corner kick. The second half was dominated by Maynooth and further goals from Efraim Zinca and a wonderful team goal finished by Ethan Hennessy. The second day out we played Ticknevin NS at home in Maynooth Town FC. This was a very strong performance by the boys as they

ran out winning 8-3 with goals from Efraim Zinca (3), Ethan Connolly (2), Adrien Kells (1), Paddy Ryan (1) and Orlando Gale-Scourfield (1). These 2 victories left us knowing a victory in our final game would qualify us for a semi final. The boys were fantastic again in beating Naas CNS away by 4 goals to 1. The goals coming from a penalty by Efraim Zinca and a goal each by Ronan Notin-Bairead, Cristian Rosca and Robert Taranu.

We are currently waiting on our fixture for the semi final and Naos and Eoin will have a difficult job in deciding the 16 player that can represent the school on the match day squad. We will communicate to parents the venue, date and time if anyone would like to come and support the boys.

3rd class trip: Third class visited Maynooth Castle to enhance their local history knowledge. They walked from and to the school and the trip was a great success.

School Garden: Third class literally enjoyed the fruits of their labours this week as they harvested the vegetables that they had planted in 2nd class and made a tasty nutritious vegetable soup which they shared with many classes. This was a hugely successful project and one which we will repeat in future years. They then recorded the soup-making in a procedural writing lesson in English.

School Hockey: 3rd and 4th classes are taking part in a 6 week hockey training programme which is funded by Hockey Ireland and Kings Hospital School.

Intel Young Scientist Competition: 4th class are busy working on their projects for the Intel Schools Science competition. Parents will get an opportunity to view the projects and discuss them with the

pupils at our science fair on Nov 7th. Sincere thanks to teachers Angela and Mary for leading this initiative and for the pupils for the great work that they are putting into the projects.

Postcard Project: 5th class are continuing their postcard project which involves collecting postcards from around the world and finding these places on the world map and learning a little about these countries. This project is a great way for children to become acquainted with the world map and different cultures and nationalities. To support this project we ask that you and your families post cards from your travels to 5th class.

School Cycling programme: 6th class pupils are enjoying a 6 week 'Proficiency in Cycling' programme which is funded by Kildare County Council.

Infants: all infant classes are well settled into school. They have formed friendships and they plan happily in the school yard. They have explored the themes of Myself and my Family and are currently exploring the wonder of the season of Autumn..

Parent-Teacher Association News

Our first PTA meeting of the year took place on September 12th and we were delighted to meet some new parents, we are looking forward to them getting involved in the school activities over the coming months and years. Thanks as always to the regulars who come along and help out.

We have managed to get Library and shared reading up and running. Thank you to our volunteers. There are still spaces available for anyone who might like to help out, with library or shared reading. Just let us know.

Our **AGM** takes place on **Wednesday 17th October at 8pm** in the school. Una will be stepping down as Treasurer and Carol won't be continuing as Chairperson so it is even more important than ever that we get some new (*or returning*) volunteers for our PTA committee. Please do consider getting involved we would love to have you! If you can only make one meeting this year, we recommend you come to this one.

In line with our Green Schools commitment and our move towards more sustainable events we will be having a short presentation at the AGM by a member of **Zero Waste Maynooth** with advice on how to reduce our waste and be more sustainable at home and at school.

The **Spooky Walk** takes place on **Thursday 25th October** on the South Campus of Maynooth University and will be followed up with a spooky party!!! More details to follow closer to the time.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be on in the school from Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th November. This is a great opportunity to stock up on wonderful books while supporting the school who benefit from Scholastic Rewards which can be spent on of 8000 teacher resources.

With the ground works for the new school building having started we wish the staff and students the very best for the coming weeks... and special thanks to Marie and Martin for managing the new drop off /pick up procedures. *It will all be worth it in the end.*

Welcome back everyone, we're looking forward to seeing you all at the events; looks like we have a busy year ahead of us!

We can be contacted at maynootheducatetogetherpa@gmail.com

Board of Management Community Report

September Notice from Chairperson of the Board of Management: School Notice – Commencement of work on our Permanent School building

I am pleased to tell you that work on our long-awaited permanent school building will start next Monday 24th September 2018. The project will be built in two phases with the first phase of 8 (plus two temporary) classrooms, special classes and general purpose hall ready to occupy by May/June 2019. At that stage they will remove our existing building and start on the second phase which we expect to occupy by January 2020.

During this period Health and Safety is the main concern as well as managing the inevitable disruption. The Board of Management has identified a number of changes that are needed to current daily operating practices in order to ensure effective traffic management and school operation for the duration of the work as our school will have a reduced site space. The changes needed to achieve these outcomes are as follows:

- *New arrival and dismissal arrangements: to be confirmed next week.*
- *Request that parents and guardians of children from 1st class upwards drop off.*
- *Afternoon pick up has yet to be finalised but a new arrangement will be implemented when finalised*
- *Open bus lane to cars*

Special Class student bus arrival time will be delayed and departure time changed : times to be finalised next week

The Board of Management is asking for your full support for any changes necessary to existing practices for the period of these works. The Board has committed to facilitate the works so that the building delivery timetable can be met. The initial works will be the erection of the site compound fencing starting next Monday and the full builder's compound will be put in place the following weekend. Changes to school operating practices will commence from Monday 1st October.

As works commence we will keep everything under review. The contractor will provide fortnightly updates to the Board of Management and we will provide ongoing information on the work to the school community as the project progresses.

*Paul Croghan
Chairperson
Board of Management
Maynooth Educate Together NS
20th September 2018*

From September 2018 meeting of the BOM:

New building: Board welcomes the start of the building project.

Health and Safety: the Board approves changes to arrival and dismissal practices to ensure the safety of the school community during the building project.

Staff Training: Board approves the funding of courses on *Wellbeing and Stress Management for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder*. for Special Needs Assistants staff and teachers in recognition of the benefit that will accrue to the staff as a whole and to the pupils.

Swimming: Board approves the funding of swimming sessions for our ASD classes.

2017/2018 School Year Report publication: Report to be submitted for ratification at the October BOM meeting.

School Website: Training on website use is available for all authorised users, including the PTA.

School Finances: Fitzgerald Accountants are finalising our annual school accounts.

WSE Recommendations: The Board agrees that a Communications Policy be drafted. Newly-drafted Gaeilge policy is being trialled in this school year.