



Maynooth Educate Together Newsletter

February 2020

Dates to Remember:

- World Book Day / Book Sale – 5th March
- County Photos – 10th March
- St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday: 16th and 17th March
- Easter Holidays: 6th April – 17th April
- Céilí sa scoil: Thursday March 12 at 10.20am.

Cover your Cough and Sneeze: Stop the spread of germs that make people sick.

Children are being reminded to wash their hands well many times per day and to act to minimise the spread of germs if they have a cold or cough. The messages being reinforced are:

When you cough or sneeze, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue

Or

Cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.

Put your tissue in the bin.

Clean your hands after coughing or sneezing.

Parent/Teacher Meetings: These meetings took place on 25/26 February and were well attended. If for some reason you have not met with your child's teacher, please arrange to do so as soon as possible.

Spar 5-a-side football: On Tuesday our 4th, 5th and 6th classes played in the FAI Spar 5-a-side football tournament. We entered four boys teams and three girls teams for the competition. As usual our children were very well behaved and represented their school very well. All players played extremely well, and again this year we had one boys team and one girls team making it through to the playoff final. The boys team won their final and have made it through to the next round which will be held on the 31st of March. A special thanks goes out to the teachers who went with the children: Aimee, Tom, Robert and Eoin, and also to the parents who were there in support. A special mention must go to Aimee whos outstanding management, got a team to the girls playoff final.

School Gates: The school gates will be closed at 9am and remain closed until 12.45pm. We ask that Junior Infant parents open **both** gates when collecting pupils at 1pm.

Active Flag: A component of our Active Flag campaign is the encouragement of the entire school community to be active and fit. Eoin, our schools co-ordinator has a number of initiatives:

Couch to 5k: Eoin continues his training meetings at 7pm each Monday evening at the front entrance to the University. This training is preparation for the school run that we encourage all parents and pupils to take part in. The Park Run will take place at the end of the training programme on March 28th. We will be joining the Castletown Park Run, which begins at 9.30am every Saturday morning. This is a free event, it is fun and non-competitive.

At school our pupils are running daily: a short run on the school grounds which they have grown to really enjoy and have become ambitious about their distances and performance. However, the most important aspect of this daily run is the feel-good factor that arises from being active in the fresh air in the company of friends. There are a number of athletic clubs in the locality that your child could join if you feel that they have a particular interest in running or other aspects of athletics. A number of Park Run venues also have specific routes for children, so your weekly Park Run on a Saturday morning could become a family event.

Internet Safety Day: This is an EU initiative to promote a safer internet for all users. It is promoted by the PDST Technology in

Education and Webwise. The theme for this year is “Together for a Better Internet”. Our pupils took part in the Webwise lessons and also took part in the poster competition. The poster winners were :
- 2nd Class – Holly Hough, 3rd Class - Maggie Gaffney, 4th Class – Caitlin Moorehouse, 5th Class – Ryan Wang and 6th Class – Lara Kumar Carnicero. Congratulations to them all and their posters are displayed on the school corridors.

We would like to encourage everyone to be safe and kind online and in text messages, WhatsApp groups, discussion forums and on all other social media platforms. Unkind words can be very hurtful to a person or a family. Some of the main messages that the children will have learned are:

- Be careful what you click on, Look for a padlock and https in the search bar.
- Never tell your name, age and address.
- Beware of Fake news
- You have a digital footprint, so be kind online and don't say rude things to others
- Be wise when choosing your usernames
- If you see something scary: **stop, block, tell.**

Engineers Week Workshop: Sharon, an Intel employee, visited 3rd class this week to conduct a science class. The theme was Balloons and how to launch a balloon. The class examined all of the variables in the scenario and how these variables would effect the balloon launch. The class recognised and discussed science in the home, the school and the environment. The children engaged in all the elements of working scientifically ie observing, asking questions, predicting, hypothesising, investigating and experimenting, interpreting results, recording and communicating results. The class was greatly enjoyed by the children. Very sincere thanks to Sharon and to Intel, who provided the course free of charge to the school.

St Patricks Day Parade Theme: Annually, our school is hugely represented in this parade. It is a family fun day and this year's theme is Climate and Me. We look forward to seeing a big turn-out again this year. A big thank you to the Parents Association for their fantastic work on this event.

Daffodil Day: On 27 March from 8.10am to 8.45am Hilary, our School Secretary will be selling silk daffodils and balloons outside the school to raise money for the Irish Cancer Society. You can also drop into her office during the day if you wish to make a purchase. As many of you are aware, Hilary suffered this illness in the recent past and would be very grateful for your support.

Seachtain na Gaeilge: All classes will engage in a number of in-class activities during Seachtain na Gaeilge next week March 9-13. These

activities will include Cluichí Gaeilge , abhair as Gaeilge, comarsáid neamhfhoirmiúil, ceol , amhráin agus damhsa, Radio na Gaeltachta, focal an lae, nuacht an lae, Tráth na gCeist. We will promote the use of Gaeilge on the school yard and award a certificate to Gaelgóir na seachtaine. . Our whole school céilí will take place on Thursday March 12 in the front yard. At present this is the only space that we can accomodate the whole school at once. We will not open the gates for safety reasons during the Céilí. Parents are welcome to attend and we would love you to join in the fun with us. However, there will not be any parking on the school grounds.

Aldi Play Rugby initiative: we have recommenced our token collection this term and our fingers are crossed! If you or any other family members shop in Aldi, please collect your stickers and send them in to the school. Our 1st class pupils are collecting and counting the stickers, so there is valuable Mathematics at play here also. Although we did not win the big prize last time around, we got equipment from Aldi including bags, balls, belts and other sports equipment. Thanks to James in first class for his great work with this project.

Confirmation: Congratulations to our 6th class pupils who received their confirmation on Thursday, 27th February. The families involved had a great day out and are hugely appreciative of the work of Carmel in preparing the children for the sacrament.

School Photos: County Photos will be back in the school on 10th March to take our school photographs. The Junior Infants were

already photographed earlier in the school year. The proofs will be sent home. There is no obligation to purchase the photographs. If you wish to buy them, please return the **exact money** to the school in an envelope.

World Book Day: On Thursday, 5th March we will be celebrating World Book Day. **We invite all our pupils to dress up as their favourite character from a book.** We will also have a 2nd hand book sale on the day. Can we please request that children send in their old books from home. There will be boxes inside the main school doors in which you can place the donated books.

(CHILDRENS BOOKS ONLY PLEASE). On the 5th March we will also run a book sale - children should bring 1 or 2 Euro to purchase a previously-owned book. On the day, children will engage in fun activities and shared reading between junior classes and senior classes. Children will also receive a book token which they can use in their local book shop.

Green Schools: Well done to Tobyn, Adam and Abigail from Mary's class. They recently attended a water workshop and did a presentation for other schools about their experiences of achieving the Green Flag for water. They gave a wonderful presentation and represented the school very well. The Green Schools Committee attended the Love The Climate March in Maynooth on Valentine's Day to raise awareness about the importance of keeping the environment clean. Next week is Scoot to School week and we will be encouraging everyone to ditch the car and get scooting!

1st Responders Course: A number of parents who are trained First Responders recently gave a presentation to our 5th and 6th class pupils in how to react in an emergency situation. The object of the exercise was to reduce the fear attached to responding to an emergency. The children learned the basic techniques of cardiopulmonary resuscitation CPR and they had the opportunity to act out with mannequins and to practice the skills learned. They also were introduced to the operations of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). When calling an ambulance they learned that knowledge of one's location and Eircode is essential information to give to the ambulance crew and that they should commence the CPR whilst awaiting the arrival of the ambulance. Very sincere thanks to Maggie, Iga, Jackie and Clare for providing such a valuable course to our pupils.

An Gorta Mór: our 5th class pupils are currently working on a project on the Famine: An Gorta Mór. They have discovered that the Famine or Great Hunger was caused when the potato crop failed in successive years 1845-49. The crop failures were caused by a late blight, a disease that destroys both the leaves and also the edible roots, or tubers, of the potato plant. The population of Ireland fell by 20-25% due to mortality and emigration. They have read novels depicting the lives of families during this time. They have looked at how the Famine changed the demographic, political and cultural landscape of Ireland. The children present their completed projects to the class.

Spelling Bee Success: Congratulations to Joe McDonald in 5th class who recently won the Eason Spelling Bee in class. He will now progress to the next stage of the competition and represent the school in the Kildare county final on Tuesday, 10th March 2020. We wish him the best of luck!

Notice for parents of 6th class pupils:

Maynooth Education Campus have contacted the parents and guardians of each student who have applied and have been accepted to **Maynooth Post Primary School/ Maynooth Community College for 1st Year 2020/2021** in relation to their **incoming 1st year assessment** which will take place this **Friday, 6th March, 2020 from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.** Parents may collect their children from school early on Friday to attend this assessment.

News from the PTA

We're busy working away on our schools St Patrick's Day parade entry... The theme this year is Climate & Me. We will be working with the children across all classes to bring this theme to life in a really creative way and will be getting the pupils to share their ideas on how we can all do our bit. We will need volunteers to help facilitate the crafting that will be needed... Please contact the PTA if you can help out.

We want to send our Congratulations and Best Wishes to the students from 6th Class who had their confirmation on 27th February. We were delighted to see the sun was shining for them on the day.

We are looking forward to brighter days and more sunshine in the coming weeks.

Next PTA meeting will be held on Wed 11 at 7.30pm.

The PTA Committee

Board of Management Community Report

The Board of Management met on 13th February 2020.

The members of the Board are as follows:

Patron Representatives: Paul Croghan Elizabeth Bracken

Teacher Representatives: Marie Hand Elaine Phelan

Parent Representatives: Carol Connolly Jonathan Hough

Community Representatives: Geraldine Kane Eddie Tobin

Eddie Tobin has been appointed to the role of Treasurer.

The Board has approved the following job-sharing arrangements for the school year 2020/21

Teachers: Aimee Egan and Noreen Keane

Special Needs Assistants: Pat Cannon.

The Board approved the following:

To proceed with a Charity payment request from parents

To conduct a mid-year financial review

To implement the Aladdin School Management upgrade

To update our school plan

To update our Enrolment policy.