

Maynooth Educate Together NS Newsletter May 2020

Dates to remember:

- School Books collection date: Thursday June 11th and Friday June 12 between the hours of 10am to 2pm.
- Active Week June 15-19
- School Reports: June 12th
- 6th class School Graduation: Virtual: June 24th.
- Summer Holidays: June 26th.

School calendar for the school year 2020/2021: see website www.maynoothet.ie.

Please note: To date we have not received any updates from the Department on how our pupils will return to school ie as usual or in a phased manner. This school calendar assumes that the school year will be as normal. As such, it is subject to change in line with any decisions made by the Department of Education and Skills.

Home schooling: As we continue with our home-schooling, I wish to acknowledge the work being done by you the parents in supporting our staff in the education of your children from a distance. This is a situation that was foisted upon us very suddenly in March. As a school we have invested in equipment, have updated our policies and have upskilled ourselves to enable us to provide this schooling from a distance. It is not easy to keep up the momentum, but our experience is that as we go on, staff and pupils are being more creative in finding ways to communicate with each other. So well done to everyone. We are all aware that we may revert to home-schooling at some stage in the next school year, if the schools are closed again. So, as a staff, we will continue to develop our skills in this area. We have another month until the summer holidays and we encourage you to keep up the momentum.

Acceptable Use Policy and Remote Learning Charter: we have updated our Acceptable use Policy and our Remote Learning Charter. We will send you out the updated versions in the coming days and request that you read the documents carefully. Class teachers will talk through the documents with the children. Our aim is to ensure safe practices in the use of technology. In the junior end of the school we will be setting up accounts for the children on the school platform Microsoft Teams as a contingency if required to ensure continuity of learning next year.

All parents will need to read the Acceptable Usage policy and Remote Learning Charter and sign giving consent via Aladdin Connect forms by Friday, June 12th.

Further information will be sent to all classes, separate from this newsletter.

6th class graduation: As it is not possible to hold a graduation in the school, Thomas, 6th class teacher, is organising a virtual graduation which will be pre-recorded and will be broadcast on Wednesday June 24th. Thomas will provide more information on this in the coming weeks. As usual, each child will be presented with a graduation hoodie and a Graduation medal. **School return:** We hope to be able to invite all 6th class pupils to the school in August, which will allow the pupils to meet with each other briefly before they begin their second-level schooling. We know that this is something that the pupils would love themselves and we will facilitate it if possible.

6th class school leavers: We have 29 pupils in 6th class this year: 29 pupils who will make the transition to secondary school in September. It is a great shame that they have not had the opportunity to complete their school year and the many exciting projects that they were working on. This final term in 6th class is a

very special time and it is often the last time that this particular group will be together. With this in mind, every effort will be made to ensure that we bring them together in August. Of the 29 pupils leaving, 18 of these represent **17 families that are finishing up in our school**. These pupils are Ian Basson, Cathal Byrne, Matthew Canning, Faye Dunlop, Orlando Gale-Scourfield, Sinduhurhoye Jayasamraj, Dominus Kocius, Olaf Kupracz, Cyrus Maniar, Ronan Notin-Bairead, Shantelle O'Neill, Simon Rasinski, Paddy Ryan, Olivia Saunders-Homan, Mero Stifter, Robert Taranu and May-Ying and Shi-Hing To. The remaining children who have remaining siblings in the school are Emily Brunnock, Andrew Chung, Rachel Dempsey, Gemma Doherty, Martynas Karim Hamza, Ruth Horn, Lara Kumar Carnicero, Ben Lowings, Isabella Moran, Jago O'Flaherty and Ethan Hennessy.

I wish to thank all of these pupils and their families for their great contribution to the school and for the great support given to the school by parents as these children have journeyed through. I am reminded of the old saying: it takes a village to rear a child: in the same way all who are involved in a child's schooling play a very important role. I thank the teachers that have taught this class en route ie, (from Junior Infants to Sixth class: Angela, Noreen, Elaine/Naos, Angela, Naos, Mary, Aimee/Noreen, Thomas) and I thank all staff members who have supported and encouraged them at all times. Our school curriculum is geared to providing a balanced education to our pupils, and to equipping children with a sense of self-belief and citizenship that will be further developed as they

grow and mature. I am happy that these children are well-equipped to progress to second-level school and I wish them success.

Active Week: June 15-19: As always, we encourage our pupils to be active, and thankfully we have had great weather in recent weeks. During active week, teachers will guide your children on activities that they will enjoy. It is so important that our children have fun in the outdoors.

School Book collection: When the school was closed in March, we sent home a number of books that are the property of the school Book Rental scheme. These books are the **Reading Zone Readers, and the History, Geography and Science readers**. Fifth class pupils also brought home a **class novel 'The Wildflower Girl'** which is the property of the library. We now wish to collect up these books and we trust that they will be returned to us in good condition. Children will not be assigned work from these books for the remainder of the school year.

On Thursday June 11 and Friday June 12, we will have collection boxes set out on tables at the door of the school between the hours of 10am and 2pm. We ask that you return the books to the collection boxes. This will be a drop and go exercise. We look forward to having our books returned. If for some reason you cannot return books at this time, we ask that you return them to the school at the beginning of the next school year.

Class/Teacher allocation for the school year 2020/2021:

Mainstream classes:

6th: Aimee Egan/Noreen Keane

5th: Thomas Treacy

4th: Eoin Mac Domhnaill

3rd: Mary Quinn

2nd: Noel Carey

1st: Stephanie Mc Cormack, Catherine Collins

Sr Inf: Elaine Phelan, Clare Dooley

Jr Inf: Angela Langan, Liz Foley

ASD units

Jr ASD: Sue Moran

Sr ASD: Robert Potter.

Special Education

Claire Dixon

Robert Leonard

TBD(2 teachers)

Please note:

- Both Elaine and Clare will take their Junior infant classes into Senior Infants .

- Catherine will take her Senior Infant class into First class. Next year, Stephanie will teach the class currently being taught by Angela and Sinead.

Staffing: As our school is growing, we have an additional permanent teacher post to be filled in the next school year. As Aimee and Noreen are continuing their job-sharing arrangement, we also have one fixed-term teaching position.

SNA Resignation: Our SNA Mairead McHale has resigned her job, having spent 3 years on career break. Mairead worked in the ASD classes and is very experienced in managing children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Mairead has set up her own business and she continues to support us in the courses that she offers to our SNA staff, and also in the sharing of her expertise with us. I wish to thank Mairead for her great work in the school and to wish her continued success in her business.

Completion of Job-sharing arrangement: Angela will return full-time to her teaching position in the next school year.

Thank you to Sinead: Sinead taught as Angela's job-sharing partner for the last school year in Senior Infants. I wish to thank Sinead for

her great work in the school and her commitment to her Senior Infant pupils.

Career break cover: Our SNA Pamela has covered the career break leave for Mairead. Pamela has brought great enthusiasm, energy and innovation to the role. Sincere thanks to Pamela for her great work in the school, and her dedication to the pupils in the ASD unit.

Standardised tests in English and Maths: As the schools are closed, the Department has decided that we will not conduct standardised tests in this school year.

School reports: School reports will be sent out to parents on June 12th. This allows the mandatory 2 weeks for parents to get back to the school if needed, as set out in the guidelines.

School Visits: COVID-19 practices: if you are visiting the school for any reason in the coming weeks, please use the sign-in/out book. Please use the hand-sanitiser and handwashing facilities and adhere to social distancing if meeting with a member of staff.

Teacher Graduation: Congratulations to Marcella in being probated and now being a fully-qualified teacher. Thank you Marcella for your great work in the school in this school year.

Parent Teacher Association News

Well this has been a Spring/Summer term like no other and like nothing any of us could have imagined. This has meant that the 2019/2020 PTA calendar of events, which had already been severely impacted by the move to the new building, has been devastated by the lockdown.

We were so sorry that we couldn't bring the children together for St Patrick's Day but thoroughly enjoyed seeing their photos and videos on our Friends of METNS facebook page.



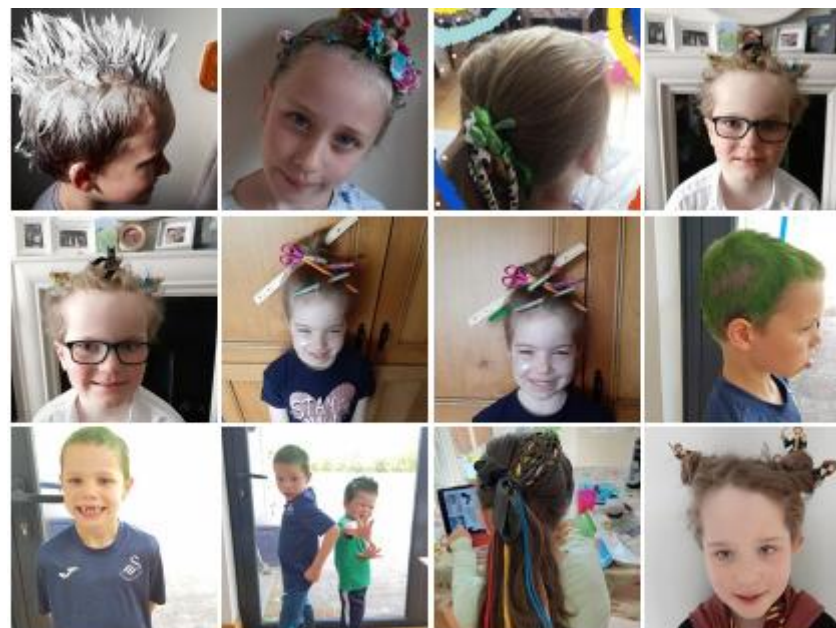


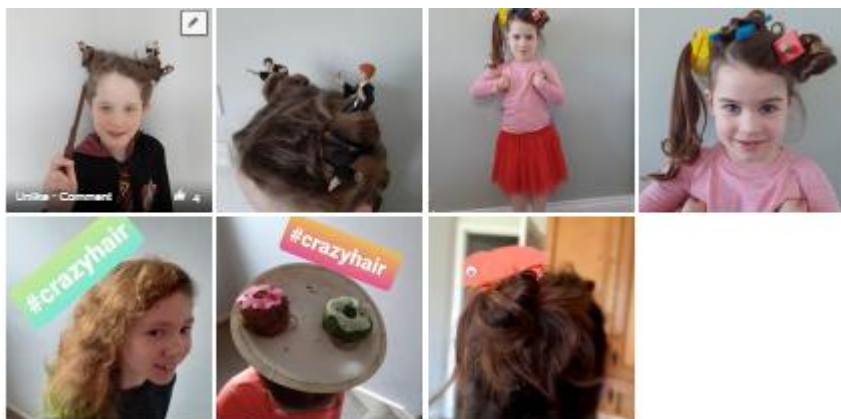
Not quite the same as our usual antics at the parade but still, a great effort by our School Community.

While we didn't get to host our annual charity quiz this year, we have heard that lots of families have been involved in their own quizzes on zoom. Maybe this will mean that they will be all on for a Family Quiz next year?

Students from our 2nd Class students didn't get to make their Communion and that must very disappointing for them. Of course, it will happen at some stage and we know Carmel has been working with them to get ready despite lockdown.

Last week we had great craic with the #CrazyHairDay. Thank you to everyone who involved themselves in the it and posted photos on WhatsApp Groups and the Facebook page. We were surprised to spot some of the parents sporting #CrazyHair over the last few weeks, maybe they were preparing for the big day? 😊





We have missed seeing you all and hope to arrange some more virtual fun in the coming weeks.

Take care, stay well and wash your hands



Thanks to the staff
for getting involved
too!