



Maynooth Educate Together Newsletter

April 2019

Dates to Remember:

May Bank Holiday closure- Monday May 6

June Bank Holiday closure: June 3 and 4th

Standard Testing – May 20th – June 7st

New Parents Evening – May 29th

New Junior Infants School Visit – June 5th

Autism Awareness Day – June 13th

Summer Fair – June 16th, Sunday

Sports Week : in June: date to be confirmed.

School Reports – June 21st

6th Class Graduation – June 26th

New School Update: Our new school building is progressing according to plan and is on schedule to be completed at the end of June. It is very exciting to watch the progress weekly, and this week the building has been roofed and we can see the outline and identify all of our rooms. We continue to prepare for the move and we aim to equip the school to the highest of standards. We have recently been awarded grant of €50,400 for IT for our new

classrooms. This grant will be used to equip the school with the latest IT equipment. A furniture grant will allow us to furnish our new classrooms and our hall furniture. Our PTA have expressed a wish to provide assistance with our school move and this is an offer that we will be happy to accept. We will keep you informed as to the ongoing progress. We also invite parents to assist us with the settling in to our new school and the decoration of our entrance hall and community areas.

School Tours:

Junior & Senior Infants: May 16th : Clonfert Farm

1st & 2nd – May 15th: Navan Adventure Sports.

3rd & 4th – May 15th: National Indoor Arena

5th & 6th – May 24th: Zippit Adventure Centre

Butterflies & Caterpillars – Venues and dates to be decided.

Parents will be informed of the cost of these tours on return from the Easter Break.

School Calendar: Please find attached a copy of the School Calendar for the school year 2019/2020.

MAYNOOTH EDUCATE TOGETHER NS

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2019-2020

School Year Begins	Thursday, 29 th August
October Mid-Term Break	28 th October – 1st November (inclusive)
Christmas Holidays	23rd December – 3rd January (inclusive) <i>School closes Friday Dec 20th and reopens Monday Jan 6th</i>
February Mid-Term Break	17 th February – 21st February (inclusive)
St Patricks Day's Bank Holiday	16 th March and 17 th March
Easter Holidays	6 th April – 17 th April (inclusive) <i>School closes Friday April 3rd and reopens Monday April 20th.</i>
May Bank Holiday	4 th May

June Bank Holiday Break	1 st June
Summer Holiday closure	26 th June <i>School closes Friday June 26th</i>

Half Day closure: The school will close at 11.30am for the following holidays: Christmas, Easter and Summer.

Contingency Arrangements: In the event of school days being lost due to unforeseen school closures, the contingency arrangements may include either or both of the following – the Easter break may be reduced by up to 3 days with the school remaining open up to and including Wednesday, 17th April. The summer break may be reduced to make up for lost time. Parents will be given timely notification if these contingency arrangements need to be implemented.

Please Note: Parents are actively discouraged from taking holidays outside the above schedule. The school is obliged, by law, to inform the Educational Welfare Services of Túsla when a pupil is absent for a total of 20 days in one school year, or where there is concern about a pupil's attendance. There is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress. Your co-operation with maintaining high attendance is very much appreciated.

Blue Star Programme and 6th class: Our 6th class pupils guided by teacher Thomas have been working on the Blue Star Programme.

The Blue Star Programme is an education initiative for primary school pupils across Ireland. The idea of the Programme is simple: to foster better understanding and knowledge of the European Union and how it affects the lives of Irish citizens among primary pupils through classroom projects and activities. The students completed a project on Cyprus. On Wednesday April 10th, **Cypriot Ambassador HE Mrs Charis Christodoulidou** visited our school. She was presented with a copy of the project and she got a flavour of our country and culture through music, dance, story and poetry. She spoke to the pupils about Cyprus and also her role as an ambassador in Ireland and in her previous postings. Congratulations to 6th class on the project work, to 5th and 6th class pupils for the entertainment provided and to teacher Thomas, and to Eoin and Noel for assisting with the event.

5th class cinema visit: on April 11th, our 5th class pupils travelled to the Odeon Point Cinema in Dublin to attend a complimentary viewing of 'Wheeley'. Teachers Aimee and Noreen were accompanied by parent volunteers Fiona and Atenea, as the class travelled in to the city by train. A great day was had by all. Sincere thanks to all supervisors of the event.

Science Club: started on 14th January. There is a nominal charge of €2 per session to cover materials etc. This club is run by 3 volunteer parents. The club has proved to be very popular with all

of our students. Sincere thanks to Carol, Jennifer, Anne and all who have helped organise these classes.

Athletics: our students will attend a Track and Field event in Kilcock on May 24th. More details will follow closer to the event.

STEM Workshop: Third class enjoyed a Make Create workshop provided by Maynooth Library Pupils worked in pairs and using the vast Lego resources provided to them, they built a Robot. This was a great fun event with lots of learning built in.

Intel Science workshop/Engineers week: An Intel volunteer provided a workshop for 3rd class, entitled: 'Rocket Launch Challenge' during Engineers week.

School Policies: Staff are currently updating our History, Geography and Science policies and our Gaeilge policy

Student teacher placements: A Student teachers has completed a teaching practice placements 2nd class

Active Flag – Super Trooper Programme: Our classes continue a running programme weekly and the school took part in a childrens Park Run in Griffeen Park in Lucan on Sunday March 31st. The children had sponsorship cards to raise monies for Barretstown. Further information in the Parents report. Sincere thanks to Eoin who co-ordinated the event. We hope that this event will become a permanent fixture on our school calendar as we continue to educate our pupils of the benefits of being active and taking exercise outdoors

Primary Language Curriculum School Closure: The DES granted all schools a 1 day closure for staff CPD on the primary language curriculum. Teaching staff took part in this CPD on the primary language curriculum March 19th.

Get well wishes. : We wish Hilary, our school secretary, a speedy recovery and we look forward to her return to work after Easter.

World Book Day March 7th: Our book sale was a great success and many children took part in the launch of our book 'the Giraffe ate the school' was a great success with many parents attending the story-reading event. The Liffey Champion covered the event and we got a very comprehensive and colourful write-up. Sincere thanks to teachers Clare and Angela who organize the in-school book sale and to Eoin who co-ordinate the production, printing and launching of our book.

St Patricks Day Parade: the school won the Best School award 2019. Sincere thanks to all pupils and parents who participated in the parade and to all staff and parents who helped organize the event.

Céilí sa Chlos: the entire school and a number of parents took part in our annual Céilí sa chlos on March 15th. It was a great success. All classes took part and danced a number of céilí dances. The standard of dancing is rising each year as is the repertoire of dances. Congratulations to all involved in the event and thanks to all parents who attended.

Kildare Spar FAI Primary 5's final: our school had a girls team and a boys team taking part in the final leg of this competition. The girls were beaten in the finals and the boys earlier. Thanks to Naos, Eoin and Thomas for their work and to the parents for their support.

Audiology nurse: visited the school and tested the infant children. Parents of children who were absent and therefore missed this examinations should contact the HSE in Naas to reschedule the test.

Green Schools Committee events:

- in school awareness of Climate Change:
- In school Climate Action day on March 14th,
- Fridays for the Future Climate March March 15th
- Walk for water event in Glendalough March 21st, attended by the Green Schools Committee
- In-school Walk for Water event March 22nd.: 6k walk for water.

These events have made our pupils aware of the importance of us respecting our water and being resourceful with its use. Robert, our Green Schools Co-ordinator, has worked tirelessly with his superbly committed Green Schools Committee, towards our Water Flag. Sincere thanks to our volunteer parents who assisted with these events.

6th class Junior entrepreneurial programme: 6th class have found this programme to be exciting, challenging and a great learning opportunity, Whilst participating in the JEP, pupils assess their skills and they work in different teams with

specific areas of expertise ie finance, marketing, design and production, sales and storytelling. They hosted a Dragons Den for product selection ie 6th class pupils presented their product ideas to committee of Naos, Eoin and Marie. The winning product was a storybook/recipe book. The Board of Management has given €200 to the project and it is to be available for sale after Easter. 6th class will visit all classes in the school to promote the book.

Kildare Fleadh 2019: METNS pupils will, for the first time ever, take part in the Kildare Fleadh in Naas in May. This fleadh is organised by Comhaltas Eireann, and showcases the best of Irish music, language and culture. The pupils will play the flute, taught by Eoin. Another first for Maynooth Educate Together NS.

MOMO Challenge: Parents were issued with an advice sheet produced by the IPPN on how to handle the MOMO challenge as we became aware that a number of pupils had come across this online activity.

Spelling Bee success: Congratulations to our 5th class pupil Orlando, who will represent Leinster in the national Spelling Bee competition. We wish Orlando success.

Congratulations to our 4th class pupils, Aarya Yulsoom Rai and Alienor Kells, who represented Maynooth Educate Together in **Intel Mini-Scientist National Finals**, which

comprised of the top 1% of all national enteries. Alienor and Aarya, though younger than the other participants, greatly impressed the judges with the presentation of their project 'Flotation' and were highly commended. Congratulations girls. Thanks to teachers Angela and Mary who led the initiative at school level.

Easter Greetings: On behalf of the school management and staff, I wish you all a Happy Easter. I hope you enjoy the break from routine and I look forward to seeing you all on our return to school on April 29th. Marie Principal

Board of Management Report:

The Board of Management met in February and in April. The Board approved the following:

School Calendar 2019/2020

School Tours

Job Sharing applications for the school year 2019/2020 for teachers Angela, Noreen, Aimee and for Special Needs Assistant Pat.

Career Break for Special Needs Assistant Mairead.

Applications to the Department of Education and Skills for grants : IT, Furniture, Moving.

The Board congratulates:

Pupils and Staff on the successful launch of our storybook: A Giraffe ate the School.

Staff and pupils on the success of Seachtain na Gaeilge and the school; Céilí sa Chlós.

Robert Leonard on the birth of his son Cole

Robert and the Green Schools Committee on the great work towards the Water flag

Thomas and 6th class on the Blue Star programme and the Junior Enterprise Programme, and provided €200 towards the winning project.

All pupils and staff involved in the visit of the Cypriot Ambassador.

The Board of Management oversaw the enrolment of our Junior Infants for September 2019.

The school was represented at the AGM of Educate Together by Paul and Eddie, our community Representative.

The Board continues to liaise with the Department of Education and Skills on the new school building.

Parent Teacher Association news:

Our students have been very busy representing our school so well in the last few weeks. Firstly there was a strong Maynooth Educate Together National School attendance at

the **Fridays for the Future Climate March** on the 15th March. The Green School's Committee and others walked down from the school getting beeps and waves all the way. Our students got a huge cheer from the sizeable crowd in the square and some of our students even took to the mike to say their piece and we couldn't have been more proud of them all.



Then there was our annual participation in the **St Patrick's Day Parade** which was again a great success. Thanks to the pupils and teachers and all the volunteers and parents who helped in the run up and also everyone who joined in on the Day! Our pupils looked fantastic, and we gave Gulliver another outing, this time as the Smartest Giant in Town to link in with the theme of the parade which was "The Town and the Gown". He had his work cut out with all those future smart Giants and reading all those great Mortarboard messages, makes us all feel very positive about the future ahead. The

Judges must have agreed as Maynooth Educate Together won Best School Float! Well done to all!



Our chosen fundraising Charity of the year is Barretstown. This was decided by a Poll of parents and staff. We have already started our Fundraising efforts with a 2k run/ walk for Barretstown on the 31st of March at the **Junior Park Run** in Griffeen Park. There was a great turn out despite the clocks changing AND it being Mother's Day! Well done to all the pupils who ran and the parents and teachers supporting them.

Our next event is our **Table Quiz** for Barretstown on the **23rd of May**, upstairs in Brady's Clock House! Save the Date and get a table together, it's gonna be a good one! As always, we will be looking for raffle prizes so please let us know if you can donate any or if you can contact some businesses for donations.



We are delighted that the **Summer Fair** will be able to go ahead this year despite the enormous building project and **Sunday June 16th** is the date. This is a great opportunity to support the school and get to meet other pupils and parents. Details will be shared in the coming weeks.

As most of you have noticed the **new School** is taking shape and is going up at an amazing speed, the hope is to have everything moved by the end of June. The heavy work will be done by professional movers, but as everyone knows it's the small stuff that's the hardest to pack up, so Teachers will be looking for Parent volunteers to help pack up the classrooms. This will be organised by the Teachers but if you are willing/free and motivated let the Teachers know and they can schedule it as it suits them.

Our next **PTA meeting** is on Wednesday the **10th April at 8pm** and as always ALL ARE WELCOME