



## Maynooth Educate Together Newsletter

October 2019

### Dates to Remember:

Mid-Term Break: 28<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November

Science Week: 11th-15th November

Scholastic Book Fair: 2nd-5th December

Parent Teacher Meetings: 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> November

**Halloween Spooky Sponsored Walk:** On Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> we held our annual Spooky Sponsored Walk and there was a fantastic turnout. Very sincere thanks to everybody for your wonderful support for this event. The cake sale and performances in Scripture Hall were a great success also. What a treat to see 5<sup>th</sup> class performing "Thriller". Fabulous Halloween decorated cakes and biscuits were in great demand at the cake sale. A great number of sponsorship cards have been returned to the school and the remainder may be left in the school office after the mid-term break.

A huge thank you to all the PA who have organised this event for us - one of the highlights in the school calendar.

**Teacher Appointment:** Suzanne Moran has been appointed to the Permanent Teaching position vacated by Naos Connaughton. Suzanne is currently working on our Special Education Team. We welcome Suzanne to the METNS school staff and community.

**5<sup>th</sup> Class Yard Supervisors:** Our 5 class pupils continue to assist on the Junior Yard at play times. They wear bibs and are easily identifiable to our junior pupils. The class rota means that they assist no more than 1 day per week. Sincere thanks to 5<sup>th</sup> class.

**Climate Change Youth Parliament:** Niamh Ahmed in 5<sup>th</sup> class has secured a place on the Youth Parliament for Climate Change. This is a wonderful opportunity for Niamh and we are extremely proud of her achievement. Congratulations to Niamh from the whole school community. Niamh has also served on our Green Schools Committee.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings:** Parent/Teacher Meetings will be held on 19/20 November. You will get notification of your scheduled appointment after the mid-term break.

**Parents/Guardians Calling to School:** Could we ask all parents/guardians, when calling to the school, to drop into Hilary's Office and she will help you with queries, forgotten lunches, early pickups etc. **PARENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO WALK AROUND THE SCHOOL UNLESS THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER OF STAFF. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND IS A MATTER OF CHILD PROTECTION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.** If Hilary is unavailable, please call to Marie's Office and she will help you.

**Comortas Scoile:** On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> class performed their "Thriller" dance for the whole school. This set the tone for the school Halloween event, for which many of the pupils dressed up as witches, wizards, ghosts, goblins, skeletons etc.

Junior Infants performed 1,2,3,4,5 Little Witches

Senior Infants performed Oiche Shamhna, Who's that Knocking

1<sup>st</sup> Class performed Cluiche Peile

2<sup>nd</sup> Class performed Linn Snamha

**Maths Events:** Maths Week 2019 proved to be such a hit with the children in our school that we decided to extend the celebrations to a fortnight! During the course of two weeks the children engaged in a range of practical activities which included maths trails, coding workshops, scavenger hunts and a range of online challenges. We welcomed guest speaker, Scientific Sue, who completed a forensic science workshop with 4<sup>th</sup> class, while 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class attended a talk and workshop named "Murderous Maths" in the Department of Mathematics at DIT Kevin Street. The puzzle competition generated huge excitement and we were delighted to see children from all classes participating each day. Special mention goes to our two parent winners, Neasa Hogan and Fiona Moran, who won prizes on the first day of the competition. A complete list of winners will be shared in our November newsletter.

Special thanks to Alex Hunter, Andrej Izotenko and Denis Lehtimaki from 5<sup>th</sup> class who assisted our younger children in the coding workshops.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes took part on the on-line Maths Game, "Manga High". 6<sup>th</sup> class won 5 gold medals and 5<sup>th</sup> class won 8 gold medals so well done to all the pupils that took part.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class also won 30<sup>th</sup> Ranking at all Ireland level. This is the highest ranking that we have achieved to date, so it's a cause for celebration. Well done.

**Bebras Challenge:** On November 11<sup>th</sup> classes 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> will travel to Maynooth University to take part in the Bebras Challenge. This is a maths problem-solving event and will challenge even our best maths wizards.

**Junior Infants Settling In:** Our 2 Junior Infant classes have been working very hard during their first term in school. We have learned many songs and nursery rhymes and are working on holding our pencils correctly. We are busy with Jollyphonics; learning to read and write. We have learned a number of phrases 'as Gaeilge' and are

using these throughout our school day. For maths week we programmed the BeeBot robots to move around the map and we played a number of fun maths games. We were very excited to perform our Halloween poem at assembly on Friday.

**1<sup>st</sup> Class News:** First class have settled in very well and enjoyed their rap battle as Gaeilge with 2nd class today. This term we were working on our counting and 2D shapes. We have learned about dancing raisins, paper helicopters, and growing cress seeds as well. We hope that everyone enjoyed the dress up day today and have a spooky Halloween!

**Junior Infants September 2020:** Offers of places will begin in November 2019 for places in our Junior Infant Classes for September 2020.

## PTA NEWS

A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us at the two PTA meetings we have had so far and a particularly warm welcome to all the new parents of Junior Infants, we hope your little ones (and you) are settling in well to our lovely school. We hope you all found the meetings useful and enjoyed the exquisite baking - huge thanks to Noor for the cakes. It would be great if more parents could come to our monthly meetings, it's a great opportunity to meet other parents, find out how you can get involved with the school and raise any issues you may have. This year we have agreed to raise funds to make our new building a warm and inviting space for the children to learn in. Details of the type of things we will be contributing towards will come in the next few months when we move into the building.

While we don't have a library this year it's great that we still have so many parent volunteers getting involved with the **shared reading** programme but we always need more volunteers! If you are interested in getting involved by reading with the children and can spare an hour one morning a week then please let us know or chat to your

class teacher. It's such a rewarding thing to do and a great way to get to know the class.

Our first event of the year ***The Spooky Walk*** has kicked off our programme of events and the excitement around the school this week has been fever pitch. A massive thanks to all of the volunteers who helped on the night and to all the fabulous bakers and providers of goodies, we couldn't do this without you. Thank you to the children who performed and who generally did their best to scare us senseless on the walk. Watch this space for a tally on money raised. Spooky Walk will always be one of the most special events in our calendar. It's the first event for our Junior Infants and new families, it's totally unique to our school and a great way to kick off Halloween and mid-term so we hope you all loved it as much as we do!

The **Scholastic Book Fair** has been moved out slightly this year due to space availability and will take place in early December. This is a great opportunity stock up on wonderful books while also supporting the school who benefit from Scholastic Rewards which can be spent on teacher resources.

Finally, the PTA says farewell this school year to Daniela and Deirdre who were our Co-Secretary and Treasurer for the last year. They did a fantastic job and we are sad to see them go but are delighted to welcome some new members to the committee - Liz and Hilda who will be sharing the role of Treasurer and Hughie will be joining Sarah from last year's committee in the Secretary role. Neasa will be staying on a chair and we are hugely grateful for all the work she does and Carol will be as involved as ever...sure where would we be without her?

That's all for now, we hope to see you at the next meeting (provisional date of 20<sup>th</sup> November) and at our events and in the meantime if you want to get in touch about anything at all please don't hesitate to either grab us if you see us around school or email us at [maynootheducatetogetherpa@gmail.com](mailto:maynootheducatetogetherpa@gmail.com)

Enjoy mid term from the PTA

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Appointment of Parent Nominees the Board of Management 2019-2023**

The Chairperson of the Board of Management as Patron Representative intends to seek Parent Nominees for appointment to the next Board of Management as defined by Section 3 of the Governance Manual for Primary Schools 2019-2023. Parents will receive a letter after the mid-term break confirming the details of the process that will be followed and the timeline for completing the election process. If your contact details has changed please advise the School Principal when school returns on November 4th as the correspondence will be sent to you based on the details that we have in our school records which may not have been updated from the original enrolment of your child in the school.