



Maynooth Educate Together Newsletter

January 2020

Dates to Remember:

Internet Safety Day: 5th February

Scholastic Book Fair: 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th February

Mid-Term Break: 17th February – 21st February (inclusive)

Parent Teacher Meetings: 26th and 27th February

St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday: 16th and 17th March

Easter Holidays: 6th April – 17th April

Our New School: We are delighted to be in our new school building. We are enjoying teaching and learning in such a wonderful environment. We were sad to see our old school being demolished, however we are looking forward to the future and to our school being completed. Many thanks to everyone for their wonderful support, patience and help throughout the process. WE are a wonderful team!!

Access to School: As we are settling into the new school building, can we please bring the issue of parent/visitor access to the school. As part of our Child Protection Policy, parents and visitors to the

school are NOT permitted to walk around the school, unless accompanied by a member of staff. Please use the sign in/out book located in the lobby, and Hilary, our School Secretary will look after you. Hilary's current office hours are 8.30am-1.30pm. If Hilary is not in the office and you gain entry to the school, please report to Marie or Elaine at the Principal's Office (beside Hilary's office) or to Elaine in Room 2. If you are parking your car on the school grounds during school hours, please park as near as possible to the old school gates, as the children use the space at the front of the school for play time. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Parent Teacher Meetings: Our Parent Teacher Meetings are scheduled to take place on 26 and 27 February (some teachers will hold their meetings on other days during that week). You will be given an appointment by the class teacher. Please respond with your availability as soon as possible once this has been received. Please arrange to have your children cared for at home.

Teaching Practice Students: Charlie, Emma and Stephanie have been our wonderful teaching practice students over the past weeks and months and have made a terrific contribution to 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes. The 2nd class children enjoyed their endangered animals project. We wish them luck and thank them for all their hard work. We will miss you.

1st Class: 1st class have undertaken projects on Titanic. There was great enthusiasm and models produced. Well done to all the children involved.

Internet Safety Week: This runs from 3rd – 7th February. We will have Internet Safety Day in our school on Wednesday 5th February. The teachers will be teaching lessons about internet safety and we will have a poster competition promoting internet safety for classes 2nd-6th. Please talk to your children on an ongoing basis at home about this important issue.

PA NEWS

The Scholastic Book Fair is making it's return! We will be running the book fair as follows -

Friday 7th February - All Day (8.30am to 2.30pm)

Saturday 8th February - 10am to 2pm

Monday 10th February - 8.30am to 9.30am and 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Tuesday 11th February - All Day (8.30am to 2.30pm)

We will be sending out brochures on Monday for everyone to have a look at.

We will be re-introducing the "Sponsor a Book for your Class" initiative, which has been hugely successful in the past.

This year will also see the introduction of Scholastic Gift Vouchers, which are perfect for parents who don't want to send in cash. They

come in various denominations, starting at €6 and can be purchased from the Scholastic website <https://shop.scholastic.ie/>, they can be purchased up to the night before the start of the book fair and must be printed and brought to school to spend.

Our Saturday opening will be the perfect opportunity for lots of parents who are working full time and may not have had a chance to have a look at our fabulous new building.

The Book Fair is a great way for us to earn fantastic resources for our classrooms and library.

Hope we see you there.

As you know our Winter Fair didn't go ahead in December as the school move was imminent. But we were so lucky that Santa was able to fit us into his busy schedule and visit each class to chat to the children and handover their annuals that the PTA fund.

Our next PTA meeting is going to be on Wednesday 12th February at 7:30. We would love to see you there.

Our next big event is the St Patrick's Day Parade on 17th March. We are hoping to keep our winning streak going. The theme of the parade is 'Climate and Me'. If you have ideas please do get in touch with us maynootheducatetogetherpa@gmail.com.

Once we come up with some plans we will send information out so everyone who wants to take part can be prepared.

We have also booked the METNS Table Quiz for May 21st so do please put it in your diaries and organise a team and babysitter. It's a great fun night. This year, we will be raising funds for items that are needed for the new school. As soon as we have details of what those things are, we will let you know.

As you may have seen in the last week or so, Eoin (teacher) is organising a Couch to 5km group. with a view to preparing for a 5K at the end of March.

The group is open to all fitness levels and children are welcome if participating with their parents, and must be supervised at all times.

Details as follows -

- Week 1 - Monday 3rd and Thursday 6th February, and then every Monday and Thursday for 8 weeks. (You can join in one or both nights)
- Meeting at 7pm inside the gates of the old campus (our usual spooky walk spot), Eoin will do a warm-up with everyone and then all on to a route planned by Eoin.
- All you will need is appropriate footwear and comfortable clothing.

If you wish you can download the C25K Free App that Eoin will be using along the way. If you have any questions or would like more

information, just give Carol a shout or send an email to the PTA (address above).

What can you do?

Here is a few ways that you can get involved with the School.

There are lots of ways for parents to help out with things within the school day. Their involvement genuinely enhances the children's experiences of learning – not just for their own children but for all children.

Paired Reading is probably the easiest way to get involved. Contact your class teacher and ask if you can do some paired reading. They will then schedule a short session once a week for you to meet with a couple of children who will read to you. Generally, this starts in the second semester of Junior Infants, they start with single words, building to sentences and paragraphs. There is great joy in seeing the progress of the children over the school year, and indeed, even more so if you continue to be read to by them over a few years.

Arts and Crafts are always a big hit with the children. Over the school year there are several times that arts and crafts are made within the class that Teachers could do with some help with. You don't have to be an ArtNinja to help out. If you can open a glue-stick your help will be welcome. Let your Teacher know that you can be called upon.

Escorting classes on **outings** is another way to dig in. This year we have had climate protests, football matches, trips to the Dáil, mountain climbing and cinema trips to name but a few. If you could spare a day once a year please do think about speaking up.

For families who participate in the **First Holy Communion** there is always a small celebration held in the school. This is hosted and catered for by the 1st Class parents as they will invited to enjoy their own event the following year when it is their time for the sacraments. Of course, if other parents in the classes wish to help out, nobody will turn them away. The more the merrier is the catchphrase when it comes to getting things done!

The **Graduation** for our 6th Class students and parents is a lovely event. The students themselves put on a performance for the parents, the teachers sing the praises of the children, they present their piece of art to the school, they get presented with their hoodies from the PTA and then they get to have a party. The parents from the 5th class do the catering and the hosting as they will be the beneficiaries the following year and it leaves the 6th class parents time to just enjoy the celebration.

None of these events are PTA events. These are just some of the ways that parents in Maynooth Educate Together National School can get involved and help make our School Community a lovely place for our children.

Don't assume someone else will do it. Even if you child's class has regular volunteers there is always room for more. Any time you can give will always be appreciated and again. All children benefit when parents volunteer.

