

## **Maynooth Educate Together NS**

### **Newsletter June 2021**

#### **Important dates:**

**School Closure: June 30** : School closes for the summer holidays. :

Infant classes Dismissal: 11.00am

First, Second and Third classes dismissal: 11.15am

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth classes dismissal: 11.30am.

Bus Collection: The buses will collect all children at 11am.

**Return to school:** August 31st : School re-opens for the school year 2021/2022.

**Sixth Class Graduation:** On Monday June 28th, our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils graduated from Maynooth Educate Together NS. Thankfully it was a beautiful evening and our outdoors celebration was ideal. Our pupils entertained us with music, dance and poetry as they brought us down memory lane, recalling their experiences in Maynooth Educate Together and the people they met as they journeyed through the school. The 6<sup>th</sup> class then presented Paul, Chairperson of the Board of Manage with 'Reach for the Stars' artwork. The artwork was designed and produced by the entire class. This will be displayed in our school lobby area, with all art works created by our previous 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils. The Graduation ceremony itself consisted of the presentation of medals by Marie Principal, and scrolls by Paul. Marie School Principal thanked the pupils for their very positive contribution to the school and had words of advice as they move forward to their second-level schooling. She thanked the teachers who taught the class as they progressed through the school and also the parents for their support of the school. Marie said goodbye to the 17 families who this year are finishing their time in METNS. Aimee and Noreen spoke of their 2 years with this class, a difficult time as Covid dictated that schools would be closed. They thanked the pupils for their work at home-schooling and embracing new software. They then presented all 17 families who are leaving the school with a sunflower each. They also presented each 6<sup>th</sup> class pupil with a 'Survival Kit' with lots of knick knacks to aid Survival! Following some more music, it was then time to move to the refreshments which were provided by our 5<sup>th</sup> class parents. What a spread! The Graduation cake, a work of art provided by parent Anne Carroll, was on display and then cut. Ann has each year produced the most amazing cakes on graduation night and yet again this year the cake looked too good to cut. But cut it we did and it tasted absolutely delicious. Ann is one of the parents who are finishing with Maynooth ETNS this year; Marie and the PTA thanked Ann for her wonderful contribution to each of our graduations. We will miss her talent and creativity. We wish all of our families well as their children move on to the next phase of schooling. Parents had the opportunity to chat and the children enjoyed a run around after the formalities.

Very sincere thanks to 6<sup>th</sup> class and teachers Noreen and Aimee for their great work in putting graduation ceremony together. Huge thanks to Noor for the fabulous food, to Anne for the super graduation cake and to 5<sup>th</sup> class parents for their donations of drinks and treats for the event.

**New Junior Infant Parents Meeting: This meeting took place via Zoom on Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup>.**

There was a huge attendance, and we met (virtually) many new parents, along with current parents. Our Zoom meeting was ably hosted and managed by Elaine. Marie welcomed everyone and gave a brief introduction to our school. Elaine and Liz, our Junior Infant teachers for the next school year, took parents through the infant day and infant life in Maynooth Educate Together NS. They gave a very true and real insight into life as a Junior Infant in Maynooth Educate Together NS.

We look forward to actually meeting our new pupils and parents in August, before the new school year commences.

#### **School Tours:**

This school year we organised in-school events for our classes rather than the usual school outings.

- **Monday 28th June:** The Archaeology Society of Ireland will run a Big Dig for classes 2nd to 6th. The children had a ball! And returned to the classroom happy and dirty!
- **Tuesday 29th June:**, Wollys Farm will visit the school for classes Junior Infants up to 1st, and the Caterpillars and Butterflies classes. Our children were visibly excited spending time with these animals. There were goats, chicks, guinea pigs, sheep, hamsters, ducks, goslings and geese, bunnies and more. This was a great success.

**Green Schools Committee:** The Green Schools committee has the following suggestions for ways in which we can reduce our use of plastic in the next school year:

- Stainless steel lunchboxes are a durable and long lasting alternative to plastic one and are worth the initial cost
- Beeswax food wraps are a reusable alternative to cling film. Paper food wraps are also a better option than cling film.

**Parent Volunteer:** sincere thanks to Jennifer and Hilda for assisting us in sorting and storing our curriculum resources.

**School Booklists:** our booklists are available on the school website. We have greatly reduced our booklists for the next school year: only childrens workbooks will be purchased by parents.

The additional books that are removed from the booklist this year are: **Mathemagic, My English Read at Home, and Abair Liom**. If you could donate these books to the school, it would be of great assistance to our Book Rental programme.

We also plan to purchase over €8,000 worth of books to support the Primary Language Curriculum.

Our Book Rental fee per child is €25: payment may be made using Aladdin Connect.

**Education Passport:** 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils and their parents have completed the education passport documents, which have been sent to the secondary schools along with the 6<sup>th</sup> class school report.

**Intel Grant expenditure:** Maynooth Educate Together NS is delighted to be among the 2021 “Intel Pride of Place Competition” winners. The award comes just two months after the completion of phase 2 of our new school building so we now have the space to develop our new “Inspiration Zone” project. The project which will be partly funded by the 2021 Intel Pride of Place Competition EUR 5,000 award will be based in the space provided for the school library. The concept of a space in the school to focus on providing learning opportunities outside of the classroom was conceived as part of the new school building a number of years ago. The project will be delivered in the coming months with the support of the Intel award which is sooner than would have been previously possible.

The “Inspiration Zone” will provide learning tools that will encourage our children to develop their skills in the STEM subjects but will also support language and reading development. Since opening Maynooth Educate Together has supported our children’s participation in science and maths projects and the new learning space will support further learning opportunities in these subjects. The space will also be used to advance learning in other subjects of interest and further support our children’s educational development.

Maynooth Educate Together NS has grown from fourteen children when we opened in 2008 to over three hundred and seventy children in 2021. The school is a two-stream school with three special education classes. Educate Together is an established part of the local community in Maynooth and participates in relevant local community activities and as we develop we see our school as an important local resource.

**Crazy Hair Day:** in aid of Barrettstown was held in the school on Friday. What fun the pupils had with their mad mad hairstyles! Some photos will be posted on the school website in the coming days.

**Active Week:** June 14 -18. From Monday to Friday, all classes were scheduled to take part in a number of sporting activities which included races, handball, basketball, cycling, uni-hoc, football, Relays, and egg and spoon races. The weather was smashing, and each class was able to enjoy their sports outdoors throughout the week. Great fun was had by all.

Very sincere thanks to teacher Robert Leonard, for organising the schedule and the equipment and for ensuring that all children could enjoy each event each day.

**July Summer Programme:** ASD: the pupils in our ASD classes will take part in a 2-week July education programme. The programme will cater for our pupils and will be staffed by our teachers and SNA staff.

**Lost Property Box:** This is our final request for the owners of mislaid coats, jackets etc. To take their belongings from the lost property. Anything not claimed by tomorrow, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> will be donated to a charity shop.

**Ice Cream Van:** The school was visited by an ice cream van and all the pupils and staff were treated to an ice cream cone. We would like to thank the Parents Association for the generosity in organising and paying for this treat. We all really appreciated it, especially on this hot day.

Finally, on behalf of myself, all the staff and the Board of Management I would like to thank you for all your co-operation, understanding and help in what was a very different year for us all. I hope you have a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing you all back with us again on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

With warm regards

Marie Hand, School Principal