



## **Maynooth Educate Together Newsletter March 2021**

### **Dates to Remember**

May Bank Holiday closure: Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>

June Bank Holiday closure: June 7<sup>th</sup>

Standard Testing: May 20<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>st</sup>

Autism Awareness Day: June 13<sup>th</sup>

Sports Day in June: date to be confirmed.

School Reports: June 21<sup>st</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation: date to be confirmed.

**Dear Parents,**

**It has been wonderful to have all of your children back to school with us in recent weeks. The children are very happy to be back in the classroom with their friends and their teacher. We are following the Department of Education and Skills curricular guidelines, with a great emphasis on Literacy, Numeracy and the children's wellbeing. This has indeed been a very strange time for us all and we have had to adapt to our changed circumstances. I have looked back at the March/April**

**newsletter for the last regular school that we have had and it is a stark reminder of what our pupils are we are missing out on. That newsletter told of upcoming school tours, the Blue Star Programme, the Green Schools activities, class outings, active flag activities, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the 'Céilí sa Chlós', Seachtain na Gaeilge activities, Spelling Bee successes, Intel Science successes. The list goes on.**

**Thankfully, now that the Government has started the vaccination programme, we are hopeful that we will return to normal life soon, perhaps even for the next school year. I wish to thank you all for your co-operation with all of the Covid-19 advice ie mask wearing, social distancing, good practice when children are unwell. We are well set up in the school building and the children have been terrific in adhering to our new rules.**

**In recent days the Department of Education and Skills issued a letter to schools stating that it is the Government's intention that all school children will return to school on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Although I know that some schools have sent the children's books home today, we decided that we would not do this.**

**On behalf of the school management and staff, I wish you all a very Happy Easter. Hopefully we will all get to enjoy some time outdoors with our families. I look forward to seeing you all on our return to school on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Bainigí taitneamh as laethanta saoire na Cásca. Ná dean dearmad: glanaigí bhur lamha agus coimead dhá meadar óna chéile. Slán agus beannacht**

**Marie Principal/ Príomhoide**

**New School Update:** The second phase of our school building is nearing completion and we are hopeful that we will be handed over the school in the coming weeks. The ground works are progressing well also, and we are watching excitedly at our new school yards and basketball courts being completed. We hope to have further good news soon.

**Student Placements:** We have has a number of student on Teaching Practice placement in recent weeks. Very sincere thanks to these students for their great work.

**Standardised testing:** The Department of Education and Skills have informed us that the annual Standardised testing will take place this year. This testing was not carried out last year as schools were closed. As usual, results from classes 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will be returned to the Department of Education and Skills.

**New Parent Meeting:** As always at this time of year, we are looking forward to meeting our incoming Junior Infants and their parents. The traditional practice is to invite parents to the school for an evening meeting when they are introduced to the school Principal and teachers, and learn about our school. Parents are invited to use this opportunity to ask any questions they may have about our school and their child's education. Last year this was a virtual event. Hopefully, we will be able to organise a face-to-face event this year. Similarly, we hope to bring the children to the school to meet their teachers and classmates. We will be in contact with this parent cohort in due course.

### **Board of Management March 2021 Report.**

The Board of Management met on March 11<sup>th</sup> and the following is the report from that meeting.

**Welcome Back:** The Board welcomes all staff and pupils back to school.

**Staff thanks:** The Board thanks the teachers and Special Needs Assistants for their work at home schooling during the school closure.

### **Board approves the following staff arrangement for the school year 2021/2022:**

- Job Sharing for

- Teachers Noreen Keane and Claire Dixon,
- Special Needs Assistants: Pat Cannon and Anne Downes.

- Career Break for teacher Catherine Collins.

- Study leave for Eoin Mac Domhnaill

- Research by Eoin.

### **Staff appointments**

- Appointment of Ethel Kelly to fixed-term post in Special Education Teaching. appointment of Carolina Triaco to the maternity leave position, vacated by Niamh Murray.

**Additional Class for pupils with ASD:** The Board of Management has approved the opening of an additional class for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This class will commence in the coming school year ie 2021/2022.

**Covid-19 Revised Plan:** The Board approves the updated Covid-19 return to school plan.