



## Maynooth Educate Together Newsletter

December 2021

### **Dates to Remember**

Christmas Holidays – December 22<sup>nd</sup>-January 6<sup>th</sup> (inclusive)

School reopens January 6<sup>th</sup> FOR STAFF ONLY

School reopens January 7<sup>th</sup> for PUPILS

**School Reopens January 6<sup>th</sup> for Staff Only;** On January 6<sup>th</sup>, school teaching staff will have an in-service day. Teachers will engage collaboratively with webinar materials produced by the PDST to support the Primary Language Curriculum in English and Gaeilge.

On 6<sup>TH</sup> January our SNA staff will have in-service training on communication strategies for children with special educational needs.

**SCHOOL WILL RESUME FOR PUPILS ON JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>.**

**Child Safeguarding In-Service Training:** In November and December, all staff took part in a child safeguarding workshop. This workshop updated staff on the requirements of “Children First” and also the DES Child

Protection Procedures for schools. We also reviewed current practice to ensure that our school is compliant with DES procedures.

We also had a training session on the implementation of the SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) Programme for all classes. This involved identifying how the objectives of the SPHE curriculum can be addressed through the use of DES approved resources such as:

- The Stay Safe Programme
- The Walk Tall Programme
- Relationship and Sexuality Resources
- Webwise Materials

As a result of this training, we are currently working on updating our SPHE whole school policy. We will update you on this in the new year.

**Cycling Ireland** – The students in 6<sup>th</sup> class had super cycling instruction from Cycling Ireland – and many thanks to them for this.

**Lollipop Lady:** A big thank you to Irene, our new Lollipop Lady. If crossing the road with Irene, could we please ask that you use the pedestrian gate on the Celbridge side of the school. Many thanks.

**Sending Books Home:** On Dec 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> we have decided to send books home with our pupils, in case schools do not reopen in January. For those not able to take books home at this time, we will arrange book collection at the school in January, if schools are remaining closed. If schools do re-open as normal, please bring the books back on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Froebal Students:** We currently have 2 students from Froebal College on long-term placement, Jennifer and Emma. Thank you to them both for all their help to the students and teachers.  
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**Parent- Teacher Meetings:** Parent-teacher meetings took place in November and December. Many of these meetings were virtual and some were face-to-face. Practically all parents engaged with teachers. Thank you for this. If, for some reason, you did not meet with your child's teacher, please arrange to meet in the New Year.

**Visiting the School:** All Parents and Visitors to the school must wear a mask and report to the Secretary or Principal. **Parents are NOT permitted to go enter the school building at any time of the day.** All children must be signed into the Attendance Book (located in the lobby) if they arrive in school after 8.45am. If leaving the school before home time, they must also be signed out. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Enrolment for 2022:** Enrolment for the 2022/23 school year will be open in January – the application form will be available on the school website.

**Lost and Found Box:** The lost and found box is currently overflowing with jackets, coats etc. Can we please ask you to check your child has not something belonging to them in this box.

### **THE STUDENT COUNCIL**

*School raffle: On the 17<sup>th</sup> of December the M.E.T.N.S student council held a raffle with lots of prizes for all the classes. Science kits, robots and Lego were just some of the prizes!*

*We had to go around each day to every class asking if they had any money for the raffle from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. It was as good each day and totally worth it.*

*On the 17<sup>th</sup> we had the Santa run (for the Jack and Jill charity), as well as finishing the raffle. We had so much, we thought we weren't going to get through it at one stage, but once we did it, we were so relieved once it finished.*

*Today (on the 21/12/21) we now know that we have raised a phenomenal €1074.00 that will go towards 8 goal posts and 10 footballs, €163 for the Jack and Jill foundation (charity). This is outstanding for such a small school, but a huge community, junior to 6<sup>th</sup> class. We have lots of talents in sports subjects and creativity in sportsmanship.*

*The Fun Run - The fun run was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. Every class got a chance to run a few laps around the basketball court while Christmas music played and 6<sup>th</sup> class cheered them on. The goal was to raise money for the Jack and Jill foundation. We are happy to say we raised an amazing amount of €163. The day before the fun run, we had to get all the cones and tell the class what times they were on. On the day, we had to set up all the cones and get all the classes and tell them exactly what they had to run. In the end it was a successful day.*

*With a thanks to Maya, Sean, Edith, Tyce, Jack, Charlie, Andrea for running the raffle and fun run and Mohammed and Tyce for typing this.*

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## A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Another Christmas is upon us and all the children are suitably excited as they look forward to the Christmas festivities and gift-sharing and receiving. The children have all engaged in school positively in this school year, and the class bubble/pod regimes have cemented friendships in each class. Our modern school building has enabled us to implement with care the practices required to keep our school safe, as COVID 19 continues to be prevalent in the community. For those whose children did test positive for COVID 19, thank you for our prompt communication with the school and for adhering to public health advice.

We look forward to resuming school in January, after the Christmas holidays. Should the schools remain closed in January, we are ready and setup to resume on-line teaching and learning. If this situation arises, all teachers will be in contact with you, setting out the arrangements.

Thank you all for your support to the school and staff in this school year. I wish you all a very happy holiday and I look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

Best regards,

Marie, School Principal