



## Maynooth Educate Together Newsletter

March 2022

### Dates to Remember

May Bank Holiday closure - Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

June Bank Holiday closure: June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

**Due to the Government announcement that, in this school year, March 18<sup>th</sup> is a Bank Holiday, the Board of Management has sanctioned June 3<sup>rd</sup> as a personal leave day for school staff.**

Standard Testing - May 18<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 - June 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Student Placements:** In the coming weeks we will have a number of student teachers on Teaching Practice in our classes. This is an invaluable experience for these students and for our pupils alike. All student teachers work under the direction of the class teacher, who supervises the class at all times.

### **Board of Management news:**

**The Board has approved the following staff arrangement for the school year 2021/2022:**

Job Sharing for

- Teachers Noreen Keane.
- Special Needs Assistants: Eileen Neary, Anne Downes and Joan Eley.

Career Break Return: Catherine Collins, our mainstream teacher, will return to Maynooth Educate Together NS for the next school year.

### **Ongoing School Management of COVID-19**

The following sets out the current COVID-19 management requirements on our return to school:

The Government has accepted the recommendations of the NPHET to remove remaining restrictions relating to mask-wearing and physical distancing in schools.

**Therefore, pupils from 3rd class to 6th class are no longer required to wear face masks whilst indoors in school.**

*If members of staff or students wish to continue wearing face masks or coverings, they may do so.*

*School will continue to make masks available on request as they are currently doing.*

- Continued use of good infection prevention and control measures such as handwashing, respiratory hygiene, and ventilation is advised.
- Critical components of the collective response in relation to COVID-19 continue to apply including self-isolation if symptomatic (even if fully vaccinated/boosted) or if having a positive COVID-19 test.
- Students and staff: staying at home if you have symptoms remains a requirement.
- School transport and Face coverings/mask wearing; with effect from Monday 28 February the wearing of face coverings/masks on school transport will no longer be mandatory but will continue to be advised.
- Cleaning and Hygiene in schools: Enhanced cleaning required to minimise the risks of COVID-19 will continue.

- As the general requirement for physical distancing in society no longer applies, schools are no longer required to maintain class pods and bubbles.
- Antigen testing arrangements for children in primary schools and special classes and special schools): As part of the transition arrangements the HSE will continue with the current processes to support the provision of antigen tests to primary schools, special schools and childcare settings.
- The Antigen Free phone number is: 1800 110055 or parents may order antigen tests online via [www.hse.ie/schooltest](http://www.hse.ie/schooltest). The call centre opening hours will be altered slightly and from next week onwards will be 8:45am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class trip:** On Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will travel to Dublin Castle. While at Dublin Castle the classes will partake in a guided tour of the Castle and learn about its history and the history of Dublin city. They will travel to the castle by bus leaving the school at approximately 9.30 am and will return at 2.10pm, depending on traffic.

### **Maynooth St Patricks Day Parade 2022**

The theme this year is "Love Our World"- "This theme encapsulates our dedication to sustainability, the environment and our togetherness as a Local and Global Community. It is also a time for us to appreciate our togetherness as a community throughout the Pandemic and to remember all of those that we lost. Participants in the parade can take their own interpretation of the theme. This could be celebrating the global diversity of your school, organization or business. It could also look at ways to reduce our carbon footprint and ways for us to show our world more love." (Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade Guidelines). Maynooth St Patricks Day Parade 2022

**Maynooth Community Council** is holding a Gathering of Remembrance for people impacted by COVID on Sunday March 20th 3-4pm in the Scout hall. Our pupils will prepare a poster for this event illustrating how COVID affected them. All posters will be displayed in the Scout Hall during the gathering.

**Parental Involvement:** Now that COVID restrictions have been lifted, we have begun to invite parent volunteers back to the school. It is wonderful to see parents again assisting with paired reading and art and craft activities. If you are interested in volunteering, please ensure that you have

applied to Educate Together for Garda Vetting. All forms are available in the school.

**Healthy Eating:** Please ensure that your child brings a healthy lunch to school each day, with an accompanying drink. Please limit sweet treats to Fridays, and provide fruit, dairy or vegetable alternatives on weekdays. Please also remember that **NUTS are not permitted** in school lunches.

### Healthy Eating in Childhood

- Can help improve performance in class and at play
- Can help improve concentration
- Meets children's nutrients needs for growth and development
- Lays the foundations for good healthy balanced eating habits for life
- Assists in maintaining a healthy weight for children which helps prevent early onset of Diabetes and Cardiovascular disease

**Cyber Safety Week:** On Tuesday February 8<sup>th</sup>, as part of our Cyber Safety Week, parents were invited to attend online training for parents. This training focused on strategies to help children to be responsible, effective and safer internet users. A number of parents availed of this opportunity and reported that the training was very worthwhile. We encourage all parents to avail of this opportunity when it becomes available again.