



## Maynooth Educate Together Newsletter October 2022

**Dear Parents/Guardians, We all wish you all a very  
Happy Halloween. Keep safe and have fun.**

### **Dates to remember:**

- **Parent Teacher Meetings:** commencing on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you with a date and time.
- **Winter class performances:** Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Halloween school events:** Today Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, our pupils dressed up in their Halloween outfits. There was great excitement as the children paraded their outfits.

**Spooky Walk** – What a brilliant evening – there was a fantastic turnout for this year's Spooky Walk and everyone enjoyed the event. A big thank you to the Parents Association for all their work in organising this event and to all the parents and children who turned up in such big numbers. The money raised is close to €5,000 – a fantastic achievement and thank you so much to everyone involved. Sincere thanks also to all who donated goodies for the treat bags which were distributed after the walk. It was lovely to see so many of our past pupils at the event too. A huge thanks to Jennifer, Hilda and Noelle and all the PA volunteers.

**6<sup>th</sup> Class Pumpkin Decorating Competition:** The pupils in 6<sup>th</sup> class have done wonderful decorating to compete in this competition and the standard is extremely high – picking a winner will be a very difficult task.

**Thriller Dance:** 6<sup>th</sup> class performed their 'Thriller Dance' for pupils and parents today. What an amazing performance! The children have perfected their moves over the past week, becoming spookier and more grotesque with each passing day! Thriller dance has become a rite of passage for our pupils and is greatly anticipated by our pupils as they reach the senior classes. It has become our Halloween Special! Thanks to all of the boys and girls for their work and to Aimee and Ruth for guiding the event.

**NCSE Behaviour Programme course:** our ASD teachers Eoin and Marcella attended this course on September 27, 28 and 29. Mary, our 3<sup>rd</sup> class teacher attended this course at a later date. Substitutes were organized to cater for their absences.

**School Secretary return to work:** Hilary our school secretary has returned to work, following her surgery. We are so glad that Hilary has made a full recovery and we wish her well for the remainder of the school year. Sincere thanks to Phil, who substituted for Hilary in her absence.

**Department of Education NEPS psychologist:** Caitríona O Riordan, will support us in this school year.

**School pedestrian crossing:** Our children have become accustomed to using the crossing without a lollipop lady. We remind them that they must wait until they get the green light to cross, even if this seems to take a long time! They must then remember the Safe Cross Code and look left, look right and look left again before crossing. This is to ensure that the motorists have actually stopped. Having crossed the road, they should turn right and enter the school via the pedestrian entrance on the Celbridge end of the school. We still have some pedestrian parents and pupils crossing the main entrance to the school in the mornings, to enter the school grounds via the pedestrian entrance on the Maynooth end of our school perimeter. This is highly dangerous, as parents are driving out of our school gate and there is the possibility that a child or adult may be run over.

**Covid-19 Response:** we are continuing with our hand hygiene and sanitizing practices. We have had a few cases of Covid in the school, so we all need to remain vigilant. Please remind your child of the coughing etiquette and hand washing. Please keep your child at home from school if he/she has a bad cold and/or a temperature.

**Junior Infant photos:** On Friday, our school photographer, County Photos, has visited our school and has taken photos of our Junior Infant classes along with their siblings.

**Graduation:** Congratulations to teacher Angela, who graduated with a Masters in Education from Dublin City University. Angela has published her thesis entitled: Raising Spatial Ability of Children beyond existing levels: Changing teaching practice to support Spatial Skills Development in Primary School Children in Ireland.

**Music Programme:** we have introduced a new Music programme to our school. It is called Dabbledoo and it will provide the basis of the music programme in all classes.

**Monthly assemblies:** We have commenced monthly celebration assemblies for our pupils, Junior and Senior. These assemblies will give the pupils the opportunity to show case their class projects/work ets and will also be use to reward pupils for good behavior and good work. Please see the October Student Award winners in a separate attachment.

**Department of Education Incidental visit:** On October 4<sup>th</sup>, two inspectors visited the school. They visited 3 classes and spent 1 hour in each class. They were very impressed with the standard of teacher practice and with how the pupils engaged with them. They made some observations and suggestions, which we will implement.

**Jersey Day:** To mark the success of the Irish Women's Soccer team qualifying for the World Cup next year, we asked our pupils to wear a jersey to school. This is a

great achievement for our Women's national team and we look forward to tracking their progress through the World Cup competition.

**School Library:** After Halloween we will reopen our school library to our pupils. We have parent volunteers for the junior classes and the senior classes will manage their own classes. The development of our 'Inspiration Space' continues with wall murals being painted. Holly Delaney, a parent, is doing an amazing job in bringing this space to life with her amazing murals. We look forward to seeing the finished product. Very sincere thanks to all parents who have signed up to volunteer in the school

**Garda Vetting:** we are currently receiving a large number of Garda Vetting applications, which are being sent to Educate Together.

**Assistant Principal 11 post:** Robert Leonard has joined our school management team, having been appointed to an Assistant Principal 11 post.

**School Soccer:** On Tuesday last, our boys school soccer team won Division 3 of the Kildare Primary Schools Soccer 11-a-side League, beating Scoil Mhuire, Ballymore by 6-2. It was a great match, with all of our boys giving their best. Our girls' soccer team were runners-up in Division 2 Girls of the same competition. Our girls played against Scoil Diarmada, Castledermot, and were narrowly beaten with a final score of 1-3. Again, it was a great match, with our girls giving their best. It was a great achievement for our school to have both our boys and girls in the finals of the competition today. Very sincere thanks to our boys and girls for representing our school so sportingly today. Very sincere thanks to their mentors, Thomas, Eoin and Ruth. Some of our pupils travelled as supporters and many parents were on the sidelines also, cheering on our teams. The support was great and we are so glad that you all were with us today. We brought home the boys Division 3 Cup, to great excitement. Medals will be delivered to the school at a later date, for all of our players today. We will celebrate this event again at the medal ceremony, which we will hold in the school hall.

**METNS athletics success:** We have had huge success in athletics this year. Many of our senior boys and girls have competed at various competitions and have greatly enjoyed the outings. The final outing this term was the Cross Country Meet in Celbridge. The school brought a team of twenty runners from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class with all runners performing admirably! A special congratulations goes to Chloe Moran (1<sup>st</sup>) and Maddie Traynor Brennan (3<sup>rd</sup>) and the whole girls team who were the eventual overall champions.

Very special thanks to teachers Thomas and Ruth and to the volunteer parents who assisted with the trans[ort].

**Administration of Medicines:** If for some reason, perhaps your child has asthma or diabetes, your child needs medicine to be administered in the school day, please complete the 'Request for Administration of Medicines' form, which you may collect from the school office. This form needs to be completed even if your child is self-administering eg using an inhaler. You will then need to sign our school indemnity form, which is available in the school also.

**Community Garda School Visit:** The Community Garda visited the school on Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>. He talked to classes 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> about general safety and especially safety at Halloween. Please see the flyer attached.

#### Maths Week:

**Maths Week 2022: 15<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

Jacinta, Noreen and Tom organised a super Maths week for our pupils: the following is a list of the activities that the pupils engaged in.:

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1. Every morning, there was a **maths riddle** read out over the intercom and the answer was given at the end of the day.
2. A '**mathemagician**' was chosen from each class each day, ie the child who has made extra effort in maths. Certificates were awarded.
3. A **Mystery number** was hidden around the school each day. Children looked out for it and created a question with this number as the answer. Best questions got a prize!

4. **Bebras challenge:** The Bebras<sup>®</sup> Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students, by allowing them to solve interactive tasks online. It took place on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> October in the halla. [Bebras - Ireland \(techweek.ie\)](http://Bebras-Ireland.techweek.ie)
5. We had **maths trails** for Junior/Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> – **Monday**, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – **Wednesday** and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> – **Thursday**. (more on Teams) Older classes were buddied up with younger classes to help them with the trails.
6. **Maths Quiz** on **Tuesday** in the halla for 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> classes (available on Teams too)
7. **Maths game day** for the whole school on **Friday** – card/dice games, UNO, Bingo, dominoes, Snakes and Ladders, Countdown, Target boards, Noggle, Pentominos, Tangrams, PE games, hands on games and activities using shape, money, weight, length, capacity and so on. [Primary Schools – MATHS WEEK IRELAND](#) For more ideas. Maths equipment available upstairs in Room 16 & downstairs near 1<sup>st</sup> class classrooms. [Interactives - Lower Primary \(maths.org\)](#)
8. '**Maths Eyes**' **competition** – great for all ages. The children were asked to take a photo and compose a maths question e.g. A clock – what time is it? What angles can you see? How many numbers are on the clock? See Teams for full details. We have put a slideshow together of the photos.

#### [Maths Eyes – MATHS WEEK IRELAND](#)

9. **Maths Language** was displayed around the school. Children used this language as they engaged in their Maths activities. **Two dart boards** were set up in room 16; it's a great way to work on mental maths, problem solving, adding, subtracting, doubles, trebles etc. **Climate Action week** also overlapped maths week this year (October 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>). Children did a **daily tally** of how many walk, cycle, bus, drive to school. They completed bar charts, line graphs, pictograms, work out percentages etc. This linked in with the Green schools and the Learn Together curriculum too.

10. **'Maths Week 2022 Olympiad'** – was available for senior infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class.
11. **Integration with other areas of the curriculum...** Oral language, Music, Art – Kandinsky's concentric circles, M C Escher's Tessellations, Symmetrical art, using straight lines or compasses to make art, 3D paper shapes, shape monsters for Halloween, mandalas, The Golden Ratio etc. History – famous mathematicians.

In November, there will be another upcoming maths event:

**Mangahigh maths challenge:** a global maths competition from 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November. Our pupils have taken part in it from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in our school previously but it is also open to all classes.

[Global Maths Week | Mangahigh.com](https://www.mangahigh.com/)

Very sincere thanks to Noreen, Jacinta and Thomas for organising this great week. There was a buzz of excitement around the school as each child took part in the activities.

**Maths Problem Solving:** Very sincere thanks also to Taina Lethimaki and her college students who engaged classes 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> in challenging maths problem solving. The children were indeed challenged, and Taina was very impressed in their capacity to work as a team towards a solution. This activity was greatly enjoyed by all classes.

**Teacher Training students:** for the next few weeks, we will have a number of students on Teaching Practice from their respective colleges. These students work under the supervision of the class teacher and have drop-in visits from their college inspectors. Class teachers will notify parents of any teaching practice students in their class.

**Senior Infants:** The children in Senior Infants enjoyed a lovely nature walk to Railpark, where they spotted many signs of nature. Children completed a checklist and took this home as a conversation started to share their experience with their parents and families. They discussed safety rules before starting out,

and they adhered to these rules, keeping themselves safe. They even managed to pick a few blackberries on the way back to school.

Class teachers and pupils have been watching out for acts of kindness, and have added a marble to a jar with each act. Well, eventually the jar filled up and the children were awarded with a Pjama party. They wore a pjamas to school and also brought in a teddy. The children had a teddy bears picnic during Golden time, and they enjoyed a small treat.

The children greatly enjoyed Maths week, taking part in a Maths trail and a Maths quiz with 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils. They played Maths games, solved riddles and sought out Maths in the environment.

Today, Friday, the children dressed up for a Halloween Party and they sang their Halloween songs for their parents. How proud they were to perform for their parents. Well done to the children and to teacher Clare and Stephanie

**Visit to Castletown House and Gardens:** Whilst studying Local History, 5<sup>th</sup> class visited Castletown House and Gardens. It was a hugely enjoyable day, with the children travelling by public transport. The house was built around 1722 for the speaker of the Irish House of Commons, William Connolly, to designs by several renowned architects. It was intended to reflect Connolly's power and to serve as a venue for political entertaining on a grand scale.

Today, Castletown is home to a significant collection of paintings, furnishings and *objets d'art*. Highlights include three eighteenth-century Murano-glass chandeliers and the only fully intact eighteenth-century print room in the country.

It is still the most splendid Palladian-style country house in Ireland.

**Junior Infants:** Junior Infants have been working on the theme of Autumn, learning about the Squirrel and the Oak tree. Along with their teachers Elaine and Liz and some parent volunteers, they went on a nature walk. Here they spotted the amazing colourful leaves on the trees and the ground.

Elaine and Liz have also worked on making the children more independent, encouraging parents to allow the children to come to the lines themselves in the mornings. Parents are also encouraged to ensure that the children can open their

lunch boxes and bottles independently. Also, children are encouraged to zip up their coats and open them independently.

**Secondary School Open Evenings 2022:** Our local secondary schools held their open evenings for incoming First Year students on the following dates:

Celbridge Community School (CCS): Wednesday 12th of October (4-6.30pm)

Maynooth Post Primary: (MPP): Thursday 13th of October (6-8pm)

Maynooth Community College (MCC): Thursday 13th of October (6-8pm)

**STEAM Workshop; Make an Astronauts dinner:** 2<sup>nd</sup> class participated in a workshop, themed 'Make an Astronauts Dinner', in their classroom. This workshop was hosted by Anyone4Science, The children had the opportunity to learn about the issues that arise when providing food for astronauts and for eating and drinking in a zero or low-gravity environment. They were encouraged to think about what it must be like to plan a trip to space and then make an astronaut dinner, using a range of dried foods.

The workshop was very exciting and was greatly enjoyed by the children. Thanks to the Kildare/Maynooth Local Library for promoting these workshops.

**4<sup>th</sup> class news2day school visit:** on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> class were looking forward to a crew from the RTE news2day programme, coming to the school to film with the class. The children were very excited at the prospect of being in front of a television camera. Unfortunately, due to a crew member being ill, the filming was cancelled. It will be rescheduled at a later date.

**Junior Entrepreneur Programme:** Sixth Class will be participating in the Junior Entrepreneur programme after Halloween. This programme gives primary school children the opportunity to experience practical, real-life business learning as part of their formative education. It nurtures creativity, independence and problem solving among pupils of all abilities, with every aspect of the Programme blending into the primary school curriculum.

Under their teachers guidance, and with the inspiration of local entrepreneurs, children will discover their strengths as individuals and as part of a team.

Together, they will choose, invest in, and produce their own product or service

from scratch, all the way to making it available for sale at a school-hosted JEP Showcase Day, and enjoying the profits at the end.

**Caterpillars Class:** "The Caterpillars have been very busy getting ready for Halloween. We had to find bugs in ours spooky jelly, made potions and lentil pumpkins and even found some treats in our spaghetti. We have also been practicing our phonics and singing along to the songs. We are also very proud that we have all sang our counting from 1-20 song, we have some great singers in our class! Happy Halloween from all of us!"

**Third Class Elm:** '3<sup>rd</sup> Class Elm have been busy with their art this month creating spooky skeletons using chalk pastels and painting Halloween silhouettes. We have also been focusing on procedural writing, the children have shared some delicious recipes and fantastic creations.'

**Third Class Oak:** 'Children from 3<sup>rd</sup> class created Halloween silhouettes on a spooky moonlit sky in Art. They have also created magical potions and written these as a piece of procedural writing in Literacy. They also enjoyed playing Place Value dice games and a 'Scoot' around the school solving multiplication sums for Maths week'.

**Butterflies Class:** 'In Butterflies class we have had a great month, like squirrels and hedgehogs we have been preparing for winter. Over the month of October we have been decorating our classroom with beautiful Autumn art. Towards the end of October however things got scary when most of our art was based around Halloween. Children created some frightening monsters which really captured the holiday. Our baking also turned terrifying when we made some BLOOD COOKIES (not really though, we just used a dash of red food colouring). The children also made some witches slime for science to investigate chemical reactions. We also took part in our usual walks to the shop and continued to work hard in class writing some scary stories and partaking in maths week with the rest of the school'

**1<sup>st</sup> Class Hazel and Ash:** It has been a very productive term for the children of 1<sup>st</sup> class. They have settled back well in school and have gotten used to having an extra hour of school every day. They are doing slightly more homework this year but it continues to be done to a high standard. All the children enjoyed participating in Maths Week. There were lots of opportunities for them to participate in hands on activities such as maths trails and playing board games. We have been learning all about autumn in recent weeks as the weather has begun to change and the evenings get darker. I hope you all enjoy the mid term break. It is well deserved for the children of 1<sup>st</sup> class after all their hard work these past few months’.

**Credit Union Art Competition:** Devansh from 4<sup>th</sup> class was the overall winner of this competition. Congratulations Devansh!

**My Hero Project:** Our Special Education teachers Noreen and Sinead are working with their pupils on a ‘My Hero’ project. The children brainstormed to decide who to choose: someone who is important to them in their own lives, someone that they know who has impacted their lives in a positive way by encouraging and supporting them or in helping them overcome something difficult eg parent, grandparent, friend etc.

The children will produce either a Powerpoint or a poster type document. The projects will be sent home when completed.

**Drop-off and collection:** As always, we recommend that you drop-off your children and drive away in the mornings without parking up. On very wet mornings, the children will go directly to the school hall or their classrooms via the front door. Now that the children are well settled back to school and are very familiar with their line-up areas, we hope to see a reduction in the number of parents in the school yard in the mornings. It is good to establish a sense of independence in the children. The yard will be supervised from 8.20am onwards. Children should always have a rain jacket.

**Halloween Artwork:** The school is looking very colourful and festive, with great displays of artwork on corridors and in classrooms. Thank you to the pupils and their teachers.

**No dogs allowed on the school grounds.** Please do not bring your dogs past the school gates. Due to possible health and safety concerns, we have adopted a No Dogs Allowed policy. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

**Parent Car-parking:** Please do not park your car in the staff parking area. All parking to the left of the school gate is designated to staff.

**Late arrivals:** If for any reason your child arrives late to school, please ensure that he/she enters the school using the main entrance. Also ensure that you have provided a note of explanation for the class teacher. Alternatively, please email the class teacher. It is very important that we have an explanation for children arriving late to school.

**Pupil expenses and Book Rental payment.:** We have received payment from a great number of parents, and very sincere thanks for this. If you have yet to make payment, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any difficulty in using our online payment system, please contact the school office and we will direct you.

**Update of parent email addresses and mobile phone numbers:** Please contact the school office if you have changed your email address or mobile phone number.

**Allianz Pupil Insurance:** We have bulk purchased pupil insurance at a reduced rate. Your payment of this insurance is included in the pupil expenses that we request is paid for each pupil in our school.

**School Photographer:** has visited the school and taken the photographs of our Junior Infants o their siblings. The remaining classes will have their photographs taken later in the school year.

**PTA Christmas Card initiative:** the PTA have organised this Christmas Card initiative as a school fundraiser. Thank you for your support with this initiative.



### **Nut Allergy Awareness**

We currently have children with nut allergies attending our school. To ensure that children with a nut allergy are protected from an unintentional exposure to nuts **we do not permit nuts or nut products in lunch boxes ie nutella, peanut butter, nutty bars etc.** Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this very serious issue.

### **School Attendance** (As per our school attendance policy)

Maynooth Educate Together NS recognises the direct link between school attendance and pupil progress. Therefore, we promote good attendance throughout the school year and request that all absences from school are explained. Parents are requested to email the class teacher with an explanation for each absence.

**Attendance:** Annually we report all absences to Tusla, the Statutory Educational Welfare Services. We also submit a referral to Tusla where we have a cause for concern over a students' attendance. We work closely with families where there are genuine difficulties re school attendance and we request that all parents keep us informed of these difficulties.

**Healthy Eating Policy:** Please ensure that your child has a healthy lunch each day in accordance with our Health Promotion Policy. This policy may be viewed on the school website and is also available in hard copy from school reception.

**Parent concerns:** If you have any concerns regarding your child's education, I encourage you to contact me or your child's teacher as soon as possible. Issues brought to our attention at an early stage are very often sorted quickly and satisfactorily. Good and constant communication is very important as we work as partners in the education of the children in our students. Contact School Principal: [principal@maynoothet.ie](mailto:principal@maynoothet.ie).

*Garda Síochána Safety notice: Please find this poster attached to this email.*

*October Awards: Please see notice attached.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Class Maths eyes: Please see attached.*

.Principal Greeting: As we commence our Halloween break from school, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday, and lots and lots of fun. Thank you for your co-operation with the staff and I in educating your children. We look forward to recommencing the school year in November. Marie Principal

## Parent Teacher Association News

Thanks so much for attending the Spooky Walk 🎃  
As always the costumes and lights were spectacular, we hope the kids had fun. We really appreciate your generous sponsorship of this event.

<https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/Spookywalk22> We hope to reach our target over the coming days.

The funds raised from the walk will be used toward purchasing iPads for the children to use to enhance their small group learning within the classroom and used to bring additional fun activities for the children to enjoy during the school day.

The PTA committee has been busy behind the scenes organising holiday cards. Children have designed their own unique cards and will each get a printed card to take home free of charge after the mid-term break. You will then have the option to buy cards for sending to friends and family when the samples come out. We have opted to support local this year and are working with a company here in Maynooth on the cards.

The PTA is working in partnership with the school to bring Playground Proms performances to the children next month. Children will have the opportunity to prepare an anthem in class in advance of some fun classical music workshops taking place on November 17th at school with performances by Graffiti Classics. We are planning two performances, one large and one smaller to ensure all students can participate comfortably. We will be in touch after mid-term to ask for a small voluntary contribution to the event in order to keep costs lower: 2e per child or a maximum of 4e per family. PTA is organising decorations to make the Proms a festive and engaging event. We are excited to have been chosen to participate in what should be a really fun day at school.

We hope to see you at our next meeting and that children and parents enjoy the mid-term break.



