



## **Mid-January Newsletter**

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### ***School News***

***Welcome back to all our pupils and to the wider school community. We at Maynooth Educate Together, wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year. We hope that you all had a wonderful Winter break and had the opportunity to rest and recharge.***

**Enrolment for the school year 2024/2025** remains open until January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please find details [HERE](#).

**Upcoming Closures:** 5<sup>th</sup> February Bank Holiday. February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Mid-Term Break.

**Recycling of Batteries (WEEE) and clothes-** If you have any batteries for recycling, please send them into school with the pupils. A reminder also that we have a **Cash for Clobber clothes bank** on site, where you can recycle old clothes. Please do not place any duvets into the bank. If the bank is full, please leave your items at reception.

**Niall De Búrca's visit:** What a wonderfully entertaining day we had last Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, with a visit from scealaí (storyteller) Niall De Búrca. His unique and artful way of telling stories had the children and staff in fits of laughter, all the while we absorbed his educational anecdotes, ceoil and learnt a cúpla focail along the way. A firm favourite with all!



**Fundraising:** Thank you most sincerely to all our kind-hearted pupils, parents/guardians, grandparents, and staff who so generously supported our fundraising winter initiatives. The raffle and winter fun run raised an astounding €2,800 in total. We donated the majority to Muscular Dystrophy Ireland (€2,000), who were extremely grateful, and the remainder to Educate Together. Community spirit is alive and well in Maynooth ET. The student's council are busy making plans for this term, with cake sales and class raffles being discussed at present.

**Staff Training:** Maynooth ET teachers engaged in compulsory Department of Education primary maths curriculum training on 17<sup>th</sup> January while our SNAs (special needs assistants) and Hilary upskilled in First Aid. Both sessions were highly informative and beneficial.

**Active School:** We are keeping fit into the New Year with our fantastic GAA coach Declan Campbell working with our younger pupils and our enthusiastic rugby coach Colm Dunne keeping our children fit as fiddles.

**Wellbeing week** is fast approaching (January 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>). Our staff and pupils will be prioritising our physical and mental health. Teachers Elaine, Mary, and Robert Leonard have been organising Yoga for pupils, Drop Everything and Meditate (DEAM) and Get into Nature (walks). Our staff will also engage in Dignity and Respect in the workplace training as part of our staff meeting. The week finishes with our new initiative-**Grandparent's Day**. We are really looking forward to showing off our school to Grandparent's who will visit the school in person or via zoom. Details were sent out last week via email from Elaine Phelan and more details will follow. The children will have an opportunity to compare school today and long ago.



### **DECEMBER CLASS AWARDS**

Class	Student Award	Gaeilgeoir na Míosa	Honesty Award
Jnr. Infants Noreen and Sinead	Krzym	Charlie	Vincent
Junior Infants Elaine	Carraig	Zayn	Leon
Junior Infants Sinead S.	Iulian	Sara	April
Senior Infants Carolina	Kieran	Jude	Athena
Senior Infants Aoibhín	Louis	Mabel	Ivy
1 <sup>st</sup> Class Rob P.	Petra	Leila	Olivia
1 <sup>st</sup> Class Catherine	Jude	Jack	Klara
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Olivia	Alfie	Luka	Maya
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Jennifer	John	Zoey	Viktor
3 <sup>rd</sup> Class Rob L.	Xander	Evan	Maci

3 <sup>rd</sup> Class Jacinta	Eoin	Lara	Lauren
4 <sup>th</sup> Class Aimee	Amy	Sofia	Elphin
4 <sup>th</sup> Class Dave	Katie	Mia	Sophia
5 <sup>th</sup> Class Tom	Alberto	Elena	Chloe
5 <sup>th</sup> Class Sue	Emi	Luke	Joao
6 <sup>th</sup> Class Laoise	India	Finn	Victor

### CLASS NEWS

**Senior Infants** created lovely sunset pictures for art, using some fantastic cutting skills. For SESE they have also been learning about Winter and Emperor penguins who live in Antarctica. **Tom's and Sue's 5<sup>th</sup> classes** have been learning about the Burren in Co. Clare and the Wild Atlantic Way. The children are currently working on drawing pictures of puffins. They have been working hard on persuasive writing and we are hoping that we get some replies. They are also really enjoying their rugby sessions with Colm.



**In Butterflies** this month we have been exploring January and the theme of Winter. We have explored this theme through science and art. We have been mixing colours to try to make the brightest and the darkest colours we could without using white or black to do so. We also make some lovely brownies to warm us up during the chilly weather. The amazing story-teller Niall De Búrca was in our communal area last week to tell us some exciting and funny stories we really enjoyed that!

**Junior Infants** have been busy since starting back in term 2. We have begun GAA training with Declan learning lots of new skills and having so much fun!

We have also continued working on our phonics, learning new sounds each week, and learning how to blend these sounds together to make words. **Both 1st classes** have been hard at work since returning to school this month. Angela, our Spanish Erasmus student has been teaching us some Spanish words and we have been learning about deciduous and evergreen trees. We have also started learning about the Titanic.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### A message from the HSE Oral Health Promotion Team

**As part of the HSE Oral Health programme**, we would like to take this opportunity to share information on Dental Health. It is vitally important that you continue to look after your child's oral health by maintaining a healthy diet and implementing an effective oral hygiene routine. We would like to take this opportunity to offer some diet and dental health advice for the following primary school age groups; 4 – 7 years and 8 – 13 years. Children with additional needs often have an increased risk of dental disease. We would like to take this opportunity to reinforce some diet and dental health advice for these children also. We have also listed some websites with further information for you to access from The HSE Oral Health Promotion Team,

**Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow 045 920868.**

Children with additional needs often have an increased risk of dental disease and we would like to take this opportunity to reinforce some diet and dental health advice.

- **Brush your child's teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.** Do not rinse away the toothpaste after brushing. Try to get your child to spit the toothpaste out.
- **Reduce the amount and frequency of sugar.** Unflavoured milk and water are the only tooth friendly drinks.
- **Limit sugars to mealtimes** and try to make snacks between meals sugar free.

If you are concerned about your child's teeth or would like further advice, please contact the Dental Oral Health Promotion team at 045 920868. Below are some useful links below and look forward to seeing you all soon.

<https://www.dentalhealth.ie>

<http://www.eapdireland.ie/for-parents.html>

<https://www.brushmyteeth.ie/> copy and paste to google chrome.

<https://www.bspd.co.uk/Portals/0/BSPD%20Advice%20for%20parents%20of%20children%20with%20autism%20Jan%202017.pdf>

Lorraine Murray,  
Principal

