



Newsletter January 2026



January Roundup!

January has been a wonderfully busy and exciting month in Maynooth Educate Together National School. We began the new term by settling happily back into school routines, with our Third

Classes diving straight back into **swimming lessons** and making great progress in the pool.

Our budding strategists enjoyed an engaging **internal school chess competition** for pupils from Third to Sixth Class, organised solely by our extremely capable Student Council. Huge Congratulations to **Cillian Connell Lynott** from 6th class, who was the overall winner, closely followed by **Jake Delaney in 2nd place** (also from 6th class). Cillian will now take on the Chairperson of the Board of Management; Niall Hare, in an exciting dual. We can't wait to see this game!

Wellbeing Week took place from 21st–23rd January, and brought a positive buzz throughout the school with a focus on health, mindfulness and connection. Activities included more outdoor time, focus on healthy eating, meditation, no homework, a visit from the **Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind** and some movie time. Thank you to Noreen Keane and the wellbeing team for organising a fabulous menu of activities for staff and pupils to enjoy.

The 22nd January, saw four fantastic representatives from Fifth and Sixth Classes proudly represent our school at the **Cumann na mbunscol Table Quiz in Newbridge**. Well done to **Fabio, Evan, Amelia and Alexander M**. Thank you also to Ruth who accompanied them.

On the 23rd, we enjoyed our annual exciting event- **Grandparents Day**. We created lovely moments and connections across generations. We even had some grandparents link in from abroad with heart-warming online messages.

The final week of January was enriched by a much-anticipated visit from our annual guest, traditional storyteller **Niall de Búrca**, who as usual, captivated pupils with his tales. We rounded off the month on the 30th with a whole-school assembly focusing on our **Learn Together value of Responsibility**—a fitting conclusion to another vibrant month of learning and community spirit

Upcoming Events

February and March 2026

 **February 2nd Bank Holiday**- School Closure

 **February 5th and 12th**-6th Class Motus Wellbeing Workshops

 **February 10th** Safer Internet Day

 **February 13th-Valentines Bake Sale** -Student Council

 **February 18th** METNS' Got Talent Competition

 **February 19th and 20th** inclusive- Mid-term Break

 **February 25th** Primary Curriculum Framework Training (Day 1)- **School Closure**

📷 **March 4th- County Photos** individual photos (snr. infants to 6th class)

📖 **March 5th-** World Book Day

🎵 **March 10th-** Music in the Classroom (National Concert Hall)- 2nd classes

🍀 **March 11th-13th** Seachtain na Gaeilge

🍀 **March 16th and 17th-** School Closure- St. Patrick's Day

📅 **March 25th -**PTA meeting online

🌳 **Spring Break-** 1/2 Day Friday 27th March. Return to school on 13th April (Monday)

School News



Cumann na Mbunscol Table Quiz

Alexander, Fabio, Amelia and Evan at the Cumann na mbunscol table quiz. Well done on a great score children and for representing METNS so well.

Presidential Visit

Well done to pupil **Sofia Stephenson** from 4th class, who made a special visit to Arás and Uachtaráin recently with her team-mates to meet President Catherine Connolly. Sophia is a talented soccer goal-keeper. She has signed an agreement with J4K Sponsorship programme and wears her J4K (Just For Keepers) gloves and gear regularly. What an honour! Well done Sophia. We are very proud of you!



Student Council

Valentines Cake Sale- Student Council

Our **Student Council** will run their annual **Valentine's Cake Sale** on February 13th. They would love your donations please (NO NUTS or NUT based products), which can be dropped into the school hall that morning before school starts (from 8:20am). Please place all items in a Tupperware box or tin with your child's name and class on it, so that we can return to you afterwards.

This is one of the highlights of the year for the school and SC so your support would be most welcome and appreciated. Proceeds will go towards **Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind and our School**



Class News

Junior Infants

Noreen's Class- Sycamore and Gráinne's Class-Sunbeam

Noreen's Junior Infants (Sycamore class) worked on healthy bodies and minds during our Wellbeing Week. We relaxed with yoga and meditation, went on a mindful walk, created artwork with our buddies, and made delicious fruit salad in our classroom! Both classes We got to meet Guide dogs Zelda, Diego and Dale. We made our grandparents special cards for Grandparents Day too.

We have had a very busy month in January in Junior Infants **Sunbeam!** Our theme for play centres was Clothes, and the children enjoyed lots of hands-on activities such as making a bear's T-shirt and building a shopping centre.

We also took part in lots of fun activities during Wellbeing Week. We went on a mindfulness QR code hunt with our 4th Class buddies and made a delicious fruit salad, which we all loved and had a very special visit from some guide dogs!

We were also very lucky to have Niall de Búrca visit our school for a wonderful storytelling session, which the children really enjoyed!



Senior Infants



Sinéad Garry/Claire O' Connell (Chestnut) and Sinéad Staunton's Class- Juniper

Wellbeing week is in full swing in Senior Infants. It was so much fun doing some mindful exercises when we teamed up with our buddy class- 3rd classes. Some very welcomed canine heroes visited our class on Thursday 22nd January from Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. We heard about the amazing work they do to help people in our community.

1st Classes

Sue's Class- Larch

January has been a very busy month for 1st class Larch. The children set out their hopes and wishes for 2026. Seán has been on teaching placement in our class. The children have been busy learning about **sea creatures** and learning the song **Yellow Submarine**. They created water gauges and placed them around the school to measure the level of rainfall. Wellbeing week was very enjoyable as we teamed up with our buddy class and took a mindful walk around the school. The children enjoyed discussing the benefits of healthy eating and tasting some **fruit smoothies**. All the children enjoyed Grandparents day, it was lovely to hear all the stories, watch videos and see some photos of family generations. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to Niall De Burca stories, the children were engrossed in his tales and there was plenty of laughter.

Jacinta's Class- Holly

First Class had a very busy month. It was our turn to do **litter picking** around the school grounds, so we worked together to collect lots of rubbish and help keep the area clean and tidy. While we were doing this, we also learned more about **looking after the environment**. We talked about composting and how food scraps and other natural materials can break down to **make compost**, which can be used to help plants grow. We also discussed **recycling** and why it is important to sort different materials like paper, plastic, and metal into the correct bins. We also really enjoyed working with our Buddies in 5th Class Willow during Wellbeing week.

2nd Classes

Claire and Stephanie's Class- Hawthorn and Tom's Class- Cherry

This month 2nd class (Hawthorn) have been learning all about **China**. The children really enjoyed researching and creating a fact file all about China. We really enjoyed making dragon masks. We also learned how to use weaving to create our own **Chinese Lanterns**.

We have completed our **Lust for Life** wellbeing programme. The children have really engaged with it. They have learned lots of new strategies with pupils from the other classes during well being week. **For wellbeing week**, we enjoyed our mindful walk with buddies from 6th and completed art together. We also made a fruit salad in our classroom. We had a lovely visit from our Grandparents and also guidedogs.



3rd Classes

Sinéad Sullivan's Class- Aspen

3rd classes have really enjoyed their block of **swimming lessons** in the National Aquatic Centre. Huge thanks to Alison and Gina who accompanied us .Each child has grown in confidence and independence as well as swimming like fishes. Wellbeing Week brought lots of fun activities. Top of the list was **Grandparents Day**, no homework and the giant fruit salad was a big hit too. Before we ate, we created art inspired by the **artist Arcimboldo**. We also learned how to finger knit. It is relaxing and fun. We measured Adam's **finger knitting** (26m !!) and we used Olivia's to create our display for Grandparents Day.



4th Classes

Robert Potter- Ash and Carolina- Hazel

It has been a busy start to 2026 for 4th classes. Ash class have been learning about money in Maths and procedural writing in English. We have been finding out interesting things about Italy in SESE and made volcanoes to resemble Mount Vesuvius in art. During Wellbeing Week we made some delicious fruit smoothies and helped our buddy class with a mindfulness and art activity.

In Carolina's class, student Casey has been working hard with the children while developing her skills as a teacher. The children have really enjoyed their time with her.

5th Classes

Neil's Class-Willow

5th Class Willow have been learning all about the **Great Famine** this month and its devastating impact on the country. As part of our learning, we baked some famine survival biscuits using some basic ingredients, (except we added sugar to ours instead of salt!)

The **National Famine Way** runs along the Royal Canal through Maynooth, and we've been learning about the poor people from Strokestown Estate in Roscommon that had to make that difficult journey on their way to the coffin ships.

We have also been reading **Under the Hawthorn Tree** to further support our learning on this topic and to understand what life might have been like for children our age during the Great Famine.

Eoin's Class- Rowan

In fifth class we have been working hard on two separate projects and we are also working on **procedural writing**. We have completed **projects on France**, the pupils found facts about the monuments, culture and geography of France and coupled this with pictures and glitter to make stunning presentations!

We are currently working on history projects covering Ireland in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries and also studying **Daniel O Connell** and why he was such an important Irish historical figure. Many of the children have finished their procedural writing on *How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse* and will now lead the nation in the event of a zombie outbreak. The children also really enjoyed the

storytelling of Niall De Burca, he has definitely helped spark our imagination and will inspire us to write and tell our own stories.



Student Awards

Principal's Award

This month the award goes to **Biel Kelly Garcia** from 2nd class (Hawthorn). Biel really engaged with the lust for life program and he did an excellent job demonstrating the calming strategies to the other classes. Teachers reported back that he 'gave it his all'. He has a wonderful approach and attitude to everything that he does. Well done Biel. We are so proud of you.

A Million Dreams is coming to M.E.T.N.S!

Thank you to all our parents/guardians who have sponsored our school musical to date. We would really appreciate your support to help us cover the expenses involved in this exciting endeavour. Please find details linked below.

Rehearsals are going really well and the talent on display is amazing. **If you have any circus themed props or costumes we would love some donations.**



Sponsorship form .pdf

Download

99.3 KB

Community News and PTA

Our Fundraiser School Lotto and Bonus Prizes

Congratulations to our weekly lotto winners (€20 prize) to date, for the month of January 2026. Our weekly winners were **Bojana Culjat, Anne Connolly, Matyas Szabo and Paula O' Connor Mc Carthy.**

The **jackpot now sits at €1125** and you can still sign up here : [Maynooth Educate Together National School - Home - Our Fundraiser](#). You can also check out the fabulous outdoor STEM and play items purchased from lotto proceeds for the outdoor classroom, on the above link. Sincere thanks to the PTA for funding these.

Lorraine Murray

Principal