

**MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER**

Number 1

23rd September 2020

Welcome Back!

As this is the first newsletter of the new school year, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome everyone back to St. Mary's BNS. The past 6 months have been immensely challenging for everyone involved with the school but hopefully, our reopening at the end of August has given people hope for the future months. It was a great to see pupils return to the school and I hope they are enjoying being back in class. A special mention must go to our new Junior Infant pupils who joined us this year, I hope they enjoy their years at the school. The new pupils are of course taking the spaces left by the boys who progressed to second level and we wish last year's 6th classes all the best as they set out on the next chapter in their education.



Some of the news in this newsletter was ready to go in a newsletter on 12th March, but due to the school closure we didn't get to share it, so we've decided to include it in the first newsletter of 2020/2021.

(Mr Kirwan)

Staff News

A very warm welcome to Ms. Courell, Ms. Daly, Ms. Gillen and Ms. Griffin who joined us this year. Ms. Courell is teaching resource, Ms Griffin is teaching 3rd Class, Ms Daly is teaching 2nd Class and Ms Gillen is taking 1st Class at this time. We would also like to welcome back Ms. Dineen and Ms. Toolan.

We say a fond farewell to Ms. Sammon who has taken up a role in Celbridge. We wish Ms. Sammon all the best at her new school, but she will be missed at St. Mary's.

We must also congratulate both Ms Dunning and Ms Flynn on their new arrivals. Both Ms Dunning and Ms Flynn welcomed new boys to their families. Congrats all round!

Mr. Downes' Retirement



Mr. Downes is retiring in October after 40 years at St. Mary's. He will be greatly missed by everyone at the school. A very talented teacher, particularly in the areas of art, drama and sport, Mr. Downes has fostered a love of learning amongst the pupils of the school, run sports camps and clubs and written and directed dramas which have gone down in the history of the school. Over the course of 40 years, Mr. Downes has witnessed, and played a huge part in, the growth and development of the

school and we thank him for his service, time and energy during his career at St. Mary's BNS.

We wish Mr. Downes all the best for the years ahead and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the boys in 3rd Class on making their Holy Communion. It wasn't possible for the boys to receive the sacrament in 2nd Class on the traditional May date but they will make their Holy Communion on the 23rd, 24th and 25th September instead. We hope they have a great day and enjoy the occasion. A big thank you to Ms. Gunn, Ms. O'Mahony and Ms. Mulroy who prepared the boys in 2nd Class, to Ms.



Lyons, Ms. Cowley and Ms. Griffin for their work with the boys in 3rd Class this year and to Fr. McEvoy for his work with the classes over the two years.



Late delivery of lunches

There is a new procedure for delivering a lunch or drink to your son. If your son is in Junior Infants to Second Class he is in Group A. If your son is in 3rd Class – 6th Class he is in Group B. There are two large boxes between the outer and inner door of the school lobby. You can place your son's lunch in the correct group box. Please ensure that it is labelled with your son's name and class teacher, as lunches without labels cannot be delivered to classes.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Please make appointments to meet with teachers. Our preference at the moment is to communicate over the phone rather than for face-to-face meetings which will be for essential reasons only. You can arrange a call by writing a note to the teacher or calling the office. Thank you for your understanding on this.

Our traditional November Parent-Teacher Meetings are postponed until the spring. There will be more information about this closer to the time.

School Building Programme

Progress has been slowed due unforeseen circumstances. Covid-19 has also impacted on the project. However, there has been progress and we hope to have more substantial news in the coming weeks and months.



Milk - Reminder

If your son likes to drink milk, there is an *option* for him to receive a carton every day with his lunch. The last day for ordering the milk is Thursday 24th September 2020. Our order will be placed with the dairy on Friday 25th September to begin delivery on Monday 28th September 2020. If you do not wish to take part, ignore the ePayment link. The cost for the year per child is €38.35 and the only payment method is by ePayment – link previously sent.

Britain's Got Talent

Good luck to Aidan McCann from Mr. McGeady's 5th class. Aidan will appear in the semi-final of Britain's Got Talent which airs on Virgin Media One or ITV, Saturday the 3rd of October at 8pm. Once the show finishes, he will be in the public vote, with a place in the final at stake. The best support you can give him is to get onto your social media straight after the show and encourage everyone to vote for Aidan!



Unfortunately, Aidan couldn't travel to the studios in London to perform his magic, so with only a few weeks to go he changed his act and went live from his bedroom!!! Let's get behind Aidan and give him all the support we can!

HOW TO VOTE

When the vote is open at the end of his semi-final, you can also vote for Aidan by calling 1514 711 0 (and adding the last two digits as given to him in the show). Calls cost 76 cent including VAT from an Eir landline, the cost is higher from a mobile. Voting is open after his show until Monday 5th at 10am.

App voting is not available to Irish viewers. However if anyone know anyone in the UK, if they download the BGT app on their phone they get 5 free votes for Aidan online! Or Using a UK mobile phone, they can simply dial the short number shown on screen for Aidan, when the vote is open.

News from 2019/2020 ...



Confirmation - 27th February 2020

Congratulation to the boys in 6th Class who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Monsignor Eoin Thynne on Thursday 27th February in St. Mary's Church. Monsignor Thynne's pleasant manner and friendly smile helped to put the boys at ease on this important occasion in their lives. Also, many thanks to the choir for their beautiful singing to Ms. Sammon and Ms. Meehan for preparing them and also to Mr. Davis and Mr. McGrath for accompanying them on the day. It helped to make it a very special day for everyone.

Thank You

A very special thank you to the parents of last year's 5th class boys who volunteered to help with the traditional refreshments in the PE Hall on confirmation day and brought cakes and biscuits.



Mini Sevens Football - 4th March 2020

On Wednesday March 4th we hosted the regional mini sevens blitz for our area. Four schools were in attendance. Maynooth BNS, Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich, Scoil Uí Riada and Timahoe. A great afternoon's football was had by all. Our team got off to a great start with a solid victory over Scoil Uí Riada. A similar performance against Timahoe left us with a winner takes all game against Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich. Like all local derbies it was a close, keenly contested game. Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich got off to a strong start but were reeled back in by some excellent score taking. They led by a point at half time. In the second half they slowly extended their lead until we scored an excellent goal to put us a point up with 4 minutes left. Unfortunately in their next attack they managed to squeeze the ball into the net to regain the lead. From the kickout, they tagged on another point to leave 3 between the teams. This was how it ended. It was a great game to cap off a fine day's football. Hard luck to our lads. They played very well and the future is certainly bright for Maynooth. Best of luck to Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich in the county blitz.

Squad: Christopher Caulfield, Jamie Flood, Ryan Naughton, Matthew Johnston, Malcolm Smith, James Farrell, Joseph O'Connor, Kieran Hensey, Jack Carroll

Eason Spelling Bee 2020 – 4th March 2020

The school final of the Eason Spelling Bee 2020 took place on Wednesday the 4th March in the PE Hall. The Top 3 Spellers from each of the 4th, 5th and 6th Classes took part in the final. All of the boys displayed fantastic spelling ability with them being asked to spell some very difficult words in a very exciting final for all their classmates and teachers to watch. Alan Lanigan from Mr. McGeady's 6th Class emerged victorious as the school's overall best speller for 2020. He then went on to represent the school in the Kildare County Spelling Bee Final in St. Brigid's Primary School in Kildare Town on Tuesday the 10th March. Alan performed superbly in the county final where he got to the head-to-head final 2 contestants. He was very unlucky to make a small letter error with the word he was asked to spell and finished runners up to the overall winner. This is an absolutely incredible achievement and it is the highest place any pupil who has represented the school in the county spelling bee final has ever achieved. Well done Alan!

