

# MAYNOOTH BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Number 4

16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## Message from Mr. Kirwan

I would like to wish our pupils and everyone involved with the school a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. The past year, and particularly the past week, have been extremely challenging and difficult times for the entire school community, but in spite of all the difficulties we have encountered, we have continually and repeatedly risen to face the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic presented to us. I know that there will be many twists and turns in the road ahead but, I think we can draw confidence from the way we have reacted and overcome the challenges of 2020. I must pay tribute to pupils and families of St. Mary's BNS and to the fantastic staff at the school. Our pupils have been brave, courageous and resilient and we can all be very proud of them. Our teachers, SNAs, secretaries, cleaners and caretaker have given everything to ensure the safety of our pupils and I thank them most sincerely for their efforts.

We all look forward to a brighter year in 2021 and I pray that our hopes are realised.

On behalf of everyone at the school, I wish you and your family a very safe and peaceful Christmas.

*Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise duit!*

Mr Kirwan



## New School Building Project

As you know work has started on our new school building. The main contractor, Woodvale, is very welcome to Maynooth and we look forward to building a fantastic school with them. The site managers, Eugene and Eoghan, are working with us to ensure that the smooth running of the school remains a priority, especially as the build gets underway. Details of changes to drop-off and collection points for the new year are being finalised – there is some building work required to facilitate this so please bear with us. Expect communication by email from the school about these arrangements. Please keep an eye on emails in the coming weeks.

## Staff News

Congratulations to Ms Ring on the birth of her son Noah. We wish Ms Ring and her family all the best in the weeks ahead.

Ms Murphy will act as Deputy Principal over the coming months.

Welcome to Ms Devlin who took up a teaching role in the school in October. We also welcome Ms Stewart who has taken up a position as a class teacher to 2<sup>nd</sup> class.



## Christmas Jumper Day - Reminder

We will be holding a **Christmas Jumper Day** on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**December**. Pupils are asked to **donate €2.00** for this worthy cause and to wear their Christmas jumper to school on the day.

Buckets will be placed at the doors. Please ask the boys to have the €2.00 ready as they approach the door to avoid queues.

Please note: All donations are voluntary and will not exclude pupils from wearing a Christmas Jumper and joining in the fun. Donation buckets will be placed at the doors of the school for the collections.

## Christmas Finish Date and Times

School will be finishing for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday **22<sup>nd</sup> December**. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and because of the new school building project, there will be staggered finishing times to reduce crowding in the yard. Parents should leave the yard as quickly as possible after collecting their child.

**11:45 a.m. - Junior Infants, Senior Infants and children travelling on buses**

**11.55 a.m. – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class**

**12.05 p.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class**



## Enrolments for Junior Infants - September 2021

Enrolment application forms for Junior Infants 2021 have been published on the school website. It is important to submit an enrolment application

for your son as soon as possible. The closing date for enrolment applications is **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021** – please ensure that applications for siblings are submitted in time.

The school published a new Enrolment Policy in September. This is available on the school website or by request from the school office.

## REMINDER: Forgotten lunches, drinks or school bags

If you need to call to the school to drop off lunch, a drink or a schoolbag for your son, please ensure it is clearly labelled with your son's name and class. As there are no visitors permitted in the school building, there is a drop-off point in the porch area where you can place your son's belongings.

**Group A Box** - Junior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**Group B Box** - Senior Infants 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class



## COVID 19 Update

Thank you to everyone for their co-operation to date.

- Parents are reminded that the Board of Management have requested parents and visitors to wear masks on the school grounds.
- Visitors to the school including parents should make an appointment in advance. Please contact the school by phone before arrival. The office phone number is 01-6293021.

Please remember **do not** send your son to school if:

- They or any member of the household has tested positive for Covid 19
- They are feeling unwell, or if someone in their household is feeling unwell with symptoms of Covid 19
- If they are a close contact of a confirmed case and/or awaiting a test or test results

All of the information you require in relation to Covid 19 is available on the HSE Isolation Quick Guide.



All staff members of St. Mary's Boys National School would like to wish all our families a very happy, safe and healthy Christmas.

### Dates for your Diary

Christmas Jumper Day	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
End of term finish	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2020
Christmas school holidays	23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020 - 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 (inclusive)
School re-opens	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Enrolment for Junior Infants 2021	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2021