



Scoil Náisiúnta Mhainistir Mhaigh Éo,

Mayo Abbey National School,

Claremorris,

Co. Mayo

Tel. 094 9365644

email: office@mayoabbeyns.com

website: www.mayoabbeyns.com

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2024

AGREED REPORT

A Board of Management Meeting was held on 18th June 2024. The agreed report from this meeting is contained in the information in this newsletter. It is also available to read on the school website and on the parents noticeboard in the school porch. The financial balance sheet for the financial year ended 31/8/23 is also posted on this noticeboard.

SCHOOL CALENDAR INFORMATION

The school will close on Wednesday, June 26th at 12.30pm for the summer holidays. School will resume for all pupils on Monday, September 2nd. The school office will be open on Friday, August 30th from 11am to 2pm for those who have any queries or wish to purchase uniforms.

A school calendar for 24/25 is also attached. There will be changes and additional closures during the school year, e.g. Department of Education teacher training days. Should this happen the school will communicate these changes to parents as soon as possible.

CLASS ALLOCATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

There are no changes to the class allocation for 2024/2025. Classes and teachers are as follows: Junior and Senior Infants - Mary McNamara, 1st/2nd Class - Michelle Conway, 3rd/4th Class - Michelle Tuohy, 5th/6th Class - Thomas Clarke, Special Education Teachers - Geraldine Glynn and Rachel Derrig, Additional Needs Assistants - Rosaleen Basquill and Amhra O’Gorman. The Board of Management wishes Barbara Anne Vahey well for the coming year as she extends her career break. As the school year comes to a close, the Board would also like to thank all staff in Mayo Abbey NS for their work in what has been an extremely busy year.

BOOKLISTS / COSTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Once again this year, the costs of books, workbooks and copies are being funded by the Department of Education. Rates were reduced this year and there may be some related classroom resources that are not covered by the scheme. Costs to parents are as below.

- Photocopying €25 + Arts and crafts materials €25 = €50 per child

This €50 per child can be paid in the coming days **or** in September when the new term starts. Payments are accepted through Aladdin or directly to the school office. If you have any queries, please contact Goretta in the school office for further information. If any family is in need of financial assistance with regard to any school activities, please contact the school office or principal directly. It is important that all children have the fullest education possible and have equal access to all educational resources, regardless of financial situation. Please be assured that these matters will be dealt with with the utmost confidentiality.

Scoil Náisiúnta Mhainistir Mhaigh Éo

SCHOOL REPORTS

School reports were released on Aladdin to all parents on Friday, June 14th. If you have any difficulties accessing the reports and would like a hard copy, please contact the office. Also, if you wish to discuss your child's report with a teacher, please make an appointment to do so.

NEW CLASSROOM UPDATE

It was with great excitement that we witnessed Joe Walsh Construction Ltd arrive on May 8th and there has been great progress made on the new classroom so far. Presently the blocklayers are building the walls and we can clearly see the footprint of the extension to the building. The next stage will be putting in concrete beams followed by the roof. Thanks to Mayo Gaels GAA Club for accommodating access to the site through Abbey Park.

PARENTS COMMITTEE FUNDRAISING

The Board of Management would like to sincerely thank the Parent's Committee for their recent fundraising efforts. The Mega May Raffle was very successful and raised €5638.88 for the school. Thanks to those of you who organised and promoted the raffle, who sponsored prizes, and who bought tickets. This fundraising will go a long way to provide the pupils of the school with quality educational experiences and resources. Thank you.

RURAL SOCIAL SCHEME

The Board of Management wishes to acknowledge and thank Chris Mannion and all of the personnel with the RSS for their work on the school throughout the year. Their help and assistance throughout the school grounds and building is an invaluable resource to the school community.

6TH CLASS GRADUATION

The graduation ceremony will take place on June 20th. All are welcome to attend.

The 6th class children will plant their class tree and Fr. Fergus will be with us to give a blessing.

We wish Dezi, Dylan, Grace, Keira, Krystian, Isabelle and Samuel every success for the future.

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

The children celebrating their Communion and Confirmation attended retreats in Ballintubber Abbey in April. First Confessions took place on April 22nd. 5th and 6th received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 11th and 2nd Class received their First Communion on May 25th. Thanks to their teachers, Ms Conway and Mr Clarke, and to Father Fergus, Father Kilcoyne and Nora Colleran for making these celebrations very special.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- **School Tour:** Children in Junior and Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd Class went to a Let's Go Activity Camp based in Knocknarea Arena, Sligo on May 30th. The 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Class children went for their tour to Bay Sports, Hodson Bay, Athlone on June 10th.
- **Sports Day:** We held a very enjoyable sports day for all classes on Wednesday, June 12th.
- **Say Yes to Languages:** This term, the children in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Class took part in the Primary Language Sampler called 'Say Yes to Languages'. The module introduced the pupils to Spanish and was taught over 8 weeks during the normal school timetable. Maria Sacristan was employed to deliver the lessons. The module was great fun and the children enjoyed every lesson. It also helps the children to appreciate the importance of languages as a life skill and provides an opportunity for the pupils to think in a different way and build opportunities for the future. The module was rolled out with the support of Languages Connect, a unit of the Department of Education.
- **Music:** Thank you to Music Generation Mayo who facilitated music lessons this year. The junior classes took part in the Ceol na nÓg programme whilst the senior classes learned the ukulele. A special thanks to

Scoil Náisiúnta Mhainistir Mhaigh & Co

Gráinne Hambly, who taught these lessons in Mayo Abbey NS. This was a very worthwhile experience and we hope to take part again next year.

- **SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education):** 5th and 6th class had a guest speaker, Noel Kearney, to complete the Relationships and Sexuality Education portion of the curriculum in early June.
- **An Post Handwriting Competition:** The children took part in the An Post Handwriting Competition this year. Although there were no prizewinners in Mayo Abbey, the children put in a great effort and their presentation skills were excellent. Well done to all who participated!
- **Organic Garden:** 1st and 2nd Class went to St Colman's Training Centre to visit the organic garden. The children saw polytunnels, the glasshouse, the orchard, field grown vegetables, the raised beds, and heard about composting and the wormeries. Thanks to the staff in the resource centre who facilitated this visit.
- **Blue Star Programme:** 3rd and 4th class took part in 'The Blue Star Programme' this year. This is an education initiative for primary school pupils to foster better understanding and knowledge of the European Union. The children carried out projects and took part in quizzes in relation to four key elements: the history, geography, culture and creativity, and Institutions of the EU. The children received a European Flag and certificates for their participation in this initiative.
- **Sports:**
 - 6th Class attended a 'Fun Football Day' in Balla Secondary School on April 25th.
 - Children in senior classes attended the Cuman na mBunscol competition in Aghamore on May 3rd.
 - Infant classes completed a series of gymnastics lessons in 'Kids in Motion', Castlebar.
 - Martin Costello, Mayo GAA Coaching Officer, completed some football training with all classes in the school during May and June.
- **Auld Crafty:** As part of our Creative Schools initiative, we invited Tom Delaney, known as Auld Crafty, to the school. He spent two days in Mayo Abbey NS. Tom is a basket maker living in Mayo Abbey. He spoke to the children about basket making and its history and demonstrated his craft in all classrooms. The children in the senior classrooms were very lucky to have the opportunity to make their willow bird feeders to hang in their gardens. Thanks to Tom for the visit!
- **Bird boxes:** The children in 3rd and 4th Class were invited to design some bird boxes in conjunction with The GAA Green Club Committee. The children rose to the challenge and designed boxes for owls, bats and garden birds. Mike, working on the RSS Scheme, has since made a number of these boxes and the children will paint them before hanging them in Abbey Park and on the school grounds. Thanks also to Mike for making an insect hotel for the school.
- **Information Night:** An Information Night for new parents took place on May 15th, 7-8pm. Thanks to the Parents Committee for organising the teas and coffees on arrival. It made the evening very welcoming for new parents. The children from the preschool in Abbey Tots then visited the school on June 10th as part of the 'Tús Maith' Transitions Programme. Everyone is looking forward to big school in September!

POLICIES

The following policies were reviewed, updated and ratified by the Board of Management: English Policy, Gaeilge Policy, Religion Policy, Critical Incident Policy. They will be available to view on the school website or on request from the office.

THANK YOU

The Board of Management also wishes to acknowledge and thank all members of the school community for their continued hard work and wishes each and everyone a happy and safe holiday.

A copy of this newsletter will be available on the school website. www.mayoabbeyns.com