



*Scoil Náisiúnta Mhainistir Mhaigh &,  
Mayo Abbey National School,  
Claremorris,  
Co. Mayo  
Tel. 094 9365644  
email: [office@mayoabbeyns.com](mailto:office@mayoabbeyns.com)  
website: [www.mayoabbeyns.com](http://www.mayoabbeyns.com)*

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### *School Newsletter - December 2023*

#### **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING AGREED REPORT**

There was a Board of Management meeting on Monday, 12th December. This newsletter contains all the information in the agreed report from that meeting and will be posted on the school website and the parents noticeboard in the school porch. The Board of Management would like to wish the whole school community a happy Christmas and hopes everyone has a safe and peaceful 2024.

#### **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2023-2027**

The members of Mayo Abbey NS Board of Management for the term of office beginning December 1st, 2023 to November 30th, 2027 are:

Patron Nominees; Rose Brett (Chairperson), Father Brendan Kilcoyne

Teacher Nominees; Michelle Tuohy, Tom Clarke

Parent Nominees; Ronan Nestor, Mary Flanagan

Community Nominees; Ger Maguire, Peter Mannion

#### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

This year our Christmas Concert is taking place in the Church in Mayo Abbey on Tuesday, December 19th at 7.00pm. Each child in the school is involved and we look forward to watching some great performances.

The running order will be as follows: We will begin with 'A Prehistoric Christmas' from Junior and Senior Infants followed by 'The Big Little Nativity' performed by First and Second Class. Then Third and Fourth Class will perform 'Silent Night' with Fifth and Sixth putting on the show 'Stable Manners'. Finally, all the children will sing some Christmas songs to finish the night.

Children should be at the church at 6.45pm on that evening and come dressed in their costumes.

All members of the school community are welcome! On the night there will be a donations box at each entrance organised by the Parents Group. Thanks to Father Fergus and Father Kilcoyne for hosting the Christmas concert in the church this year.

#### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

The school will close on **Friday, December 22nd at 12.30pm** for Christmas Holidays. On the day we close we also have a small raffle for the children. If they wish to be included in the raffle children can bring in €1.00 to take part. School will reopen after Christmas on **Monday, January 8th 2024**.



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### **SCHOOL CLOSURES/ PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS**

There is a staff meeting listed on the calendar for Wednesday, January 23rd. Therefore, school will close at 12.30 for all pupils on January 23rd. Parent Teacher meetings will take place on January 24th and 25th next.

On our return after Christmas, parents will be able to book a time to see teachers through the Aladdin App. More information will follow when we return in January.

### **SCHOOL NEWS / ACTIVITIES**

- **Sixth Class Hoodies:** Sixth Class were presented with their hoodies this week. The children in Sixth Class design the hoodies and receive them in the term leading up to Christmas. Thanks to the Parent's Group who organised this for the children.
- **Credit Union Art Competition:** Congratulations to all of our students who took part in this competition. Our winners here in Mayo Abbey were Grace, Keira, Lexi, Grace, Rachel and Jack. Laura from the Credit Union in Claremorris, called to the school to present the winners with their prizes.
- **Music Generation Mayo:** Music lessons continue to take place weekly for all children in the school. These lessons are facilitated by Gráinne Hambly and the children are enjoying them immensely. The costs for this great initiative are partially covered by Music Generation with the school required to pay the remainder. The Parent's Group are organising a raffle later in the year to help cover some of these costs.
- **Charitable Donations:** Many thanks to all the children and their families who donated to various charities through participation in the following initiatives in our school: The Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal and the MS Readathon (MS Ireland).
- **Creative Schools:** The school is taking part in the 'Creative Schools' programme. This is provided through The Arts Council. A Creative Associate, Breda Burns, has been assigned to Mayo Abbey NS. She will facilitate some workshops with the children and assist the school in putting together a long term plan for some aspects of the Arts Curriculum.
- **Food Dudes:** In 2024, the school is participating in the Food Dudes Programme. Some classes will be given the chance to try out fresh fruit and vegetables during the school day.

### **SWIMMING LESSONS**

Swimming lessons will begin on the following dates;

5th and 6th Class; January 10th (Wednesdays)

3rd and 4th Class; January 11th (Thursdays)

1st and 2nd Class; January 12th (Fridays)

Each group will attend Castlebar Swimming Pool for 6 weeks. The cost of swimming is €11.50 per child per week. This can be paid through the Aladdin App or parents/children can pay the school secretary. Please read the attached letter regarding swimming in Mayo Abbey NS.



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### **GYMNASTICS LESSONS**

This year, Junior and Senior Infants will attend Gymnastics lessons in Castlebar beginning April 12th. This will be for 6 weeks and will cost €13 per child per week. This covers the bus (€7.00 per child) and lessons (€6.00 per child).

### **ALADDIN**

We would encourage as many parents as possible to engage with Aladdin Connect. By downloading and installing the App, parents are enabled to view and log absences, make payments online and the school can securely communicate and share information with parents/guardians. Thanks to all parents who have installed the Aladdin Connect App. Should you need assistance with the set up, please contact the school secretary, Goretti.

### **PARENTAL COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES**

A Revised Parental Complaints Procedures was issued to all schools earlier in December. A copy of the Revised Parental Complaints Procedures is in the Policies Section of the school website and available on request from the school. This procedure comes into effect on the 1st of January 2024.

### **PARENTS GROUP**

The Parents Group are seeking new members!

In Mayo Abbey NS, the Parents Group work in partnership with the principal, staff and Board of Management. They can assist the Board of Management on policy issues, suggest/organise extra-curricular activities, assist in fundraising activities, support parents in the school, invite speakers to address parents on issues which are topical or relevant.

Should you have any questions or wish to get involved, please contact PJ Gibbons (087)9327061 or call the school office for further details.

Reminders:

- If for any reason parents need to speak to a teacher during the school day please contact the secretary to arrange an appointment.

A copy of this newsletter can be found on the school website: [www.mayoabbeyns.com](http://www.mayoabbeyns.com)



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Dear Parents,

Swimming lessons will begin on the following dates in Castlebar Swimming Pool;  
5th and 6th Class; January 10th (Wednesdays)  
3rd and 4th Class; January 11th (Thursdays)  
1st and 2nd Class; January 12th (Fridays)

There are 6 lessons in total at a cost of €11.50 per child per lesson. This covers the bus (€7.50 per child) and lessons (€4.00 per child). This can be paid through the Aladdin App or parents/children can pay the school secretary.

The clothing requirements are as follows,

- A one-piece swimming costume for girls (no bikinis please), swimming trunks for boys, swimming hat, towels and goggles (if necessary).
- If your child uses inflatable armbands please bring them to school fully inflated.

Time is limited so children are not encouraged to bring shampoo and shower gel and to quickly rinse after their lessons and wash properly at home if they wish. Children are not permitted to use a hair dryer. Therefore, it is recommended that a silicone hat should be worn. **Long hair should be securely tied up.** Spray deodorants must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces and they leave a strong smell. All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name.

### **Medical Conditions and Illnesses**

Please inform the class teacher if your child suffers from any medical condition that may need extra supervision. There are very few conditions which prevent children from swimming and provided everyone concerned with the swimming lesson is fully informed about the particular problem: much can be done to ensure that children learn to swim with confidence in a safe environment.

### **Safety and Hygiene**

Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. Pupils must obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the school's Code of Behaviour Policy and the pool's Health and Safety Guidelines. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from future swimming lessons.

Children can bring extra lunch on swimming days and will be given an opportunity to eat on return to the school if they are back before 3pm (no eating allowed on the bus).

We hope your child enjoys the swimming experience and benefits from learning this essential life skill.