

Scoil Náisiúnta Mainistir Mhuigh Éo
Mayo Abbey N.S.
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Newsletter

June 2019

As the present school year (2018/2019) is drawing to a close we can reflect on a very busy year here in Mayo Abbey N.S. and look forward to an even busier year to come!

STAFFING

Just before the Easter break we received very welcome news from the Department of Education sanctioning a 4th mainstream class teacher for our school. This new post will start on September 1st 2019 and we welcome Ms. Mary Mc.Namara who will be taking up this post in September. This post is dependent on the school having 84 children on roll on 30th September 2019. If we don't have that number the post will be suppressed at Halloween. We are now busy trying to sort out accommodation for that 4th classroom. Mr. Clarke has also been awarded a permanent teaching contract in our school. From September 2019 staffing arrangements will be as follows:

Junior/Senior Infants:	Ms. Mc.Namara
1 st /2 nd Classes:	Mrs. Quinn
3 rd /4 th Classes:	Ms. Tuohy
5 th /6 th Classes:	Mr. Clarke
Special Education Teachers:	Mrs. Glynn
	Ms. Kirrane (currently on leave)

GREEN FLAG

We have just been awarded our 5th Green Flag. The theme for this flag is "Biodiversity". As part of the project we have developed a garden at the back of the school. The children in the senior room planted some apple and plum trees. The middle room developed a butterfly garden and the children in the junior room created a sensory area within the garden. We also have some tadpoles in the garden and we are watching their development with great interest. As well as all that we have an area in the garden set aside for the solitary bee, we have planted flowers to attract all other bees and we have built an insect hotel for any minibeasts and insects that may like to visit our garden!

FOOTPATHS AND LIGHTING

We were awarded our 4th Green Flag for "Travel" in 2017. As part of that project the children carried out a "Walkability Audit" of Mayo Abbey and contacted local TD's and Councillors with a view to making Mayo Abbey a safer place in which to walk. Following this, the children were invited to attend a County Council meeting which was held in Mayo Abbey in October 2016. The Green School's Committee made a presentation about the audit to the councillors at the meeting. As a result, new footpaths and lighting were delivered in the village. The official opening was held on Friday 10th May 2019 and the children from our school were invited to take part in the ceremonies. Minister Michael Ring and a host of County Councillors were full of praise and admiration for the great work done by the school children.

ACTIVE FLAG

This year our school took part in the Active School Flag Initiative. The aim of this initiative is to get more schools more active more often. Mr. Clarke and his Active School committee have taken charge to ensure that all pupils and staff are active. The pupils take part in the "Daily Mile" and numerous other activities to keep active. We have participated in Gaelic Football, Soccer, Athletics, Handball, tennis and rugby to name but a few.

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Team who were Division 4 Area champions in the Cumann na mBunscol Football Championship this year. It is the first time we have won the competition since 2005.

We hope to raise both the Green Flag and the Active Flag at our Graduation Ceremony on June 21st.

IRISH AID AWARDS

Pupils from Mayo Abbey N.S. completed a project for the Irish Aid Awards sponsored by the Department of Foreign affairs. Well done to all the pupils in the senior room who produced board games with the theme of “Biodiversity”. We were invited to participate in the Sligo regional final where there was an exhibition of the 15 regional finalist projects and an awards prize-giving ceremony on Monday 13th May. There, our school was awarded with a plaque in recognition of our achievement.

PIONEER ESSAY COMPETITION

Congratulations to Maddison Galibardy who was the Mayo Abbey N.S. winner of the essay competition. Maddison was presented with her award at a prize giving ceremony in Castlebar on April 26th.

SCHOOL TOURS

The highlight of the school year for most children is the school tour in June! This year the juniors went to “Funnybones” in Sligo while the senior pupils will visit the Hodson Bay Adventure Centre for an action packed day! The clothing collection held in March yielded €405 which reduced the cost of the tour for each child by €5.

SPORTS DAY

Another day to look forward to is the annual Sports Day held in June each year. This is a fun day with a little competition and activities such as sprints, egg-and-spoon races, wheelbarrow races, sack races, mixed class relays, potato picking, long jump, basketball shots, penalty kicking, fill the basin, target throwing etc. We are listening carefully to the weather forecast and it looks like the end of next week might be OK for our Sports Day. More information later.

GRADUATION DAY

We hope to hold our **Graduation Day on Friday June 21st**. This Day is a celebration of the time that the Sixth Class pupils have spent here in Mayo Abbey N.S. We thank them for their contribution to school life in the years they have spent her in Mayo Abbey N.S and we wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education. The day will begin with a Graduation Mass in the Church at 11am. Following this the 6th class plant a class tree at the front of the school. This year we will be raising our Active Flag and 5th Green Flag on Graduation Day and we will officially open our new garden. The Parents Association also present the 6th class with certificates and class hoodies. We finish off the day with refreshments for all. This is an open day and anyone from the community and beyond is welcome to join us in this celebration. More information later.

ICE CREAM DAY

Each year we raise funds for Downs Syndrome Ireland by holding an “Ice-Cream Day” in school. Children who wish to take part bring in €2 for an ice cream which is sponsored by HB Ice Cream. We will be holding our Ice Cream Day in the next two weeks.

SKIPATHON

Children in school will taking part in “Skipathon” to raise funds for Irish Heart Foundation. This will take place in school on Friday next, June 14th and is being organised by the Active Schools Committee. **Participation in the “Skipathon” is completely optional.**