

Scoil Náisiúnta Mainistir Mhuigh Éo  
Mayo Abbey N.S.  
Claremorris, Co. Mayo



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## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

### **FAILTE AR AIS**

A big welcome back to all of our students and staff for another school year.

We welcome seven new pupils to Mayo Abbey N.S.: Clodagh, Daniel, Eleanor, Ethan, Hugh, Jamie and Luke have all joined us in Junior Infants. We hope that their time here in Mayo Abbey N.S. is happy and productive and that each one of them reaches their full potential.

We also extend a warm welcome to Ms. Rachel Derrig who has joined our teaching staff this year. Ms. Derrig has the role of Special Education Teacher this year.

Welcome also to Amhra O Gorman, Special Needs Assistant, who has also joined our staff.

There are now 85 children on roll in our school.

### **RETIREMENTS**

This year we have two retirees amongst our staff.

Mary Kirrane is retiring from the teaching staff and Carmel, our secretary, is also retiring. Both ladies have been an important part of our story here in Mayo Abbey N.S. On behalf of the whole school community I want to thank them, most sincerely for their dedication and kindness during their time here in school. They have made an enormous impact on all of us and, while we will miss them greatly, we wish them nothing but the best in the years ahead.

### **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

We have now completed our third week back at school and, so far, so good! Thank you to all of you parents for your patience and understanding in getting ready for the return to school. Thank you for your compliance with procedures since we have returned, especially when children have been sick.

I would also like to thank the members of the RSS employment scheme who did an enormous amount of work in the school during the summer. Because of this we were able to safely re-open on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **NUT ALLERGY**

Two children in our school have a severe allergic reaction to all nuts. This allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur through ingestion of nut products and cross contamination.

Since this condition can be life threatening, we are asking for your help in minimising the risk to this child by:

- a) Avoiding giving children any nuts in school lunches
- b) Avoiding giving nut butter sandwiches, other spreads containing nuts such as Nutella and snacks/bars containing nuts or labelled "may contain nut traces" in school lunches
- c) Asking children **not** to share their lunches.

Due to the severity of the problem, it is important that all parents carry out the suggested measures and reduce the risk of allergic reaction to these children.

### **GOOGLE CLASSROOM**

We are currently setting up "Google Classroom" for all classes in school. In order to begin we need consent from parents to allow children to use this platform. You will receive a text in the coming days. **Please click on the link in the text and answer all questions.** Once this is done, each child will receive a username and password and we will be ready to begin.

## **NEW CLASSROOM:**

As you know, a new classroom was sanctioned by the Dept. of Education last year. However, because of the pandemic the process came to a stop for a number of months. Full planning permission has now been granted and we are ready to move to the next phase of the process.

## **WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL**

It is great to see so many children walking and striding to and from school. Children have been reminded at school to observe the rules of the road at all times, especially when crossing the road. It is important to regularly remind your children at home about the rules of the road. For their own safety children are also asked not to climb/walk on walls or through shrub beds on their way home. Public footpaths should be used at all times. Once children leave school grounds the school is no longer responsible for their safety.

*Children are also reminded to observe social distancing guidelines at this time when walking to and from school.*

## **OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES**

School starts in the morning at 9.20 and finishes, at 2pm for infants and 3pm for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes.

The school is open at 9.10am to receive children in the morning. Children should not be on school grounds before 9.10am and the Board of Management accepts no responsibility for children before 9.10am, whether or not there are staff present in the school building.

## **CURRICULAR AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- The READATHON initiative (All classes) will begin in October. This is a **voluntary** activity and all monies raised through sponsorship go to MS IRELAND. We would encourage all children to take part and read regardless of whether they collect sponsorship or not.
- Most of the extra-curricular activities that the children usually take part in at this time of the year (e.g. cross country running, futsal, football, etc.) have been cancelled or postponed for now, due to the pandemic.

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Congratulations and well done to the boys and girls ( Dezi, Dylan, Grace, Isabelle, Kiera, Krystian and Samuel) who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Many thanks to their teacher Miss Tuohy, to Fr. Carney, Fr. Fergus, Nora Colleran and to parents who helped with preparations for the sacrament.

## **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING**

There was a Board of Management meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. This newsletter contains all the information in the agreed report from that meeting and will be posted up on the Parents Noticeboard in the school porch.

### ***Reminders:***

- Thanks to all who have paid the **School Book Rental bill**. There are however some monies still outstanding. Receipts have been issued to all those who have paid. If you have not received a receipt, please contact the school.
- Anyone wishing to avail of the Pupil Personal Accident Insurance must have money in before Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

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