Scoil Náisiúnta Mhainistir Mhaigh Eo,

Mayo Abbey National School,
Claremorris,
Co. Mayo
Tel. 094 9365644
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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2025

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

There was a Board of Management meeting on Monday, September 29th. 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.

SCHOOL CALENDAR INFORMATION

- Thursday, October 24th - School closed as the building will be used as a polling station for the presidential election.
- Monday, November 17th - School closed for Child Safeguarding training for all staff.
- The staff meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th is cancelled; school will be open as normal on that date.

SACRAMENTAL DATES

Confirmation will take place on Wednesday, April 29th at 12.00pm. School will remain open as normal.
First Communion will take place on Sunday, May 23rd at 11.00am.

SCHOOL NEWS / ACTIVITIES

Cuman na mBunscol Mini 7s Competition: Children from 4th, 5th and 6th attended the competition in Ballindine on Sept 18th. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, playing Irishtown, Taugheen and Meelickmore on the day.

South Mayo Cross Country: On September 24th, pupils from 1st to 6th class took part in the South Mayo Cross Country Schools Competition at Ballinrobe racecourse. Everyone put in a fantastic effort, and we are very proud of them all. Congratulations to Hugh, who finished 4th in his race, and to Philip, who came 1st overall. Both boys have now qualified for the county final in Ballina, which takes place today. We wish them the very best of luck!

Primary School Gaelic Football Blitz: Balla Secondary School Transition Year students are hosting a 6th class local Primary School GAA Blitz on October 10th. This gives children the opportunity for students to get to know others from local schools to ease the transition period for those who will attend next September.

Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal: We will be participating in the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year. Information leaflets have been sent home today also. Please return the shoeboxes by Monday, October 20th.

MS Readathon: We are again taking part in the MS Readathon initiative for all classes in November and December. 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. More information will follow.

County Photos will be in the school on October 3rd.

Swimming Lessons will take place after Christmas.

Vaccinations: Vaccination Clinics are taking place over the coming weeks. Parents in the relevant classes will be notified.

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Birthday Wishes: We wish Katy Delaney well on her 104th birthday. The 6th class delivered a card and a small gift on behalf of everyone in the school.

HOT MEALS UPDATE
The school has entered the Hot School Meals process through the national eTenders system. We are currently at the stage of reviewing tenders, and we will keep parents updated as the process moves forward**.**

NEW CLASSROOM
3rd and 4th Class are now settled into their new classroom, and the school yard, and GP Room are all in use again. These changes are already making a real difference across the school. While some work remains, great progress has been made. Thanks to Joe Walsh Construction, who also arranged for cracks in the building to be repaired and for all classrooms to be painted over the summer

SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education)
We are currently organising cyber safety lessons for the senior classes and hope to have these in place over the coming weeks. After this, we will be looking at the possibility of introducing a voluntary Smartphone Code, where families agree to delay giving children a smartphone until after primary school. More details will follow.

INCIDENTAL INSPECTION
On 16th September, an incidental inspection was carried out in our school by Colm O'Cadhain, our Department of Education and Youth inspector. The focus was on how pupils are supported in their transition into new classes, with particular attention to children with additional needs (SEN). During the visit, the inspector met with the principal and teachers and observed several lessons. The outcome was positive, with useful recommendations to guide our next steps.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW
The Board of Management's annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement was completed at the Board of Management meeting of September 29th. This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the gov.ie website.

The Designated Liaison Person is Michelle Tuohy. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Geraldine Glynn. The Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is available on the school website and is on display in the school porch. The Board invites parents to share any feedback on the school's compliance with child safeguarding requirements.

BÍ CINEÁLTA POLICY REVIEW
The Board of Management completed its annual review of the school's Bí Cineálta / Anti-Bullying Policy.

This policy, known to children as our Bí Cineálta (Be Kind) Policy, sets out how we work together to promote respect, prevent bullying, and respond to any concerns in a consistent and supportive way. The children are

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familiar with the policy through classroom discussions and ongoing school initiatives, and it is available to parents on our school website or by request from the office.

WELLBEING PLAN

Our School Wellbeing Plan, guided by Circular 56/22, will be reviewed in June 2026. We have already begun work on our wellbeing targets, including embedding the *Bí Cineálta (Be Kind) Policy*. We also held our first whole-school assembly to introduce the policy, and we will keep building on these wellbeing goals together - rebuilding community post-COVID, promoting respectful interactions, reintroducing gatherings, encouraging positive yard behaviour, and supporting digital wellbeing.

MAYO ABBEY NS FUNDRAISING LOTTO

Mayo Abbey NS has signed up for a new fundraising lotto! Tickets can be purchased online only, and the first draw will take place on October 16th at 8pm. The jackpot starts at €250. All funds raised will go directly towards supporting our children's education and purchasing resources for the school. To enter, simply click the link below:
https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/mayoabbeyns
All support is greatly appreciated!

A copy of this newsletter can be found on the school website: www.mayoabbeyns.com