

# EDMONDSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2021



Dear Parents,  
On behalf of the Board of Management and Staff, welcome back to a new school year! It is wonderful to greet the children at the gate and see them skipping happily into school. Sincere thanks to you all for continuing to comply with our Covid 19 protocols and for being prudent in keeping children out when necessary. There is no doubt that the co-operation of all has kept the school Covid-free thus far.

We are delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants who have really settled in well and are now part of our terrific community: Sophie, Harrison, Emily, Ellie, Joni, Grady, Zara, Hannah, Finley, Siena and Fionn.

We also extend a “Céad Míle Fáilte” to Ms Leanne Browne who is teaching Third and Fourth class and Ms Angela Jones who is the Principal Release Teacher for my Wednesday administration day. Go néirí libh!



### **CHILDREN AT HOME**

We send warm greetings to some of our children who are cocooning at home at this time.

### **STEM**

We are thrilled to announce, for the FIFTH time, that the school has once again been awarded a STEM plaque of excellence from Science Foundation Ireland. This is awarded to schools that engage extensively in Science,

Technology, Engineering & Maths. SFI were effusive in their compliments which has really motivated us to keep up this great work. There will be a Zoom awards ceremony on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> October with a science show.

### **NATIONAL TREE DAY**

The 7<sup>th</sup> of October was National Tree Day. The Green School Committee planted a little wild cherry tree. This was donated to the school by Coilte and sponsored by SPAR. We look forward to this latest addition to our lovely woodland.

### **SPACE WEEK**

We celebrated Space Week during 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October. Our Conversation Coaxer table displayed a representation of all the planets by using fruits to represent their size. Children are learning lots of new information and engaging in exciting projects such as designing and naming planets, creating rockets, experimenting with “lift off”, and making 2D and 3D artworks.

### **GOAL JERSEY DAY**

GOAL Jersey Day took place on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Children wore their favourite jersey and brought in €2 which will be donated to GOAL to help them continue their wonderful humanitarian work. Well done to those children who brought in the money from their own piggy banks!



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### CASH FOR CLOBBER

On Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, there will be a Cash for Clobber fundraising event led by the Parents' Association. Please read the strict guidelines in the letter from the PA. Many thanks to Karen Morton for organising this event.

### CRICKET

The children enjoyed four weeks of Cricket lessons courtesy of Cricket Ireland. Naomi Scott Hayward was an enthusiastic tutor and has given the school some cricket equipment on loan to further our expertise!

### ETHOS

The children from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class received the Sacrament of First Penance on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September followed by a beautiful First Holy Communion ceremony on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> September. Sincere thanks to Ms Tighe and Ms Browne for preparing the children and to Ms Wallnutt and the wonderful sibling choir who sang at the mass. The children had waited a long time for this wonderful sacrament and we thank Fr. Lyng and Fr. Hughes for a lovely mass. Bernadette and Sr. Anna were on hand to help us out and we thank them too. Congratulations boys and girls – we are so proud of you!

### IT

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class had a new 75" smart board installed in their classroom during September. This means that all mainstream classes now have this up to date technology to enhance teaching and learning. Both SEN rooms and the hall now have use of interactive whiteboards.

### COMMUNITY LINKS

On 30<sup>th</sup> September, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class were treated to a virtual "Revolutionary Walking Trail" around Rathfarnham with historian in residence, Ms Liz Gillis. During October, they will have another Zoom with Liz where they will learn about the children of the War of Independence. Many thanks to

Ballyroan Library and South Dublin Co. Council for facilitating this.

### AUTHOR VISIT

On 12<sup>th</sup> October, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class took part in a fantastic book reading and Q & A session (via Zoom) with authors Sarah Webb and Judi Curtin. This was courtesy of South Dublin Co. Co. and Red Line Book Festival. We definitely have some budding authors and the children were really inspired especially when they heard that both authors began writing when they were in 4<sup>th</sup> class!



### MATHS WEEK

Maths week takes place from 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The children will be using their "Maths Eyes" to see evidence of maths all around them in the environment. They will also be spending lots of time outdoors on maths trails around the school garden.

### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We would like to thank Jen Kelly (Morgan) for all her work as Chairperson of the Parents' Association. She is ably assisted by Sinéad O'Leary (Secretary), Maeve Langford-Smith, Karen Morton, Jenni Cullen, Carol Walls, Sheila O'Meara, Glenda Donegan, Gosia Byrne, Joan Duffy, Paula Warren and Elizabeth Mackay. The committee is always looking for new members so please contact Jen if you would like to get involved. Watch out for their AGM coming soon!



### GREEN SCHOOL NEWS

Last June we received our latest green flag which was for Global Citizenship –

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Biodiversity and Food Waste. We were one of only four schools to pilot this new flag. On 7<sup>th</sup> October, there was a Zoom awards ceremony which was attended by last year's committee and this year's committee. The judges had high praise for our efforts.

Our new Green School Committee has been elected and they are: Ted, Maya, Imogen, Lily, Dara, Ethan, Aoife and Hugo. Well done to you all. Ms Browne will be the new co-ordinator until Mrs Burke returns. The committee has already been hard at work harvesting potatoes, beetroots, planting a tree and sweeping up leaves! They are currently thinking about what they can do for Climate Action Week.

Congratulations to all those children who continue to walk or scoot to school on Wednesdays. There will be a WOW day on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Please meet (socially distanced) at 8.30am at Springvale and we will walk up to school together.

### **SAFETY NOTICE:**

The Board of Management would like to bring the following routine information to your attention at the beginning of the school term:

School opens at **8.45 a.m.** when children practise their handwriting, complete maths challenges and discuss their homework. Formal lessons begin promptly at 9.00 a.m. Classes normally finish at 1.30 p.m. for the infants and we are continuing with our alphabetically, staggered finish times for all others. **Pupils should be collected promptly at those times. Please remember to socially distance and wear your masks when collecting children.**

**The Board of Management is not responsible for children on the premises before 8.45 a.m. or after 2.30 p.m. In the interests of the children's safety, please bear this in**

**mind. Please make sure that children do not re-enter the school after 2.30 p.m unless they have failed to find their parents. Then they should find their teacher who will phone their parents.**



### **SAFETY**

*The Board of Management is acutely aware of two dangerous aspects of our school:*

- ***the bridge and river***
- ***the narrow, busy and dangerous road***

*It is recommended that when delivering your child to school, you park safely before or beyond the railings. **Please do not pull in at the bridge.***

***These recommendations are made in the interests of the safety of all the children.***

### **HOMEWORK**

At present, homework continues to be via SeeSaw. If you have not received the code please email your child's class teacher. Please ensure that your child reads and practises their spellings and tables each evening.



*All notes, letters and newsletters are via email, therefore it is essential that the school has your email address – if you are not receiving our emails, please ring Linda in the office with your new email address as a matter of urgency. Please further note that you cannot reply to an email from the Aladdin communication system. If you wish to reply you must use the school email:  
[edmondstownns@hotmail.com](mailto:edmondstownns@hotmail.com).*

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### **BOOK BILLS**

Many thanks to the large number of families for paying for their books and making voluntary contributions to the School using online banking. If you have any monies outstanding or are unsure of anything, please contact Linda in the office. As the rental books etc., have already been bought and paid for, we would be grateful if parents would settle outstanding amounts promptly. Many thanks.

### **HEALTHY EATING POLICY**

Please note that in line with our Green School efforts, we are asking children to bring home their uneaten lunch, wrappers and cartons. This will serve the dual purpose of cutting down on our waste and also allowing you to see exactly what your child has eaten during the day. Please consult the policy on our website regarding appropriate lunches. Your co-operation in this matter would be very much appreciated. One treat only on Fridays please.

### **NUT ALLERGIES**

One of the pupils in the school has a severe allergy to nuts. In order to ensure the health and safety of all the children in the school, we would ask that you avoid including nuts in school snacks and lunches. Please Note: Peanut Butter and Nutella have a high nut content and should be avoided.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The school uniform is to be worn by all children on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Children should wear school tracksuits on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the grey/white polo shirt should be worn with these (no soccer/football jersey or t-shirts please).

### **COMMUNICATION**

Our school's Covid Response Plan outlines that we cannot have unannounced visitors to schools and unfortunately, this includes parents.

If there is an important matter which you wish to discuss, please ring or email the office to request an appointment with the teacher in the first instance and only then, if necessary, with the principal.



### **ACTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Mr. Dunne has volunteered to continue to co-ordinate the activities of the Active Committee. The new committee are: Tadhg, Flynn, Kyle, Ellen, Max, Karl, Rebecca and Amelie. Congratulations to them all! They have already tidied the P.E. shed and they are doing a great job of delivering play equipment to each class.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Speeches have been made, elections held and our new Student Council have held their first meeting. Congratulations to: Dhruv, Harriet, Hayley, Evan, Stella, Noah, Mia and Finola. Ms Tighe has kindly volunteered to take over the running of the Student Council from Mrs Cleary. We wish them well in their endeavours. They are taking their role very seriously and especially the role as promoters of Gaeilge. It is wonderful to hear children playing in the yard and using the "cúpla focal". We look forward to hearing all your great ideas!

### **DATES FOR DIARY:**

School closes for Mid term on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and reopens on Monday 1st November.

### **KEEPING UP TO DATE:**

Keep up to date with all that goes on by checking out our website at [www.edmondstownns.ie](http://www.edmondstownns.ie) or by visiting our twitter feed @Edmondstown NS. We try to post at least one piece of news each day.

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### **ENROLMENTS**

Enrolments for Junior Infants for next September opened on 4<sup>th</sup> October for four weeks. Please see the Admission notice and the Admission policy on the website.

### **ALADDIN ROLL BOOKS**

A reminder that the school uses computerised roll books for completing attendance records. Children will be marked absent if they are not in school before roll call at 9.50am. If they arrive later on, this will be recorded and the time of arrival will be entered. The absent count will remain however. This is to comply with Department guidelines. **Due to Covid 19 restrictions, children who leave to attend an appointment may not return that day.** Parents will receive an automated text message if their child reaches 15 absences and if they reach 20 absences, we must inform Tusla.

### **PUPIL INFORMATION FORMS**

It is vital that the school is notified of any changes regarding addresses, mobile numbers or emergency contacts, so please make sure that this information is up to date for each child. If you have not already done so, please email completed forms to Linda (available to download from website).

### **KIDS INC.**

Kids Inc. after school child-minding club is still available in our school. Whilst they are no longer on site, they do collect and bring children to a different after school venue. Contact Lisa at 01 6215790 for more details.

### **SPHE:**

The Children are currently working through the Stay Safe lessons. Please ensure to chat with them about each lesson and sign the sheets brought home.

### **WELLBEING**

We are very conscious of the importance of wellbeing at this stressful time during a global pandemic. With this in mind, we are organising a "Paint a Pumpkin" competition for Hallowe'en to give us all a lift and to brighten up the front of the school. Go mad with the paints and get creative! Send in your pumpkins any time before Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October. We will have some little prizes for the most creative! We will send them home with the children on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Note: Please do not carve the pumpkins as we don't want to attract any furry friends!! Children and staff may dress up in Hallowe'en costume on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Each class will have a little parade and Hallowe'en party.



*I look forward to a productive and happy year ahead and wish students, parents and staff every blessing for 2021/2022*

**Philomena Cleary**  
**Principal**