

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



EDMONDSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL

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.

We are delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants who have really settled in well and are now part of our terrific community: Joni, Aoife, Alanna, Hannah, Alfie, Adam, Aedan, Cillian, Pavlo, Zach, Dominic and Junior.

A little deer keeps us company now and then!



GOAL JERSEY DAY

GOAL Jersey Day took place on Friday, 14th October 2022. Children wore their favourite jersey and brought in €2 which was 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! A total of €181.20 was raised.

CASH FOR CLOBBER

On Thursday, 20th October a Cash for Clobber fundraising event led by the Parents' Association was held. Thank you to everyone who donated. We will know soon how much was raised. Many thanks to Karen Morton for organising this event. The Summer Cash for Clobber raised an astonishing €648 and we were grammes away from winning the overall prize! Keep up the great clear outs!!

SPACE WEEK

We celebrated Space Week during 3rd – 7th 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, designing and making Space dioramas and creating beautiful Space art. We received a unique photo of Jupiter from Blackrock Observatory.



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RUGBY

The children from 3rd to 6th class are enjoying Rugby lessons on Fridays courtesy of Rugby Ireland. They are all loving it!

ETHOS

Sr. Anna comes in to visit the children on a regular basis as does Fr. Niall who will be looking after the Communion sacramental preparation. Fr. Lyng will be officiating at our school mass during November. Bernadette Toal has started some short Meditation sessions with First to sixth class. We are grateful to them all.

COMMUNITY LINKS

On 5th October, the children from 5th and 6th were treated to a wonderful workshop on illustration art. They learnt about endangered Irish animals and birds and created a wonderful poster which is available for viewing in Ballyroan Library.

HOMEWORK

Homework this year is via a combination of SeeSaw and homework copies. If you have not received the code please email your child's class teacher (Junior/Senior Infants will receive their codes after Mid Term. Please ensure that your child reads and practises their spellings, tables and uses their Irish phrase each evening.



MATHS WEEK



Maths week took place from 17th – 21st October. The children had great fun using their “Maths Eyes” to see evidence of maths all around them in the environment. They carried out lots of maths activities such as surveying each other and creating block graphs from data. There was great excitement as they buddied up for some maths trails around the school grounds.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Sincere thanks to 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, Carol Walls, Sheila O'Meara, Glenda Donegan, Gosia Byrne, Joan Duffy, Paula Warren, Elizabeth Mackay, Aoife Sammon and Louise Lambert Monks. 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! They will host a Coffee Morning for parents of Junior Infants and First Class parents on **Thursday, 10th November** at 9am in the school.

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GREEN SCHOOL NEWS



Our new Green School Committee has been elected and they are: Spencer, Kyle, Karl, Ellie Mae, Bogdan, Luke, Benjamin and Aadhira. Well done to you all. Ms Browne will continue to be the co-ordinator. The committee has already been hard at work sweeping leaves and weeding the garden. We are striving for our 7th Green Flag – Global Citizenship, Litter & Waste. The committee have brainstormed ideas and come up with the fantastic slogan: “Bin the litter and waste. Make the world more plant based!” Well done – this will certainly keep us all on the right track! There is currently a litter bin designing challenge being undertaken by the classes. We can’t wait to see the results!

Congratulations to all those children who continue to walk or scoot to school on Wednesdays. Our next WOW day will take place on Wednesday, 9th 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 sounds, handwriting, complete maths challenges and discuss their homework. **It is desirable that all children are in at this time.** Formal lessons begin promptly at 9.00 a.m. Classes finish at 1.30 p.m. for the infants and 2.30pm for all others. **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 or make three point turns.***

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

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COMMUNICATIONS:

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. Can I please request that parents respect the right of our teachers to switch off after school. It is inappropriate to send them emails in the evening via SeeSaw, expecting an answer. 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.

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.

STEM: SCIENCE WEEK:

Science Week will take place from 14th November to 18th November. We are looking forward to some interesting experimentation.

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).



ACTIVE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Dunne has volunteered to continue to co-ordinate the activities of the Active Committee. The new committee are: Noah, Gleb, Evan, Yoana, Connie, Bautista, Mateo and Jack. Congratulations to them all!

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They held a recent competition to come up with a slogan and the winner was Flynn Doherty with the slogan: "Don't eat trash – clash the ash!" Great slogan to promote healthy eating and get outdoors playing hurling or sports. The Active Committee will host a pumpkin active challenge on Friday, 28th November.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Speeches have been made, elections held and our new Student Council have held their first meeting. They are: Lily, Leá, Leah, Blake, Stella, Ted, Caoimhe, Emmelene and Maya. Congratulations to them all. Ms Tighe has volunteered to co-ordinate their activities. They held a "Design your own planet" competition recently for Space week which produced wonderful entries. The winners were Nyla and Niamh. We wish the Student Council well in their endeavours this year. 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 focail". We look forward to hearing all your great ideas!

DATES FOR DIARY:

School closes for Mid term on Friday **28th October** and reopens on Monday **7th November**.

First Communion meeting for parents of 1st and 2nd class will take place in the school hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday, **8th November**. The first Do This in Memory mass will take place on Sunday, **13th November** in Whitechurch. We are delighted to announce the return of our Christmas Show which will take place on **15th and 16th December**.

SCHOOL CHOIR:

It is simply wonderful to hear the children from 3rd – 6th class singing their hearts out in the school choir. They are currently practising the repertoire for Laudate and the National Children's Choir performances. Sincere thanks to Ms Wallnutt for her enthusiasm and expertise in this field.

CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL:

The boys and girls from 3rd to 6th took part in the Cumann na mBunscol football competition this Autumn. They learnt some great skills and had great fun. Sincere thanks to Ms Browne and Mr. Dunne for volunteering for after school training and matches. In spring, the children will take part in the Hurling competition.

KEEPING UP TO DATE:

Keep up to date with all that goes on by checking out our website at www.edmondstownns.ie or by visiting our Twitter feed @EdmondstownNS and @EdtownActive. We try to post at least one piece of news each day.



ENROLMENTS

Enrolments for Junior Infants for next September will close on Friday 28th October.

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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. 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

IN SCHOOL THERAPY PROJECT

We are still involved with the pilot In School Therapy Project and our Occupational Therapist Ronan and our Speech and Language Therapist Fionnuala visit the school and give advice and tips to teachers that can be used at a universal level.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Lego Club and Speech & Drama take place after school on Monday and Tuesdays. Please contact the

Parents' Association if you would like your child to participate. Parent Supervisors – please remember to ensure that all windows are closed and that lights are switched off.

SPHE:

The Children will begin Stay Safe lessons after the Mid Term break. Please ensure to chat with them about each lesson and sign the sheets that they will bring home.

CRICKET:

All children have enjoyed Cricket lessons this Autumn courtesy of Cricket Ireland. They are really enthusiastic about this sport, especially since the fantastic results of the Irish team recently.



SCHOOL PHOTOS:

Class photos are available for purchase from the office. Catherine and Mick Behan give our school wonderful support every year and always make a donation to our school. We would be very grateful if you could support them by purchasing a photo of your child's class.

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ART:

Catherine Behan has volunteered to do some wonderful art lessons with the children. Mr. Dunne's 3rd and 4th class will be coming home with some great Hallowe'en art as Catherine has already been in with them. We are very grateful that the children will benefit from her expertise.

TEAM HOPE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES:

Sincere thanks to everyone who donated a shoe box. They will bring great joy to some worthy children this Christmas. Thank you to those who donated online. It is lovely to see children helping children. We had a lovely speaker from Team Hope – Ruth, who came in on 24th October and explained to the children where their boxes would go. We collected over 50 physical boxes!!!

FIRE SAFETY:

We were delighted to welcome in one of our parents, firefighter Christian Connolly recently. Christian generously gave up some of his precious free time to teach the children some timely messages about fire safety and in particular the "Stop, Drop and Roll" technique. Sincere thanks!!



WELLBEING

As part of our commitment to Wellbeing, we have organised a "Paint a Pumpkin" competition for Hallowe'en to give us all a lift and to brighten up the front of the school. The entries have been fantastic. We will have some little prizes for the most creative! Children and staff may dress up in Hallowe'en costume on Friday 28th October and there will be little prizes for home made costumes. Each class will have a little parade and Hallowe'en party.



I look forward to continued wonderful work and busy, happy times ahead. I wish students, parents and staff every blessing for 2022/2023

Philomena Cleary
Principal

