

EDMONDSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL:

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,
On behalf of the Board of Management and Staff, welcome back to a new school year – a school year like no other! It is wonderful to be back and to hear the happy sounds of children playing in the school yard and reciting poems in their classrooms – we have missed the children so much! We extend a particularly warm welcome to our new Junior Infants: Bailey, Cooper, Mason, Jack, Caoimhe, Jenna, Rhys, Hugo, Cara, James and Senan – Ms Wallnutt is delighted with how well they have settled in. We also extend a “Ceád Míle Fáilte” to Ms Caoilinn Tighe who is teaching first and second class and Ms Emma Ruddy who is teaching Special Education. Go néirí libh!

Many people from the community were invaluable in helping us get ready for the re-opening of our school – special thanks to Mr Pádraig Lambert, Mr. Ben Curtin, Mr. Paul Cleary, Mr. Derek Mc Grath, Mr. Justin Morton, Ms Joanne Mc Grath, Ms Wallnutt, Stephanie, Carrie & Amelia, Mr. Damien Walsh, Mr. Kevin Jennings, Linda & her Niece Molly to name just a few. We are sincerely indebted to them all for the part they played in making our transition back to school go so smoothly. Míle Buíochas!

Separate yards and entrances, new sinks, new screens and new cleaning protocols have helped us remain Covid free thus far and I congratulate the children, teachers and staff on their commitment to keeping each other safe.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS:

We welcome Pamela Murray and welcome back Colette Bunworth as our two SNAs. We say goodbye and good luck to Marie who has now retired and we wish her every blessing for the future.

STAFF AND CHILDREN AT HOME

We send warm greetings to any staff or children who are cocooning at home at this time.

STEM

We are thrilled to announce 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 especially complimentary in their comments this year of all the work that had taken place both in school and at home so well done everyone!!

NATIONAL TREE DAY

The 1st of October was National Tree Day. Many thanks to the Morton family who sent us in a little Ash tree to plant in the garden – 3rd and 4th class were ably assisted by Linda and enjoyed planting this new addition to our woodland. We applied to the National Tree Council and they have sent us a little native Scots Pine (An Giúis). First and second class will be in charge of planting this and we look forward to seeing it mature over the years.



SPACE WEEK

Space Week takes place from 5th – 9th October. Our Conversation Coaxer table this week is displaying 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 and artwork such as designing and naming planets and rockets. 5th and 6th class will attend a workshop via Zoom given by EPIC which promises to be very educational and exciting.

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GOAL JERSEY DAY

Goal Jersey Day will take place on Friday, 9th October 2020. Children may wear their favourite jersey (hopefully blue!!!) and we are hoping they will bring in €2 which will be donated, as always, to the great work of Goal (€4 for families of more than two).

CASH FOR CLOBBER

On Wednesday, 14th October, there will be a Cash for Clobber event run by the Parents' Association. Please read the strict guidelines in the letter from the PA. Many thanks to Karen Morton for organising this event.

GAA

We are delighted that GAA has resumed and we thank Wanderers GAA club who sponsor Dave - our Games Promotion Officer. Dave comes in every Wednesday to teach the children the various skills and they love to see him coming.

AUTHOR VISIT

On 13th October, 5TH and 6th class will participate in a literacy workshop with Nicola Pierce, author of "Chasing Ghosts". Again this will be via Zoom which is becoming our new normal here in Edmondstown.



MATHS WEEK

Maths week takes place from 12th – 16th October. The children will be using their "Maths Eyes" to see evidence of maths all around them in the environment. They will also be outdoors on maths trails around the school garden. On 14th October, 3rd and 4th class will attend a Maths workshop run by the Rediscovery Centre via Zoom.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We would like to wish Jen Kelly (Morgan) well as she takes over the reigns as Chairperson of the Parents' Association. She will be ably assisted by Sinéad O'Leary. We take this opportunity to thank Maebh Langford Smith for her huge commitment and trojan work during her term of office as Chairperson and we congratulate her on the new addition to the family!! Special thanks to Joan Colgan for her help with compiling the goodie bags for last year's Graduation class.



GREEN SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to all those children who continue to walk or scoot to school on Wednesdays. There will be a WOW day on Wednesday 21st October. Please meet (socially distanced) at 8.30am at Springvale and we will walk up to school together. Well done to Mrs Burke and Amelie on their radio debut on Newstalk recently where they spoke about our school garden and our commitment to all things green – check out the recording on the website. This year we will continue to strive for the Global Citizenship, Biodiversity and Food flag. Elections for our new Green School Committee are ongoing.

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 practice their handwriting, complete maths challenges and discuss their homework. Formal lessons begin promptly at 9.00 a.m.

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Classes normally finish at 1.30 p.m. for the infants and 2.20 for 1st/2nd, 2.25 for 3rd/4th and 2.30 for 5th/6th. **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.***

We regret to say that it has been brought to our attention that some parents are driving too fast and putting others in danger. Please use extreme caution as lots of children are now walking, scooting and cycling to school.

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

HOMEWORK

All homework is via SeeSaw this year. If you have not received the code please email your child's class teacher



All notes, letters and newsletters will now be delivered 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.

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.



IRISH DANCING

Irish Dancing has not resumed at the moment as we are awaiting direction on this from the Department. If you have paid any money towards Irish Dancing, this will be credited to your book bill.

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.

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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 polo shirt should be worn with these (no soccer/football jersey or t-shirts please).

COMMUNICATION

The Board of Management and Staff, particularly the teachers, value highly communication with the parents of our pupils. It is in the best interests of the children that this communication be efficient and effective. Communication between adults can all too easily take up the educational time of the children.

Our school's Covid Logistic's Plan outlines that we cannot have unannounced visitors to schools and 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, the School Principal.



ACTIVE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Dunne has volunteered to co-ordinate the activities of the Active Committee. The new committee elections are ongoing at the moment.

STUDENT COUNCIL

We are looking forward to hearing the views and ideas of our new Student Council – elections are ongoing.

DATES FOR DIARY:

School closes for Mid term on Friday 23rd October and reopens on Monday 2nd November.

ENROLMENTS

Enrolments for next September opened on 5th October for three weeks. Please see the Admission notice and the Admission policy on the website.

ALADDIN ROLL BOOKS

A reminder that the school is now using 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.

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. Contact Lisa at 01 6215790 for more details.

I look forward to a productive and happy year ahead and wish students, parents and staff every blessing for 2020/2021

Philomena Cleary
Principal