

EDMONDSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL: SPRING NEWLETTER 2021



Dear Parents,

It has been fantastic to see all the children back at school and to hear their happy shouts and laughs in the school yard. Well done to everyone for keeping to our safety protocols and ensuring that we have managed to keep Covid 19 out of our school once again. Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy, Holy and Chocolate-filled Easter! Keep safe and well and stay strong!



SPRING

Spring is definitely in the air in Edmondstown. Buds are opening on our Horse Chestnut tree, mallard ducks are flying up onto the bridge, frogs are hopping around the yard and the rooks are busy building their nests. It is such a delight to hear the birds singing every morning. The children have had great fun doing some birdwatching these past few weeks. We had a wonderful treat on Wednesday 24th March when Pádraig Lambert brought in a lamb for the children to see. Sarah Lambert (past pupil) who is currently on teaching practice with us brought the lamb around for the children to pet – simply magical! Check out the lovely photos on the website.

SACRED SPACE:

Our Sacred Space is currently depicting a Wilderness Garden to remind us of the time spent by Jesus in the desert wilderness. We are reminded to try to give something up, to pray more and also to try to do something good during the time of Lent. It's never too late to start over if you've forgotten! One more week to go!



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who remembered to wear their odd socks today in order to mark World Down Syndrome Awareness day.

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

It is great to see so many people accessing the site as it is a wonderful showcase for all the fantastic work that goes on in Edmondstown.

SCIENCE:

On 24th February, the teachers received online Science training from the PDST in line with our commitment to continuing our development of excellence in STEM activities. We are on track to achieve our Plaque of Excellence in STEM once again this year. All classes are working hard on maths, science, technology and engineering. We were thrilled with the response to our STEM challenges during lockdown – take a bow all those families who engaged with this and thank you for sharing your wonderful videos.

From 1st March – 5th March, we celebrated Engineers' week and the children had great fun designing and making various structures and completing various challenges.



IT

Safer Internet Day was celebrated on 9th February with various informative lessons, albeit via our online platform. Junior – Second class received a wrist band when they returned to school in recognition of the work they had done.

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GREEN SCHOOLS

Junior and Senior Infants had great fun making “seed bombs” this week which they have planted in our wildflower garden. We hope this will attract lots of bees. They also planted cress seeds and these have germinated already! Our Green School committee planted potatoes in our school garden and hopefully they will produce an early crop in June. Third and fourth class planted peas in the school garden too. They also planted broad beans in little pots. Please remember to water your plants at home over the holidays and we will plant them in the vegetable beds when we return after Easter.

Congratulations to 3rd and 4th class on producing some wonderful Rainforest projects especially Aoife Boland who actually built a mini rainforest!



ACTIVE SCHOOLS

We are doing our best to keep the children active and out and about as much as possible, whether this be by extra P.E., daily circuits, nature walks, maths trails etc. GAA has not yet resumed with our external coach but teachers are continuing to put emphasis on fundamental movement skills and are giving P.E. homework on Wednesdays. Well done to those children who are walking, cycling and scooting to school (some parents were spotted scooting too!)



GAEILGE:

We made an extra effort to speak Irish during Seachtain na Gaeilge. First and Second class received online Irish dancing lessons through the medium of Gaeilge, via Zoom. Many thanks to South Dublin County Council who funded this. The children received stickers during the week for their efforts in speaking as much Irish as possible.



EASTER CLOSING:

The school will close for Easter on Friday 26th March at 12 noon and re-open on Monday 12th April, please God. We will continue with our staggered alphabetical start and finish times. Sincere thanks to parents for honouring our request to maintain social distance on the far side of the bridge – I have no doubt that these efforts have definitely enabled our school to remain Covid free.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Philomena Cleary
Principal