

EDMONDSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL: SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

I can hardly believe we have come to the end of such an extraordinary year. Whilst it has been very challenging for us all, the children have been inspiring with their good humour, their resilience and their hope. I am very proud that our school managed to remain Covid free for the year and I know that is due to the great efforts made by parents, children, teachers, staff, Board of Management and Parents' Association – thank you one and all! Covid has not managed to dampen our work-rate here in Edmondstown and you will read a little flavour of some of what went on over the past term. I wish you all a safe, happy and fun-filled summer with family. I wish our graduating class every good wish for the new adventure of Secondary school that awaits them. Slán agus beannacht!



New Primary Language Curriculum:

The school has opted for the Starways reading programme which has been created in line with the new primary language curriculum. We will purchase these books for our rental scheme. We will also purchase a complementary guided reading scheme. The Parents' Association have fundraised for this and we are very grateful.

Active Flag:

I am delighted to report that we have been awarded the renewal of our Active Flag for a further three years. I wish to compliment Mr. Dunne and the wonderful Active Committee of Jamie, Charlie, Lucia, Dara, Niamh, Spencer, Ruairi, Maya, who put a lot of work into organising various interesting activities throughout the year, such as visits from the

Cricket Association, Hit Class, GAA, and even a Yoga session via Zoom. The committee are very enthusiastic and we are all very proud of their endeavours. We were very honoured that the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Ms Catherine Martin T.D., raised our flag on Friday 25th June. Watch out for a report in the Tallaght Echo on Thursday 1st July.



Sports Day:

The Active Committee organised our school sports day on 18th June and great fun was had by all, whilst remaining in class bubbles.

S.E.S.E

We had our Green School assessment on 3rd June via Zoom. The Green School committee presented a powerpoint of the work carried out by the school and then answered questions. I am delighted to announce that we have been awarded our 6th Green Flag - this one is for Global Citizenship - Biodiversity and food waste. Huge congratulations to Mrs Burke and the Green Committee of Leon, Rhiannon, Finola, Rebecca, Maya, Evan, Connie and Alex – they are fantastic! The Minister also raised our new Green Pennant on Friday 25th June.



STEM:

We have completed a lot of work on STEM this year and are hopeful of being awarded the plaque of excellence once again. We participated in Engineers week during the

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week beginning 1st March and Technology week during week beginning 19th April. 3rd

STEM CONTINUED:

and 4th class participated in four workshops delivered by Nature cubs Ireland over Zoom. These related to biodiversity, exploring the seashore, how to become a wildlife detective, finding art in nature and how to be a wildlife champion.

IT:

The school purchased two new Active panels to replace two outdated whiteboards. These have been a great addition to the classroom resources and the teachers and children are thrilled with them

School Tours:

We kept our tours “in house” this year for Junior Infants to fourth class. On Friday 25th June, they enjoyed a magic show, ice creams and a teddy bear’s picnic. On 23rd June, 5th and 6th class went to the Hidden Valley resort in Co. Wicklow to do kayaking and laser tag. It seems it was “the best tour ever!”



Transition to Secondary:

On 24th June the children in 6th class received a live workshop on the transition from primary to secondary, from Mr. Pat Courtney, a retired secondary teacher.

STUDENT VOICE: STUDENT COUNCIL:

The Student Council have been very active and are wonderful ambassadors for their classes. They have organised a successful colouring competition and also a bird feeder competition and have introduced a

suggestion box. They have delivered two really enjoyable Bingo sessions via our school intercom. They have introduced “Marvellous Mondays” to our school week and are great organisers. They gave the Minister a wonderful welcome when she came to visit. Congratulations to Lewis, Afia, Amelie, Heidi, Karl, Kyle, Sarah and Luke.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION:

Thank you to Jen Kelly and her hard working Parents’ Association. The recent Cash for Clobber fundraising event raised €172. Many thanks to Karen Morton for organising this and to all of you for donating.

The Parents’ Association purchased caps and gowns for the 6th class graduation. They also organised goodie bags of a drink, crisps, jellies and a book about transitioning to secondary school. I would like to thank them for all the effort they have gone to in organising this.



The Graduation itself took place on 29th June. Thank you to 5th class who joined 6th class for the end of year play - “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”. I know 6th class were glad of your support. Thank you to Sr. Anna and Fr. Lyng and all the teachers and staff. We are very grateful to Mr. Mick Behan and Catherine who were on hand to video the proceedings so that the parents can enjoy the ceremony at home. The school gifted the children a personalised candle and a graduation pen. They are a fantastic class and we will miss them!

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COMMUNITY LINKS:

Library:

1st and 2nd class enjoyed Irish Dancing via Zoom curtesy of the Library during Seachtain na Gaeilge, via Zoom.

1st and 2nd class enjoyed the “Mad Scientist” for eco week on 20th April, via Zoom.

Junior & Senior Infants enjoyed “Spring into Story time” on 20th April via Zoom.

On 16th June, 3rd and 4th class enjoyed a comic book local history workshop via Zoom – they really enjoyed it. They also received two beautiful history books from the library.

SFI

1st and 2nd class enjoyed a STEAM inspired look at some art on 12th and 13th May. Again this was via Zoom.

The Pushkin Project

3rd and 4th class were privileged to be involved in the Pushkin Project. This project is funded by the Duchess of Abercorn. Dr. Patrick Madden gave the children a full day environmental workshop in the school garden on Monday 14th June. Ms Catherine Behan delivered a series of 4 one hour workshops with the children – the first involved meditation and bubbles, the second involved clay and the third and fourth involved painting. In between these workshops, the children were inspired to tap into their inherent creativity. They wrote some beautiful poetry. The theme of the project this year was “The spark of silence”.

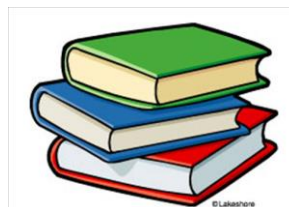


ETHOS:

Sr. Anna gave a workshop to all classes for May being the month of Mary which the children really enjoyed. She ran a competition for them all to create rosary beads in art. Fr. Hughes has visited the communion class and 5th and 6th class several times. We have been given a date for the Communion of 25th September at 10am.

BOOK BILLS:

Some families have some money outstanding on their book bill from last year. Some people may have forgotten to pay for the school tour. We would be extremely grateful if you could settle any outstanding amounts. The new book list will be emailed tomorrow.



CLASS TEACHERS:

We are awaiting some updates from the Department on certain matters and as soon as possible, I will email you the name of your child's teacher for next year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

School closes at 12 Noon on 30th June 2021

School reopens on 31st August 2021 with the usual staggered times.

Philomena Cleary

Principal