

# EDMONDSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL: SUMMER NEWLETTER 2023



Dear Parents and Children,

We have come to the end of another wonderful year here in Edmondstown and my goodness what a busy time we have had! The children, teachers and staff are well ready for their holidays! Can I wish you all a safe and happy Summer and we hope to see you all next August refreshed and ready for more!



## RETIREMENT:

Ms Marie Therese Wallnutt is retiring after more than 30 years in our school. She has been an incredible teacher down through the years and her loyalty and commitment to Edmondstown is renowned. She has given every ounce of energy to the school and especially in terms of her great passion – music! Every child has been privileged to have sung under her baton and what a joy it has been for us to hear the wonderful music she has produced. We have been represented at Laudate and the National Children's Choir because of Ms Wallnutt's dedication. Ms Wallnutt will be a great loss to the school but she assures us that she will not be going too far away! On a personal note, I would like to say that it has been my great privilege to work with Marie Therese and appointing her as Deputy Principal several years ago was one of the best decisions I ever made. She has been a wonderful colleague and will remain a wonderful friend. Thank you Marie Therese – you are one in a million! Go n-éirí an t-ádh leat sa toadhcháí.



## STEM: SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING & MATHS:

We were thrilled to be awarded a **PLATINUM** award in the SFI Curious Minds STEM awards this year. For the last six years we have received a Gold award and this year we decided to stretch ourselves even further. To achieve the Platinum award is a really great achievement - well done to all the teachers and children for all their fantastic work.



## GREEN SCHOOLS

Not only did we achieve our 7<sup>th</sup> Green Flag (sixth Renewal flag) for Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste, we were also awarded the **Regional Award** for this theme. Huge congratulations to our fabulous Green School Committee and to Ms Browne, the Co-ordinator for their great commitment and for keeping us all involved. A special mention to Ms Tighe and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class who did a

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wonderful project with used coffee pods, which is really impressive!



performance in the National Basketball Arena. Some children were chosen to sing in the National Concert Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> May. Huge thanks to Ms Wallnutt for all her enthusiasm.

## SOMETHING FISHY PROJECT

This was a great project run by Inland Fisheries. We were delighted to learn that our Owendoher river is one of the cleanest in Europe! The children loved seeing the trout and touching them.



## ACTIVE SCHOOLS

Active schools week was a great success once again this year. The committee worked really hard to keep us all busy and brought in lots of expertise -dance experts, keep fit, Wanderers GAA, to name but a few. Well done and sincere thanks to their amazing co-ordinator Mr. Dunne.



## KIDS INC.

We are delighted that Kids inc. are returning in September with their after school child minding service.



## SCHOOL CHOIR:

The school choir took part in the National Children's Choir and gave a wonderful

## SCHOOL WEBSITE AND TWITTER

It is great to see so many people accessing the school website at [www.edmondstownns.ie](http://www.edmondstownns.ie) It is a wonderful showcase for all the fantastic work that goes on in Edmondstown. Our twitter account [@edmondstownNS](https://twitter.com/edmondstownNS) is updated frequently and we love to receive a "like" or a comment.

## WRITE A BOOK COMPETITION:

Congratulations to Niamh Dolan, Pádraig Connolly and Connie Langford Smyth for achieving Merit awards in the recent Write a Book Competition. Niamh's story was published in a 6<sup>th</sup> class anthology – Well done!

## COMMUNITY LINKS:

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class worked hard on their enterprising Bí Gnóthach project "Bracelets for Good". They raised the incredible amount of €206.33 which Ms Tighe is organising to donate to a charity dedicated to helping

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Ukraine. This is a fantastic achievement – well done boys and girls!



## COMMUNION

The children from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> made their First Holy Communion on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023. It was a really beautiful ceremony officiated by Fr. Niall and Fr. Lyng. Thank you to Bernadette and to Sr. Anna and to all who helped to make the day so special. Mick Behan took some lovely photos in the church and we are very grateful. The Parents' Association put on a wonderful spread in the school hall afterwards and it was lovely to see everyone and to experience such a friendly atmosphere.



## COMMUNICATION:

We will continue to use our Aladdin communication system for text messages and email. Remember this is a “no reply” email. If you need to email the school please email the office at [edmondstownns@hotmail.com](mailto:edmondstownns@hotmail.com)

## SCHOOL TOURS

The children had great fun on their end of year school tours to Lillyput Adventure Centre and Greenan Maze. Great to see such happy faces!

## CASH FOR CLOBBER

The recent Cash for Clobber raised an amazing €460. Sincere thanks to Valeire for organising this and many thanks to Karen Morton who is now moving on with Max.

## SPORTS DAY

Sports Day was great fun up at Three Rock and the children worked brilliantly in their teams. Congratulations to everyone!



## GRADUATION OF 6<sup>TH</sup> CLASS

On Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, the children from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> performed their end of year play and then we had the Graduation ceremony for 6<sup>th</sup> class. It was a very poignant evening for us all and we are sorry to say goodbye to many families, some of whom have a very long history with Edmondstown. We wish this wonderful class of children every blessing in the future. We will miss them all.

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Catherine and Mick Behan attended the Graduation Ceremony and as they have recently retired from doing our school Communion and Confirmation photos, we presented them with a little gift from the Board of Management.



## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION SUMMER BBQ

Sincere thanks to our fantastic Parents' Association for hosting another lovely Summer BBQ. This is always a lovely event but this year it was particularly poignant as the parents honoured our very own Ms Wallnutt on her retirement. We say goodbye to our Chairperson Jen and welcome Louise on board. As Jen said in her wonderful speech, they are always looking for new members so don't be shy!

We marked Ms Wallnutt's last day with a little gift containing a finger print of every child and lovely flowers, cake and cards.



## SUMMER CLOSING:

The school will close for Summer on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> June at **12 noon** and re-open on Thursday, 31st August at 8.45am.

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

I would like to thank our hard working Board of Management for the wonderful work they do on behalf of the school – Fr. Lyng, Breda Heavey, Dermot Keating, Marie Therese Wallnutt, Seán Kinsella and your wonderful parent nominees – Joanne Mc Grath and Justin Morton who have now served almost eight years. I am indebted to them for all their advice and assistance.

Finally, I would like to thank the children for being a joy to work with. Happy Summer Everyone and thank you for all your support over the past year.  
Le gach dea-ghuí,

**Philomena Cleary**  
Principal