



WinterNewsletter 2023

Newtownwhite Educate Together National School



Wishing our wonderful school community a very happy holiday!!

We hope that however you celebrate you enjoy it. We would also like to thank parents and guardians for your continued support throughout the school term.



January 2024

We are due to welcome children back on Monday 8th January 2024 at 08:50am

Enrolments Now Open

We are still accepting enrolments for 2024/2025. You can contact the school for more information.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will continue when we return to school from 08:15am every morning. You can contact the school to book a place.

After-school

After-school with Ashleigh: Monday-Thursday 1.30-4.30. Fridays from 1.30-2.30pm



Board of Management

Our new Board of Management members are: Aidan Doyle, Tommy Geraghty, Caroline Walkin, Tracey Jones, Catherine Carson, Mark Benaicha and Stephen Geddes.



Appreciating the Arts!

Jessica from Music Generation is coming to the school every Wednesday. The Junior Room pupils have been lucky enough to play a range of musical instruments. 4th, 5th and 6th are learning to play and have the use of a ukulele for the school year.

Some samples of our artwork created over the past few weeks



Sponsored Spooky Walk

Thank you to each and every one of you for taking part and supporting our Sponsored Spooky Walk. A total of €1719.61 was raised and we are very grateful. The money raised was used to pay for the new Mi Touch interactive white board in the Junior Room.



Health and Wellbeing

Swimming Lessons

Second to Sixth Class children completed six weeks of swimming lessons in the Ballina Swimming Pool. Well done to all, especially those for whom it was their first formal swimming experience!

Gymnastics

Children have completed & enjoyed five weeks in Nadia Gym. We are grateful to Theresa and Patricia for their coaching and encouragement.



Cross Country

Children from 3rd to 6th Classes competed in the Cross Country Competition held at Belleek running track in September. They were very determined and showed great drive and stamina. All children completed the tough course. We are very proud of them.



The World Around Us

Student Council: Congratulations to our newest member, Oscar. Our Student Council members are Oscar, Ada, Tomás, Lorcan, Anna, Frank and Jarlath.



Dyslexia Awareness Week was celebrated in the school.

Zippy's Friends: Tracey has been working with Junior Infants to Second Class on this programme focusing on communication, problem solving and friendship.

Winter Festivals

We have been learning about how winter celebrations around the world. Some feasts and festivals we learned about include Hanukkah, Diwali, Christmas around the world.



Parents Association

A Parents Association AGM was held in Newtownwhite ETNS in November and a new committee was formed. Members are Jade Barrins, Emma Hughes, Emma Gillespie, Sarah Keane, Vanessa Carey and Mark Benaicha. The Parents Association, along with the Board of Management staff and children of Newtownwhite ETNS, would like to thank the outgoing Chairperson of the PA Noreen Petrie for all her hard work and dedication to Newtownwhite ETNS over the past number of years.

Killala Christmas Market

Thank you to the Parents Association for running a stall at the Killala Christmas Market on 2nd December 2023. A special word of thanks to those who donated items for the PA to sell on the stall. A total of €573 was raised.

Winter Raffle

The Parent Association held our winter raffle after the Winter Concert. We are so grateful to families and businesses for all the generous donations. A total of €684 was raised.

Green Schools

Achieving our Global Citizenship Food and Biodiversity Flag continues and we hope to have our planted food ready to cook in the new year. We are growing potatoes, cabbage and carrots so far.



Retirement of Linda Munnely: A fond farewell was bid to our kind and caring Linda in June! Her colleagues and friends Linda's nurturing, sensitive and friendly personality with a meal in Belleek Castle. Linda graduated with the 6th Class of 2023. Linda joined the school when these children came along in Junior Infants and we felt it fitting she receive a graduation hoodie! Thank you for everything Linda and most importantly, enjoy a healthy and happy time with family!



Nurture Visit

Susana Nunez, Nurture coordinator from Educate Together, came to visit our school and was so impressed with the friendly children and welcoming atmosphere around the school. We have been allocated €1000 in funding towards our Nurture incentive. We hope to put this money towards upgrading children's facilities and resources and formation of an outdoor classroom.



STEM Grant

We have been extremely fortunate in securing €10,000 towards development of Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering in the school. We applied for an outdoor classroom facility including composite benching and sensory walls, sandbox and bug hotel, to name but a few.



Christmas Cards

The children took part in the Christmas Cards for Schools.

Programme.. This is an important fund-raising event for the school so we would like to thank all of the families who purchased packs of cards this year.

Reminders:

- The free school lunches will finish up on 12th January 2024 as the funding will be used up.
- Please check your child's pencil case over the Winter Break to ensure they have all the stationery that they need for school upon their return.

That's a wrap!

We would once again like to thank our wonderful school community for the support you have shown this year. We really appreciate you. We wish you a safe and happy break and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Best Wishes to you all

From all the staff in Newtownwhite ETNS!

