

Spring Newsletter

Newtownwhite Educate Together National School



Spring Break is here!

We have come to the end of Term 2. It has been a really busy time with lots of positive things going on in school.

With Covid taking a back seat and the weather improving there has been a lift in everyone's spirits. We wish everyone a restful spring break and a happy Easter to those who are celebrating.

Welcome Sarah

Term 2 has brought a change to our school office. We said goodbye to Samantha and wish her the best of luck in the future. We are delighted to welcome Sarah as our new secretary. Sarah is from Crossmolina and is a singer, musician and a GAA fanatic. She has really hit the ground running and has been a huge support to the whole school so far.



April 2022

We will welcome children back at 9:10am on Monday April 25th 2022.



Instagram

Kate has set us up on Instagram! Join us at @newtownwhiteetns to keep up with what's going on at school.



Educate Together

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast club has been running really successfully. It is available from 8:15am Monday - Friday. Contact the office if you are interested in signing up.

AFTER-SCHOOL

We are currently exploring an option for an after-school service to run until 3:30pm Monday - Friday. More details to follow on this!

NEW OPENING TIME

Following a vote the school opening time will change from September 2022. The new opening time will be 8:50am - 1:30pm/2:30pm

Enrolments

We are now accepting enrolments for 2022/2023. You can contact the school for more information.

Welcome to our New Students

Our lovely school is growing!

We have been really lucky to have welcomed a number of new students this year. Mason and Emily joined the Junior Room during Term 1. Cora, Adolfinia, Gabriella and Emma have joined the Junior and Middle Rooms this term. We welcome each and every one of these children and hope they enjoy being here as much as we enjoy having them.



Junior Entrepreneur Programme

BirdLand Birdhouses officially launched!



Work continued in earnest this term on the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. The Senior Room children presented their completed BirdLand birdhouses to the school in March.

Nora, Diarmuid and Tom led a showcase of the birdhouses and explained the process from pitching to branding and production. They did themselves proud. Not only have all the birdhouses been sold there is also a waiting list for the next batch!

Teresa Coen - Credit Union Art Competition



Huge congratulations to Teresa Coen from 5th Class on her incredible win in the Credit Union National Art Competition. The theme for this year's competition was "Imagine" - which encouraged entrants to explore their thoughts and dreams and portray them on paper or canvas. Over 30,000 entries were submitted across all categories. Teresa was the overall winner in the 8-10 year age group. This is just a massive achievement and we are so proud of Teresa.

Parents' Association

Over the past two years the PA have been limited in terms of holding fundraising events however they are back in action.

The Parents' Association AGM was held on Tuesday March 29th. We would like to thank all of the parents who attended and shared their thoughts and ideas.

This Saturday (April 9th) they will hold a Cake Sale to raise funds for the school. Donations of cakes and treats for sale are welcome. The event will be held from 11am – 1pm in the Jackie Clarke Museum and donations can be accepted from 10:30am or prior to the event to any PA member. They have asked that donations are received packaged and ready for sale. There will also be a raffle – prizes include one of the BirdLand birdhouses as well as a nappy cake kindly donated (and made) by our wonderful secretary Sarah. We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

The clothing bank in the school yard continues to be a good source of income for the school so any spring cleaning over the break will be welcomed. If you find the bank is full at any stage please let a member of staff know and we will have it emptied.



Learn Together



There have been many occasions to celebrate during Term 2 which have given us opportunities to learn about other religions and cultures including St. David's Day, St. Brigid's Day, Chinese New Year, Pancake Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, St. Patrick's Day, Holi and Ramadan.

We would like to thank one of our lovely parents, Emma, who sent in some traditional Welsh treats and daffodils for St. David's Day.

Lá Glas

Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated during the beginning of March and concluded with Lá Glas on March 16th. The whole school participated and enjoyed wearing green and doing some activities as Gaeilge. Tracey led the school in an Irish dancing lesson and our dance was featured on the Connaught Telegraph Facebook page. The Senior Room then led the younger classes in a circuit class as Gaeilge. The weather was beautiful and the day was a great success.



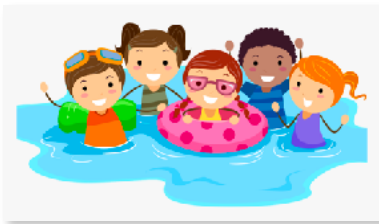
Wellbeing Updates

Wellbeing Wednesdays

Wellbeing Wednesdays were launched at the beginning of February and they have really become a lovely addition to our weekly routines. We begin each Wednesday with a workout – either as a whole school in the yard or in the classrooms if the weather isn't great. All classes have now completed the Mind Me Mind You programme which explored topics such as peer pressure, stress, gratitude and kindness – the children really enjoyed these lessons. Other activities on Wellbeing Wednesdays have included music, art, meditation, story time, daily mile, games and nurture time in Kate's room. It has become a day that children and staff alike look forward to.



Swimming



Children from 2nd up to 6th Class have been participating in weekly swimming lessons at Waterpoint Aqua Park in Enniscrone. Swimming is such an important skill and children have really missed out over the last couple of years with pools being closed for extended periods. We are delighted that children can resume normal activities and they are loving their weekly trips. We hope to extend these lessons to the junior classes in the near future.

New Sports Equipment

Caroline organised the purchase of lots of new PE equipment at the beginning of the term. The children have absolutely loved exploring it all. Over the last few weeks the Senior Room have led the younger classes in circuits to make the most all of the new kit including tennis rackets, trampolines, footballs, hurdles, sack race kits, egg & spoon kits, basketballs and much more. We look forward to getting lots of PE time in the nice weather in May and June.



Tennis



Tennis lessons will be offered to the whole school following Spring Break. They will take place in Ballina and Sarah will be in touch with more details in the coming weeks.



MarathonKids Ireland

Children participated in the MarathonKids Ireland programme in February. Over the month the children ran a marathon by running laps of the school every day. To complete their marathon the whole school ran the final mile together around the running track at Beleek. Each child received a medal for their participation and we celebrated in Supermac's afterwards. It was a really special day as it was our first trip together in a long time. The children and staff alike had a wonderful time.



Green-Schools



Work continues on our Green-Schools Global Citizenship Food and Biodiversity Flag!

Tracey has continued leading the school towards our next Green-Schools flag this term. With a focus on biodiversity children have planted potatoes, wildflowers and lettuce so far. Carrots will shortly be planted. We are hoping to be able to eat some of these goodies!

Children also made 'bug hotels' to increase the insect population in the school grounds.

School Tour

We're going on a whole-school tour!

After a long couple of years we are delighted to be able to bring the whole school on a trip on Tuesday May 24th to Let's Go! at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence.

The children can expect an action packed day with activities such as climbing, archery, zorbee, assault courses, team challenges, brick works and more. We will send out more information on Aladdin including the cost and payment link in the coming weeks.

Covid-19 Update



As the profile of the pandemic continues to change we ask parents and guardians to remain vigilant. It is so helpful to the school community when families are regularly using antigen tests. We have had cases where little or no symptoms were present so we thank families for their support in testing and monitoring. As and when new guidelines are issued by the HSE we will communicate to homes. We would also remind parents and guardians to

complete the Return to School Declaration on the Sunday evening before children return to school after the break.

Ukraine Red Cross Appeal

The Red Cross are appealing for donations to assist the people of Ukraine.

Red Cross teams are on the ground now in Ukraine and will continue their work to repair vital infrastructure, support health facilities, and help families with life-saving food and hygiene items. This is a rapidly evolving crisis. Your donation will help those affected get food, medicine, shelter and water. Your support will also help the Red Cross to assist those displaced by conflict. You can donate at <https://donate.redcross.ie>.



School's Out!

We wish all of our wonderful school community a peaceful and relaxing break. We hope you enjoy time together and we look forward to seeing everyone back safe in a couple of weeks.

