

June 2024

# Summer Newsletter



## Here comes the sun!

It has been another action packed term here at Newtownwhite ETNS and it brings us to the end of the 2023 - 2024 school year.

This year we have welcomed new pupils and staff to Newtownwhite ETNS.

We have been delighted to have completed a wide variety of activities from gymnastics to swimming lessons and tennis lessons. As always we want to thank our parents & guardians - your support does not go unnoticed and we really appreciate you.

We hope you enjoy our final newsletter for this school year.

### 2024/2025 Staffing

**Junior Room:** Martina Manning & Linda Hegarty

**Middle Room:** Tracey Jones (Asst. Principal 2/ Acting Deputy Principal)

**Senior Room:** Caroline Walkin (Principal)

**Special Ed.:** Catherine Boland

**Special Needs Assistant:** Sinead Hughes

**Special Needs Assistant:** Elaine Mc Donagh

**Secretary:** Sarah Keane

**Caretaker:** Derek McGreal

**Afterschool Coordinator:** Ashleigh O Sullivan

Congratulations to Tracey on her recent appointment to Assistant Principal 2. We wish also like to wish Kate Battle (Deputy Principal) all the best on her Career Break for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

### Reminders:

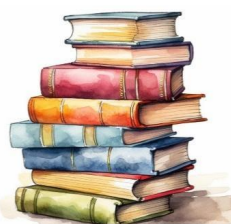
**Our school opening times are:**

- 8:50 am – 1:30 pm daily (For Junior & Senior Infants)
- 8:50 am – 2:30 pm daily (For 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils)

We look forward to welcoming all children back to school at 8:50 am on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Please note: Junior Infants will be going home at 12pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> & Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and again from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024.

Our 2024/2025 Calendar can be found on [www.newtownwhiteetns.com](http://www.newtownwhiteetns.com)



**Our Breakfast Club** will be available daily from 8:15am – 8:50am.

The fee is €3 per child.

Please email Sarah in the office for further information.



**Our Afterschool Club** takes place as follows:

Mondays – Thursdays from 1:30pm – 4:30pm

And on Fridays from 1:30pm – 4:00pm

The fee is €5 per hour per child

Please contact Sarah / Ashleigh for further information.

## School Trips:

### Gortnor Abbey GAA Blitz:

Our GAA Mixed Team were ecstatic to win three matches at the recent blitz hosted by Gortnor Abbey. They played against Culleens NS, Crossmolina NS & Behy NS. It was a great day out for all.



### Sports Day:

Our annual sports day was held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in The Tom Ruane Park in Ballina Town. The sun was splitting the stones which was fantastic! We were joined by a number of parents who kindly volunteered to help us organise the sporting competitions and events on the day. Our Parents Association provided treats for the children to enjoy at the park. Every child was presented with a medal for their participation. The red team were the overall winners of the Olympic Values competition this year. Congratulations to Finn and Jim, Isabel, Alex, Mia, Tomás, Emily, Sophie, Logan, Saoirse, Arthur! The weather was on our side and children thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor activities, novelty games and running races. We were very proud of the leadership skills demonstrated by our outgoing Sixth Class pupils



### School Tour:

The children and staff went to Westport House Friday 7th June for their annual school tour. It was a great chance to try out the new net park there as well as many other aspects of their upgraded Adventure Park.



## Wellbeing Updates:

### Gymnastics

Theresa and Elaine coached the children in the fundamentals of gymnastics. Children really enjoyed their trips into Nadia Gym each week for this. Focus is on building strength, balance and coordination as well as following instructions and teamwork.

### Swimming

Andrew and Orla provided lessons on water safety and swimming in the second term. We encourage all children, no matter their ability, to participate in these lessons. It was wonderful to see some of our pupils called up to join the Ballina Swimming Club as a result of their lessons with the school.

### Community Garda Visit

Community Garda Michael Kelly visited the school to talk to 3rd-6th class on Cyber Safety and general online usage. Children had the opportunity to ask questions and get clarity on privacy for social media accounts and how to deal with online gaming.

### GAA Coaching

Thank you to Cian Monaghan & all the management at Naomh Pdraig GAA club, to Michael Fitzmaurise & also to Sean McKeon for organising and running weekly GAA coaching here at Newtownwhite ETNS for all the pupils in our school. It has been wonderful to have the onsite coaching here every Wednesday & lots of children who never played GAA before have now discovered how much they love playing this sport.

### Tennis

Children visited Ballina Tennis Club for a course of tennis lessons and it was wonderful to have use of the fantastic facilities for this.

### School Garden

A big thank you to Adrian, Shaun, Emma, Tom, Jenny and Eddie for their unbelievable support and work on our school garden. We look forward to being able to use the vegetables for cooking in the new school year and the painting has freshened up in the play area. A special word of thanks to Cara who single-handedly mowed the lawn! Children will be designing a fairy garden and doing some painting during Ashleigh's Summer Camp over the coming weeks.



## Music Generation

Children in the Junior Room worked on body percussion, song singing, rhythm and performance, including use of percussion instruments this year with Jessica. 4th-6th Class children have been learning the ukulele & we celebrated their music with a fantastic morning performance accompanied by Philip & Keif from Music Generation. Jessica returns to us next year & will be running three sessions each week. We are thrilled to have been chosen for another year of Music Generation, with subsidised funding.



## Drama

Martha kindly came in and facilitated two Drama sessions with the Senior Room. They studied some poetry by Séamus Heaney and re-enacted scenes from the historical moments when Rosa Parks 'sat down' on the bus in Montgomery, fighting for the rights of black people in 1955. Thank you for this voluntary work Martha!

## Open Evening

Open Evening held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 was a busy one when we welcomed a lot of new children & parents for a visit to the school.

The incoming families of 2024 were invited to visit our school on our annual Open Evening in February. We were delighted with the turn out and it was a lovely experience for all. We are looking forward to welcoming our 12 new Junior Infants to Newtownwhite ETNS in September. They had an introductory morning on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June which went smoothly.



## Parents Association and Board of Management

### Parents' Association

Huge appreciation to our diligent PA who have raised money to pay for a full set of decodable readers for the Junior and Middle Room as well as funding First Aid training for the staff of the school, which will take place in September. They organised the Bake Sale, School Disco, Christmas Raffle and provided so much support in having tea, coffee and treats throughout the year for the various events. For this, we are very grateful.

### Board of Management

Thank you to our new Board of Management who supported our school during the 2023/2024 school year. We look forward to working with you again in the next school year.



### Visit from CEO of Educate Together

Emer Nowlan came for a visit to our school on 4th June 2024 where she met with Caroline and discussed the future of the school and the interim time. Emer visited all classrooms and chatted with the pupils and teachers. She was impressed with the diversity in our small school in Mayo. Children shared their stories and talked about what they like about Newtownwhite Educate Together National School.

## Other Bits & Pieces

### Credit Union Quiz

Held on 26th January 2024. Newtownwhite ETNS was well represented by Sadie, Jarlath, Orla, Isabel, Frank, Gracie, Ellen, Anna, Shaun and Brody. It takes teamwork to prepare for a quiz like this. Amazing general knowledge evident!

### Zippy Friends Programme

Junior Infants to Second Class have been working on this programme across the school year. They will complete their final lessons in September and this will mean they have participated in 24 sessions of Zippys Friends.

### Lá Glas

Thanks to our musicians and dancers who performed on the day. Go raibh míle maith agaibh Leo, Maggie and Silvie who accompanied the children with their beautiful traditional music. We had some special people in the audience that day, as grandparents gathered to celebrate their grandchildren.

### SPHE / Wellbeing

As part of the SPHE programme, all children participated in the Stay Safe lessons in their classrooms. Next year, we will be following the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Programme. Children will be following the Weaving Wellbeing Programme as part of the overall 'Bí Cineálta' government initiative.

### Friends for Life Training

Some staff trained in this programme this term and we hope to implement it as necessary over the coming years. We will hope to have all staff trained in it over time.

### Festival Art Project

We were delighted to be chosen to do an art project about growing up in North Mayo in the 1960s, facilitated

by artist Emma Donaghue. Children researched fashion, farming, sports, buildings and daily life in 1964 in Ballina

and surrounding areas. Their artwork will be on display

in the Civic Offices in Ballina during the Ballina Salmon Festival July. Please make sure to pop along for a

visit to see their paintings on canvas and have a read of what they learned.

### Student Council

Our Student Council met over the school year and coordinated games for lunch breaks, parties, activities and student feedback surveys. They were a credit to their school and it is always a lovely experience to see children from all across the school join together to share ideas and thoughts relating to our school. Elections will be held in September to vote in our new Student Council members.



this



## Sixth Class Graduation:

We bid farewell to our pupils *Orla, Siobhán, Marie, Dylan, Amy, Jarlath, Cillian, Finn & Jim* on Wednesday 26th June.



The children of the school sang Miley Cyrus' song, 'I'll Always Remember' for the families and we had our annual sports awards also. Congratulations to these amazing children. We wish you every success in your next chapter.



## School's Out For Summer!

Thank you to all of our wonderful families for the support and kindness you have shown during the year.

We hope you have a wonderful summer and we will see you after the break!

