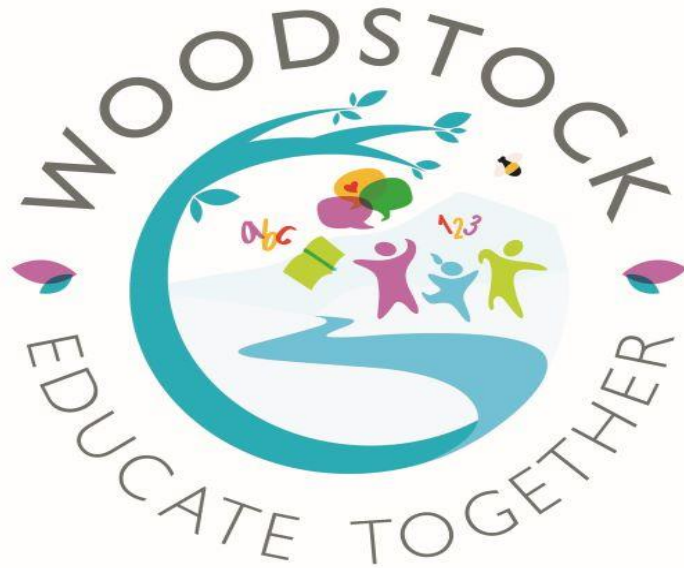


Welcome Booklet



Everything you need to know about Woodstock Educate Together National School

(Woodstock ETNS)



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*“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all”
— Aristotle*

School Day

Our school year begins on Wednesday 1st September 2021. School begins at 8:45 am. Please ensure that your child is on time. Children miss out on essential social elements of the school day if they are late.

September 1st - September 10th – **8:45 am- 11.45.**

From September 13th onwards the school day will be - **8:45 am-1.25 pm**

Morning Break 10:30 am-10:45am

Lunch Time 12:30-12:55pm

A Typical School Day

8.45am	School Opens
8.45 – 9.05am	Morning Maths/Literacy Stations & Activities & Roll Call
9.05 – 10.30	Teaching & Learning
10.30 – 10.45	SOS: Our Little Fruit/Veggie Break & Free Play
10.45 – 12.30	Teaching & Learning
12.30 – 12.55	LON: Healthy Lunch Break & Free Play
12.55 – 1.25	Teaching & Learning/Story Time
1.25pm	Junior & Senior Infants go home

*** Children will be accepted into the yard at 8.35am where they will be supervised until they are brought into the school at 8.45am.**

The School Year 2021-2022 (Provisional)

There are three terms in each school year:

Term 1 1st September 2021 – 22nd December 2021

Term 2 6th January 2022 – 8th April 2022

Term 3 25th April 2022 – 30th June 2020

*** School closes at 11.45am on the last day of each term.**

In each term there are mid- term breaks as follows:

Term 1 25th October – 29th October (inclusive)

Term 2 21st February – 25th February (inclusive)

Term 3 17th & 18th March, 2nd May & 6th June – Bank holidays.

SCHOOOL DETAILS AT A GLANCE:

Phone Number:	01 20154531/0873934610
Email:	woodstocketns@gmail.com
Website:	www.woodstocketns.ie
Address:	Woodstock ETNS, Kilmacullagh, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow A63KV80
Principal:	Dr Nicola Martin
Principal email:	woodstocketns.principal@gmail.com
KINDNESS CODE☺	"Kind Words, Kind Actions, Kind Heart, Kind Mind"

REMEMBER* It is **VITAL** you keep us *updated of any change of Mobile or Landline numbers* or home address. In an emergency it is pivotal that we have the right contacts on file. So please just use the email above to update us if needed. Thank-you.

Books/Materials Bill

Your child's books, copies and portfolios are kept in the school until the end of the year. At times books may be sent home for homework. Parents will be invited into the class during the school year to see their child's progress.

Booklist

A booklist is enclosed, in the Introductory pack, which outlines the books that your child will need for September.

Materials €100 - Please note this includes Pupils insurance & Educate Together Subscription. The materials bill outlines how much you have to pay the school. We ask for €100 for each child. Please find the breakdown of cost in this pack. 10% discount for Siblings applies. Thank you so much for this money, as it covers all of the supplies used in the classroom and is essential to provide resources for your child.

Attendance

Your child should attend school every day. Schools have an obligation to report absences of twenty days or more to the National Education Welfare Board. Please phone, email the school or write a

short note to the classroom teacher if your child is absent. For safety reasons children will not be released during school hours to anyone except parents. Children should only be collected early if it is absolutely necessary. ***If your child is ill or has a temperature please do not send them to school.** Take your doctor's advice regarding rashes and infections. We are well aware of the restrictions of Covid 19 – we will work with you as much as possible to ensure your child does not miss out.

Uniform

Children at Woodstock ETNS do not wear a school uniform as we encourage children's individuality. However, we would ask that considerations are made:

Please ensure that children wear suitable footwear and clothing that allows for safe and free movement during sports activities. It is also very important that children feel comfortable and confident in their own clothes. Minimal jewellery such as a watch or stud earrings is permitted. Other items such as bracelets and drop earrings can cause the child an injury or distress when lost or broken.

Please label all jackets/coats/ jumpers: Let your child practice putting on and taking off their coat. Velcro fastened runners are ideal for young children and they promote their independence.



Lunches : No Nuts/Sesame😊

The school day is short and we want your child to receive the best education they can. Diet plays a big part in your child's behaviour. Treats can be given outside of school time. We promote a healthy eating policy in our school. The following are not allowed: crisps, chocolate bars, biscuits, sweets, fizzy drinks, chewing gum, * **nuts/sesame (due to allergies) and popcorn.**

An example of a healthy lunch-

Sandwiches/crackers/breadsticks/wraps/non sesame rice cakes/ fruit- grapes, raisins, bananas/cheese/ yoghurts. Water/Milk/ Juice/ Smoothies.

Please ensure that your child's lunchbox is clearly labelled. If your child does not finish their lunch, it will be sent home in their lunchbox.

Accidents in school/Contact Details



If an accident happens in school, your child will receive first aid for minor cuts and bruises. If there is anything more serious you will be contacted by the school.

What is an Educate Together school?

Educate Together is a national organisation of equality based education in Ireland. There are now over 80 Educate Together school in the country and this figure is growing. The schools are fully recognised by the Department of Education and Skills. They are non-fee paying and operate under the same rules applying to all national schools.

Where did the name Educate Together come from?

The name 'Educate Together' was carefully chosen by the national organization to reflect the coming together of children and families of different faiths and beliefs, from different social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Educate Together school are open to all children. All parents will be informed of the enrolment policy.

Ethical Education

Educate Together are legally prevented from favouring any particular thought system or religion over another. We provide a programme of information about major religions and thought systems. We look at the similarities and the differences between religions. We also provide ethical education programme based on morality, human rights, and responsibilities, ethics and good citizenship. We do not prepare children for sacraments or religious events but we are committed to making school facilities available to parents who wish to organize doctrinal or religious instruction to their children outside of school hours.

I ask that you as parents read our ethos statement and sign that you understand its contents and support the Educate Together ethos of our school.

Ethos and Core Principles

Woodstock ETNS like all equality based schools in the Republic of Ireland, is founded on four core principles:

1. **Equality based Education** – children of all creeds and none have equal rights of access and the social, religious and cultural background of each child is equally respected.

2. **Co-educational** – the school is open to boys and girls on an equal basis. Every effort will be made to ensure that girls and boys are actively integrated and sexual stereotyping is avoided both in attitude and teaching materials.
3. **Child- centred** – the school aims to establish an environment, which encourages, nurtures, and facilitates each child so that they will explore their full range of abilities and work towards realizing their highest potential.
4. **Democratic** – the school will be run by management committees, which are democratically elected and run and the involvement of all parents is sought and encouraged. Children are encouraged to become involved in school structures through their representatives on the Student Council.



Ethics- Learn Together Programme

At Woodstock ETNS we celebrate all cultures and belief systems and none. Children learn about all the main festivals and celebrations- e.g. Christmas, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Ramadan etc. While Teachers are sensitive to all belief systems, children cannot be accommodated during Ethics

should parents wish their children not to be involved. However, the belief systems are only a small part of our programme. Other strands include-

- Moral & Spiritual
- Belief Systems
- Equality and Justice
- Ethics and the Environment.

School Management Structure

Woodstock Educate Together National School will operate under the Rule for the National Schools, which are drawn up by the minister for Education (www.education.ie). The Department of Education and Skills (DES) provides a percentage of funding and pays teachers' salaries. The DES inspectors monitor the implementation of the curriculum in the school.

National schools are managed by the Board of Management (BOM), which is set up according to the Departmental guidelines with elected parent and teacher representatives, nominees of the Patron and members from the wider community.

The BOM are responsible for the appointment of teachers and of other staff and for the day-to-day management of the school including heating, cleaning and maintenance of the building. The BOM is also responsible for ensuring that the finances necessary for running the school are available. As outlined above, the DES provides a percentage of funding and the BOM must provide the remainder of the costs. The money is raised in a variety of ways, including regular fundraising by parents.

The Board of Management (www.woodstocketns.ie)

Chairperson:	Anne Gregory
Principal:	Nicola Martin
Community Nominees:	Michelle Mc Dermott & Sharon Seery
Parent Nominees:	Lee Doyle & Yvonne Healy
Teacher Nominee:	Gráinne Ni Chuinn
Patron Educate Together Nominee:	Alan Moran
Roll Number	20524W

Parental Involvement & Parent Association



Parents have a range of talents, abilities and skills that have the potential to enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for the children. In line with the principle of equality based education, parents may participate in and make a valuable contribution to the school at every level, including:

- Going forward for election to the BOM
- Becoming a member of other committees – Parents Association or a School Community Development committee.
- Fundraising
- Giving time to share a hobby, skill or interest during school hours in association with class teacher and principal.
- Helping the principal and teachers with extra-curricular activities and trips.
- Gardening
- Suggesting and getting involved in interesting projects with the children □ Supporting initiatives in literacy and numeracy.

If you wish to become involved in any aspect of school like, please make yourself known to Nicola by e-mail or in person!



Throughout the year we will be inviting parents to help us in the school and the classroom. This gives parents a chance to play an active part in their child's education and also the opportunity to observe areas of the curriculum. (Literacy Programmes, Shared Reading, Maths for Fun, Science for Fun).

Our Parent Association includes: A Parent Whatsapp Group is used to keep Guardian's updated!

Chairperson: Rebecca Whineray **Secretary:** TBA

Treasurer: Zofia Howell.

Birthday Parties

Teachers do not take responsibility for distributing invitations to birthday parties. Please do not come into the class and distribute invitations as it can upset other children and cause conflict and hurt in the class.

Allergies/Administration of Medication

We have a duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils. However, teachers/staff do not personally undertake the administration of medication (e.g. inhalers, injections, applications of cream). The school requires parents to ensure that staff are made aware in writing, of any medical condition suffered by their child. This information should be provided at enrolment or at the development of any medical conditions at a later date.

Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions or allergies, parents should outline clearly in writing, **what should and what should not be done** in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child.

Head lice is unfortunately common in all primary schools. Where possible tie your child's hair back. Check your child's hair weekly. If infected, inform the school and treat your child.

NO NUTS/SESAME are permitted on the premises due to serve allergy.

Eco-Friendly Communication/Parent Teacher Meetings

It is important for you as parents, for your child and for us at Woodstock ETNS to have good communication with each other. If you have any queries, problems or concerns regarding your child please contact your child's teacher to make an appointment to meet with him/her.

It is not always possible for the class teacher to meet 'on the spot' so in order for both teacher and parent to get the most of such a meeting please contact the school in advance to arrange a time to give you the attention and privacy that you may need.

When making an appointment, please indicate to the nature of your concern so that accurate preparation on the issue can be made.

In addition, if there is a change in home circumstances (illness, separation, or anything that you may feel may affect your child) please let us know. I assure you the utmost sensitivity in the matter.

Teachers will meet with parents during the first term as a group and also during the second term on an individual basis. Parents and teacher will obviously meet on an informal basis daily. We will send home written reports towards the end of the school year.

Paperless school communication

Until our IT structures/Website are in place - Newsletters will be sent out at the end of each term. However, in an effect to support eco-friendly initiatives NTMK ETNS will be moving toward a Paperless/Green Communications platform thus parents will be urged to visit our website for regular updates. Until then, please check your child's school bag regularly as important information is sent home through the school bag.

Text a Parent – Urgent information is communicated to your nominated mobile number. Please let the school know if you change your phone number.

Recycling



We will be encouraging your child to have an understanding and to engage in recycling. We would ask that lunches are placed in lunchboxes and that you will promote recycling at home. Any packaging brought in by students will be brought home to recycle. We will also set up a Green Schools Committee to monitor our waste management. This should assist us in working towards a "Green Flag" in the coming years.

Homework

Home Activities at infant level are all about consolidating concepts/skills explored during class time- (i.e. Phonics, basic sight words, number stories). It should take no longer than 10 minutes. Keeping learning engaging & fun is paramount! Any questions please feel free to ask the teachers. Full instructions prior to any home activities are always detailed by the teachers involved via email, Whatsapp or written in copies.

The Curriculum/Subjects

The Department of Education and Skills is responsible for the education of children in Ireland. The curriculum of Woodstock ETNS, like that of all Primary Schools in the Republic of Ireland, is laid down by the Department of Education and Skills.

Woodstock ETNS aims to create a warm, fun and stimulating environment so that each child may work towards realizing his/her highest potential. Parents, children and teachers are on first name terms, which aims to create a relaxed and informal atmosphere for everyone. In co-operation with parents, the school will work to instil feelings of self-confidence, self-awareness and self-respect in the children.

Within the parameters of the Primary School Curriculum, the objectives are as follows:

- The achievement of academic excellence for each child according to his/her individual potential
- The promotion of cultural enrichments
- There are 12 subjects in the curriculum that are taught at every level in the school. All subjects are taught in the school

The curriculum subjects

- English, Gaeilge, Maths (Core)
- History, Geography, Science (SESE)
- Music, Visual Arts, Drama (Arts)
- Physical Education (P.E)
- Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE)
- Ethics Education (Learn Together Curriculum)

Copies of the Primary School Curriculum available at www.ncca.ie

Language Acquisition

If English is not your child's first language, we would encourage children to only speak English at school. However, we encourage parents to use their native language at home. This helps in the acquisition of languages by the child.

Learning Support and Resource Teaching

Resource hours are allocated to children who have been assessed and require specific support.



Children with resource hours may include: children who have been assessed as having hearing difficulties, speech and language difficulties, dyspraxia etc. The Resource teacher will work in and out of class with the child. At Woodstock Educate Together, the area of learning support is seen as positive. Learning Support is given to all pupils in the form of in class support. Pupils who would benefit from extra support can receive some in the form of withdrawal. Withdrawal takes place in small groups.

Traditionally, the area of Learning Support has been viewed as negative. Children who worked with the Learning Support Teacher were often labelled and perceived as being weak. All children have different needs. Our aim is to provide for all our students through in class support, while also providing support in the form of withdrawal.

Pre-assessments take place to determine the needs of each child. The pre assessments are analysed by teachers and they determine the areas that each child needs help in. Support Teachers then come into the classroom and work with a specific group. When the Support Teachers are in class, the pupil- teacher ratio is dramatically reduced. The reduced pupil-teacher ratio has huge positive effects on the children's learning.

Special Educational Needs

We welcome all children into our school. In relation to applications for the enrolment of children with special needs, we do request a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological report or where such a report is not available, to request that the child be assessed immediately. The purpose of the assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child relevant to his/her difficulties or special needs and to profile the support services

required. Following the report, the board assesses how the school could meet the needs specified in the report.

If you notice that your child is struggling with any aspect of schooling, let us know. Likewise, we will inform you, if we have any concerns regarding your child's educational, physical or emotional development. If this occurs, please don't panic. It is better to find out if there are concerns at an early stage in order to provide support.

Assessment of Needs



The HSE provides a team assessment for free for children of 4.5 years and under. This may alleviate any concerns you have and also will help us support your child. Please contact your local Health Centre or drop into the school for further information.

Code of Positive Behaviour

We believe that all children are equal and deserve to be respected. We expect that all children will follow the code of behaviour. All staff and visitors must also follow this code of behaviour. Bullying is not acceptable in our school. The Code of Behaviour in Woodstock ETNS has as its basic tenet, a respect for each child as an individual; it aims to foster a positive atmosphere in which every child can learn, develop and reach his/her full potential.

The Code of Behaviour enables teachers and pupils to work in a well organised environment where acceptable patterns of behaviour are followed and where self-discipline, based on tolerance and respect for everyone, is fostered. A copy of the code of behaviour is included in the Introductory pack. We ask that you read through it and complete a form signing that you have read and accept our policy.

We like to affirm our students. There will be class rules and the children will have an input. Sanctions will be utilised for negative behaviour. If there is an ongoing issue regarding negative behaviour, parents will be informed.



Assembly – As We Grow

Each week all the children meet together for assembly. At assembly issues such as Ethics strands are discussed, and the children get to sing songs. Parents and local agencies are often invited to give input- for example parents can give input regarding belief systems at different times of the year e.g. Ramadan, Easter, Chinese New year.

Parents are invited in to discuss occupations such as a fireman, a doctor, a builder etc.

Students Council – As We Grow



The students' council will be established in the coming months. Upcoming events in the school term are discussed or ideas that the students want to bring up.

Health Matters /COVID 19

Like most other Primary schools, Woodstock ETNS is under the administration of the Health Service Executive (HSE). Childhood vaccinations and screening tests for sight, hearing and dental problems may be offered to your child whilst attending the school. You will be asked to sign a consent form before any health test or intervention. If your child has a particular problem in any of these areas, they can be referred to the Health Centre for treatment. Following definitive guidelines from both the HSE & DES on PPE equipment – mask coverings for staff remain mandatory, Social distancing protocols & Hygiene Safety apply. We have different Pods for particular class levels & each class has a separate Yard Space to maintain Safely & Health Protocols. Please note this is a fluid situation and changes to these procedures may follow. Please keep an eye on our website for updates.

Head lice

No matter how careful you are about your child's hair, there is still a chance that it can become infested with head-lice if he/she comes in contact with other children. It is part of school life!

Please check your child's hair regularly. It is very important that you inform the school immediately if you find lice, as they are highly contagious. We will immediately notify all parents to check their children's hair.

Health & Well-being:

If your child has a particular health problem such as allergies, asthma, diabetes etc. it is imperative that you advise the school. The school should be made aware of the name and address of your

family doctor. If your child needs medication on a regular basis, you may need to make special arrangements for this. As a rule, teachers are not involved in the administration of medication to pupils. However, where a teacher must become involved the following procedure should be adhered to:

1. The teacher must obtain authorisation from the BOM requesting permission for the teacher to administer the medication.
2. The Parent(s) should write to the school management requesting permission for the teacher to administer the medication enclosing details of the procedure and indemnifying the teacher for the same. This request must be in writing for school records.
3. In cases where a child has a chronic illness the parents will be asked to fill out a chronic illness form which will give the school the necessary information on what to do in the event of a medical crisis with your child.
4. **Overall Wellbeing Support:** If there are major changes unfolding at home such as separation, loss, family bereavement, etc. It can be helpful to both the child and the teacher to have an awareness of the situation. Parental separation or family bereavement can be traumatic for the child if he/she is not supported. Any information is treated confidentially. Teachers can then support the student at school or link the family into suitable services. Teachers approach the issue with sensitivity and with a focus on the wellbeing of the children.

Tours



Parents are asked for permission when we are going on school tours. However, for local tours, example- going out in the local area, permission is not sought once parents sign the permission slip in the Student Information Form. Children are often engaged in active learning and leave the school to support the curricular objectives. We also ask for signed permission for photographs/use of photos for the website of your child to be taken. Photos may be taken when children are on school trips or involved in school activities.

Extra-Curricular Activities

During the school year we hope to continue to offer some wonderful school activities to children such as; weekly GAA training, learning to ride a bike, Music, Sports, Yoga, Dance, Arts, Crafts and Drama.

Enrolment Policy

The Admissions to Schools Bill 2018 provides a new legal framework for school admissions. The changes brought about by government are to ensure school applications are fair, structured, transparent and non-discriminating. The new bill prohibits a number of criteria relevant to Educate Together, notably ... 'applications submitted years in advance of the child actually attending school will **NOT** be allowed'. In practice this means that the '*first come, first served*' policy has to be replaced, by law, on or before the 2023/24 school intake. All updates are available on our website.

How can I help the school?

As you have chosen Educate Together you want to be involved in your child's education. There are numerous ways in which you can become involved. The Parent Teacher Association always need support at meetings or simply support for events.

Examples of Support-

- Parents who have trades- can help us on Open Days, events and with general work around the school.
- I.T.- help us with the development of our website, the purchase of I.T equipment.
- Yoga- Come in and work with the children.
- Board of Management- Parents are invited to become members of the Board of Management.
- Art- Parents can help out on Art days in the school and help with backdrops/costumes for plays
- Participate with parent/child classes
- Trips/Tours-accompany class on outings

School Personnel

Principal:	Nicola Martin
Assistant Principal & First Class Teacher:	Gráinne (Ni Chuinn)
Junior Infant Team Teacher:	Loraine Creane
Special Education Teacher:	Nicola Martin
Special Needs Assistant:	Linda Norman

School Secretary:

Sinead Todd

Key Contact Details:

School Roll Number: 20524W

Address: Woodstock ETNS, Newtownmountkennedy, Kilmacullagh, Co. Wicklow, A63KV80

E mail: woodstocketns@gmail.com

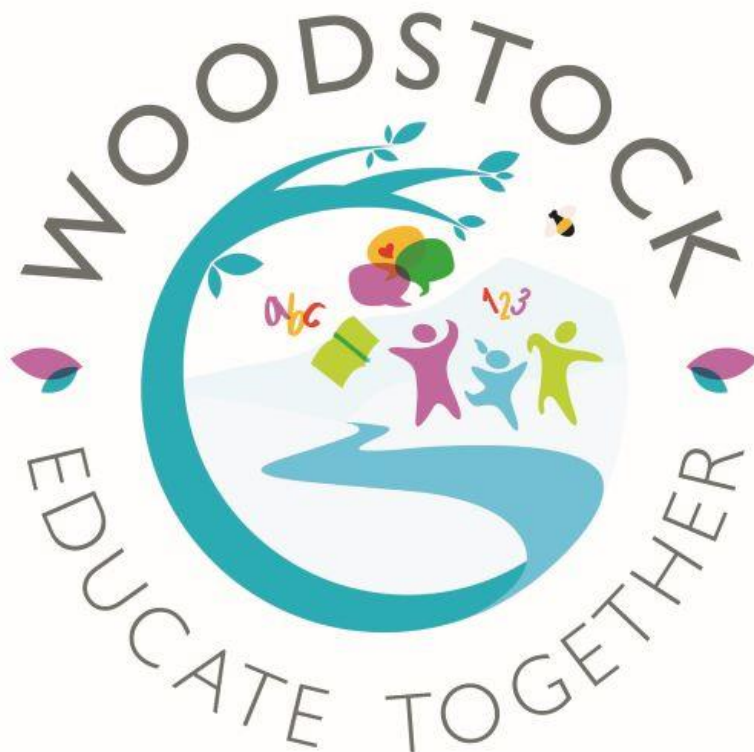
Principal email: woodstocketns.principal@gmail.com

Phone: 087 393 4610 / 01 2015453

Website: www.woodstocketns.ie

Facebook: <https://business.facebook.com/WoodstockETNS/>

*“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all”
— Aristotle*



Junior Infants- Ways you can prepare your child for school



1. Talk about school, concentrate on the positive aspects of school, such as the friends your child will make and the activities they will do such as painting, jigsaws, going on trips. Ask them about their day. Don't be surprised if they say they did nothing in school as often they don't realise that they are learning. Early oral language development has a strong impact on a child's reading ability.
2. Write their name on EVERYTHING – coats, hats, bags, lunchboxes, flasks, clothing etc.
3. Teach your child how to take off and put on his/her coat, and how to open and close zips, buttons, buckles and laces.
4. Show your child how to use and flush the toilet properly and how to wash their hands properly.
5. Encourage your child to share their toys and to tidy up after playing.
6. Choose a lunch box and flask that is easy to open and use it over the Summer to practice.
7. Give some thought to lunches – E.g. Peel oranges, cut apples, easy to open foods are best!
8. Read stories with your child in English and your family language (if different)
9. Practice their sounds and sight words when they begin to get homework.
10. Encourage good behaviour and praise them positively.
11. Come to the meetings in school arranged for the parents.
12. The most important thing that you can do to prepare your child for school in the next few months is to **READ** to them EVERY DAY.
13. Practice nursery rhymes/at home: Familiarity reassures children and gives them greater confidence. Reading readiness is the key skill to introduce your child to the mechanics of reading, reading direction, the conventions of writing, awareness of text and most importantly nurturing a motivation to read and develop a love for books.
14. Play helps a child develop motor skills, visual discrimination skills and vocabulary. Play also encourages children's social skills in order to establish friendships- snap, matching, jigsaws etc. have much educational value.
15. Make sure your child has plenty of sleep. Starting school can be traumatic and exciting, and also very tiring!
16. On the first few mornings try not to stay too long in the classroom. Remember it is a valuable part of your parenting skills that you have developed your child to be independent enough to go to school. Give your child a hug and let them go into the class. If there are any concerns we will contact you.
17. Encourage independence where your child hangs up their own jacket, carries in their own bag and takes down their own chair. If you need to stay close by, go and have a coffee in the school before you leave.



18. Limit Screen time - especially before your child comes to school and before they go to bed.
19. Encourage your child to colour, write, scribble, paint, manipulate play dough, cut safely as this strengthens the child's hand muscles to enrich gross and fine motor skills.
20. Use Travel commutes times- Play I spy/ Reg numbers/Guess Who?
21. Become involved in school life.

Useful Contacts

Citizen's information: www.citizensinformation.ie

Department of Social Protection: www.welfare.ie

Department of Education and Skills: www.education.ie

Educate together: www.educatetogether.ie

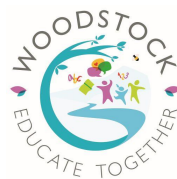
NCCA: www.ncca.ie

SESS: www.ncse.ie

*I would like to take this final opportunity to welcome you all to our vibrant
Educate Together school.*

*We are delighted to be part of the thriving Kilcoole and Newtownmountkeendy
Community.*

*I hope that you and your child will have a rewarding, fun and fulfilling holistic learning
experience with us throughout their vital schooling years. This is the start of an
exciting journey for all of us.*



Kindest Regards,

Dr Nicola Martin

(Principal)