



## Welcome to Our September Woodstock ETNS Review

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new and returning pupils, parents and teachers. We look forward to the exciting year ahead.

Settling-in September is an active time for everyone, as it offers an opportunity to get acquainted with basic school routines, meeting new teachers and getting prepared for the vast variety of learning over the coming school year! Indeed, it is apparent from the children's eager entrance to school for Early Mellow Mornings sessions that they are happy and content to be back at school and meeting their friends and teachers.

For all new parents/guardians we have an active Parent Association Community (PAC) who will be holding their annual AGM on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October at 7pm at the school – they will be seeking votes for parent class Reps (re-nominations & new) from Junior Infants upwards. The PAC have been invaluable to the school, helping to run events and raise key funds for much needed projects. So, save the date as all are welcome to attend on the night!

Additionally, the school will be seeking two Parent Nominees; (One Mother and One Father) for formation of our New Board of Management 2024 – 2028. This exciting opportunity is open to everyone in the school from all class levels. The role of the Parent Nominees on the BoM differs from the PAC in that parent nominees are not representing parental/PAC groups. They do not bring issues from those groups to the Board or report back. Rather, they are providing a perspective from an individual parent, but are not a route directly to the Board. Any issues to be raised at board level would go through the usual channels via the Principal (as secretary) and the Chairperson. A letter will follow detailing confirmed dates, eligibility and voting protocols. We look forward to seeing you all on the night and forming our new BoM for a December 1<sup>st</sup> start.

After school activities (Anyone for Science, Playball, Ukulele, Art & Craft camp) are in full swing! Please note it is important parents/guardians have contact details for the outside providers as these are optional paid extras. Lastly, just a reminder that you will find helpful information, policies and relevant updates at our website: <https://woodstocketns.ie/>.

### **Notes for the Diary**

- Admissions & Enrolments Open 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023
- PE Days Monday (GAA) & Thursday (PE) please wear runners and suitable clothing.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Avondale Sports: 24<sup>th</sup> October
- PAC AGM Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 7pm at the school
- Halloween Break –30<sup>th</sup> October-3<sup>rd</sup> November \* Children are welcome to dress up (Optional)

Remember, in addition, to our 'Monthly Reviews' <https://woodstocketns.ie/> we also load 'weekly' communications sharing our learning, outdoor fun & class activities:

<https://www.facebook.com/WoodstockETNS/>.

Dr Nicola Martin (Principal Woodstock ETNS)



## Alison's First Class September Woodstock ETNS Review

We have had a wonderful start to our year in 1<sup>st</sup> class. We have been busy getting to know each other and learning lots of new things. It has been really lovely to meet so many of you at the gate at pick up time and those of you who were able to attend the parent's morning. I have been made so welcome here in Woodstock Educate Together and I am so looking forward to a wonderful year ahead. September has gone so fast. Here is a quick recap of what we have been up to for the month.

### English:

We have been working hard doing lots of reading and remembering to use capital letters and full stops in our writing. For our news, we are asking each other questions and making connections when we can relate to someone else's news. We use the symbols below when we want to ask a question or make a connection.



We put our hands on our head when we want to ask someone a question about their news.



We make symbol when someone else's news reminds us of something we have experienced. We make a connection with other people in our class.

### Maths:

September was all about numbers. We have learned lots about addition and subtraction and we know our three important symbols: + and - and =. We played lots of number games which showed off our knowledge of numbers. At the start of September, we made some number stories using our pegs and peg boards to tell the story of 10. We are now comfortably working with numbers within 20 and we have made lots of different number



stories to show how different numbers can make up the same number (for example,  $8+8=16$  and  $6+10=16$ ).



The Story of 10.

### Gaeilge:

First class have really impressed me with their love of Gaeilge. We have been revising our phrases from last year and learning some new ones. The theme for September is “Mé Féin” (myself) and we have been asking and answering questions together.

We have been working really hard on learning our days of the week in Irish (an Luan, an Mháirt, an Chéadaoin, an Déardaoin, an Aoine, an Satharn, an Domhnach) and have been talking about the weather - tá sé grianmhar (sunny), tá sé ag cur báistí (raining), tá sé tirim (dry), tá sé fluich (wet).

We had great fun pretending that we were sick when we did our drama as Gaeilge. We asked each other “conas atá tú?” (how are you?) and we answered “níl mé go maith, tá mé tinn” (I am not good, I am sick”). We then described why we were sick. “Tá pian i mo...” (I have a pain in my...). We learned words like ceann, siúl, srón, scornach, bolg, droim (head, eye, nose, throat, tummy, back”. We had great fun pretending to be sick 😊

### Geography:

We were learning about our local community. I have really enjoyed learning all about Newtownmountkennedy and Kilcoole and I am looking forward to visiting lots of the local attractions. We talked about all of the lovely things that we have and then we thought about some of the things we would like to have in our local area. Here are some pictures of what we would like to have added to our town.





A bigger Play Park

A Water Park

A Duck Pond



A Basketball Court

A Beach

A Public Swimming Pool

### Science:

We studied different pictures and using our scissors and glue we cut the pictures out and classified them into “day” or “night” pictures. I was very impressed that the children noticed only one picture of the child brushing their teeth and we all agreed that this should be in both the day and night pictures.

We also talked about all the changes that we have experienced since we were born and we discussed important events and stages of our lives like learning to walk, learning to ride and bike and our first day of school. We used mirrors to study our features and we love what we see in the mirror. We linked this lesson to art and we drew self-portraits and used “fun and funky” colours just like Andy Warhol.





### PE:

We have been busy running, skipping, hopping and side-stepping over in the community hall every Wednesday where we have been learning some new group games. So far, our favourite is “ubh, ubh, sicín” (egg, egg, chicken – the Irish version of “duck, duck, goose”). We are learning the rules and following them very carefully.

We are really enjoying developing our ball skills with Aoife during of GAA classes every Monday.



### Art, Music and Drama:

We have been enjoying using our voices as musical instruments and are learning about low and high sounds. We have learned a little bit about the violin, the trumpet and the piano. We especially enjoyed hearing the man from Dabbledoo play the harmonica – he was very good 😊

For drama, we have been playing lots of games that we have to listen carefully to clues and instructions to guess the answers to the questions. We love doing our call and response rhymes “I say boom” and “say it another way”.



We have lots of budding artists in our class. This month we learned a little bit about the artist “Andy Warhol”. He was a famous pop artist known for his use of repetition and bright colours. We had great fun doing our own Andy Warhol colouring.



### Learn Together:

We really enjoyed learning about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the Jewish celebration of new year and new beginnings. We loved making our own apples and honey bees from felt.



That's all for September. I will update you again at the end of October when we will have lots more learning to share with you all.

Kind Regards,

Alison.