



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 16th 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 1st 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 9th October 2023
- PE Days Monday (GAA) & Thursday (PE) please wear runners and suitable clothing.
- 3rd Class Avondale Sports: 24th October
- PAC AGM Monday 16th October 7pm at the school
- Halloween Break –30th October-3rd 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)



Grainne's Junior Infants September Woodstock ETNS Review

A month in already, it's crazy how the time flies! The children are settling in very nicely into Junior Infants. We've spent a lot of September implementing new routines and classroom procedures. The children now have classroom jobs which they take very seriously. I believe that these responsibilities are so important to encourage the children to take ownership of and pride in their class. It is going very well so far! Below is a brief overview of the work we have done over the month of September:

Literacy/Phonological Awareness

In line with our 'Roald Dahl' Aistear theme we have focused on reading Roald Dahl every day during storytime. We have done snippets from 'The Enormous Crocodile', 'The Twits' and 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. The children love this time of the day and I find it fantastic for promoting new vocabulary and encouraging critical thinking.

We have also focused hugely on developing their phonological awareness. The girls and boys have been working on rhyming words, using their bodies to count syllables and separating compound words eg. playground is separated into play and ground.



Gaeilge

This year, we are doing the interactive Bua na Cainte programme. The children have really enjoyed the songs, poetry and games that this programme provides. We have also focused hugely on gaeilge neamhfhormúil (informal Irish). Their use of Irish in their everyday environment has been really wonderful thing to see grow and develop. The class were also introduced to Nelly Beag (Little Nelly) who only comes out during our Irish lessons.

Cé tusa? (Kay tussah) Who are you?

Is mise ____ (Iss misha____) I am ____

Dia duit (Dee-a gwitch) Hello

Dia is muire duit (Dee-a is murra gwitch) Hello (response)



Numeracy

This month we worked a lot on matching and comparing objects according to height, weight, lengths, colour, quantity, thickness, size. The girls and boys also classified objects on the basis of one attribute such as colour, shape, texture and size. They have really enjoyed hands on learning and using our environment to learn new mathematical concepts.



Aistear

Our theme for September was 'Roald Dahl'. The children did loads of fun activities in the different stations (Construction, Smallworld, Fine Motor, Art, Maths, Science). They had great fun making magical crocodile skin and paperplate Roly Poly Birds, inspired by 'The Enormous Crocodile'. They used their creative skills to make 'The Twits' from playdough and used sensory materials to make Mr. Twit's gross beard. Inspired by 'George's Marvellous Medicine', the boys and girls also made their own potions made of magical ingredients. A lot of fun was had!



Photos from our 'Roald Dahl' theme:



Buddy Fridays

Woodstock ETNS is very lucky to have a kind and responsible third class who have taken on the role of Junior Infant Buddies. Every Friday, they organise indoor and outdoor activities for our new students. They love the big responsibility and the Infants have been really enjoying the activities they have planned.



That's all the news for now! I will send you a similar email next month to let you know what we did during the month of October.

Kind regards,
Gráinne