



Our October Woodstock ETNS Review

Dear Parents, Guardians and Pupils,

I would like to wish everyone a safe, fun and happy Autumn mid-term holiday! We hope you will enjoy the Individual Class Monthly Woodstock ETNS Reviews that follows. Each class review offers a little glimpse into the array of stimulating teaching approaches and integrative learning our pupils enjoy on a typical day at school. Undoubtedly during this first term, the pupils alongside their teachers have all put in tremendous work and effort. On top of which we have been promoting both our Restorative Practice approach and Nurture Schooling ethos that helps in promoting positive behaviours and attitudes, friendships and kind play. This is essential as at the heart of our vibrant and welcoming school is the key principle that “educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

Below you will find a few key dates for your calendars.

Notes for the Diary

- School re-opens Monday November 6th @ 8:45 am (8:35am early drop off)
- PE Days Monday (GAA) & Wednesday (PE) please wear runners and suitable clothing.
- Board of Management Vote Monday 6th November @ 7:00 at the school
- *Mandatory DES School closure: **Monday December 11th**: Maths Curriculum.

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/>.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Autumn Break

Kind regards,

Dr Nicola Martin

(Principal Woodstock ETNS)



Alison's First Class October Woodstock ETNS Review

I cannot believe that October is over already. We have had another busy and productive month. We welcomed three new boys to our class, and they have settled in beautifully. Here is a quick recap of what we have been up to for the month.

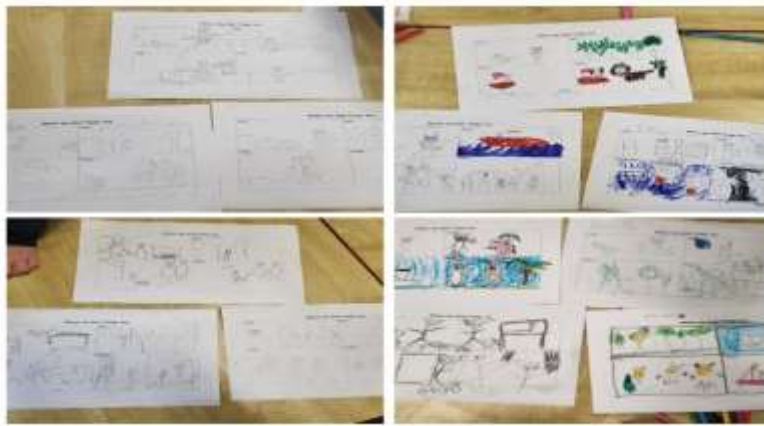
Morning Activities:

Every morning we participate in morning activities which are a great way to settle in to the school day. These activities promote the development of our literacy skills, our numeracy skills, our fine motor skills and our creative thinking skills. Each table group participates in a different activity each morning and on a Friday the children select which activity was their favourite during the week and they get another opportunity to do that activity. The activities change every week and it is a wonderful opportunity for social skills development.



English:

We have been busy using capital letters and full stops this month. Our confidence with our writing is really growing and we have been using our imaginations to come up with lots of different stories.



We have been working hard completing some narrative writing and we all enjoyed a drawing activity where we put the story “Where the Wild Things Are” into chronological order using the terms “first”, “next”, “then” and “finally”.

We also completed some narrative writing after we had read an abstract from the story “Dog on a Broomstick”. We got into character and pretended to be the witch’s cat who had ran away from the witch to start a new job in a cat food tasting factory. We wrote a letter to the witch explaining our decision to leave.



Maths:

We have continued developing our number skills with addition and subtraction within 20 for this month. We can confidently make number stories for every number from 0-20 now. We have played lots of maths games to help us remember all of our number bonds.



We also started to learn about word problems. We were given a sentence and had to decide if it was + or – and then we wrote the number sentence on our white boards.



We have also started to learn about patterns and have had lots of fun completing different, tricky colour patterns in Maths class.



Gaeilge:



We had great fun learning about school in Gaeilge. We really enjoyed the story where Liam put paint on the wall. Bhí fearg ar an múinteoir (the teacher was angry). Liam said “tá brón orm” (I am sorry) and the múinteoir said “ná dean arís é” (don’t do it again). We took turns pretending to be the múinteoir (teacher) and Liam and acted out the story as part of our drama class.



Geography:

We were busy learning all about animals and their habitats this month. We learned about all the different kinds of places that different animals live like in a river, in the ocean, in grasslands, in forests, in the desert, and in the jungle. We learned that animals need water, food and shelter to survive in their habitat. We were given different animals and we designed different habitats for them to live in making sure that we included these three things. We then were very creative and we invented our own animal and designed the perfect habitat for them. We had lots of furry, flying animals on our list and we had lots of fun completing this activity.





Science:

We were learning all about Autumn this month. We learned that not all hedgehogs hibernate and we learned that swallows migrate to Africa in Autumn where it is warmer. We thought about the different clothes that we wear in Autumn and we had great fun designing our own Autumn outfits. We were really lucky to have Leah in class to help us with our ideas. Can you spot her beautiful creation in our collage?!



PE:

We have continued our GAA with Aoife every morning and we are really enjoying our time in the Community Centre on Wednesday mornings. We have been learning lots of new games and following the rules very carefully. We are learning about winning and losing but most importantly, we are having lots of fun (so much so that we forgot to take any photos this month!!).

Art, Music and Drama:



We had great fun working outdoors for Art. We spent some time observing our outdoor spaces and we decided which area we liked the best. The children used their clip boards and pencils to sketch their favourite outdoor space. We then used our drawings for an oral language lesson in English. The children explained why their chosen space was their favourite. The children asked each other questions (hands on head) about their work, and made connections (linked fingers and thumbs symbol) to each other's work.



SPHE:

We were able to name all of the people who help us in our school and we listed two important jobs that each person does. We then worked in groups and wrote some questions for each person. We interviewed each member of staff and we know so much more about their jobs now. Thank you to all staff members for giving up their time to speak to us. Most importantly, we know that all of the people who work in our school care for us and look after us and we are really happy to know them all.

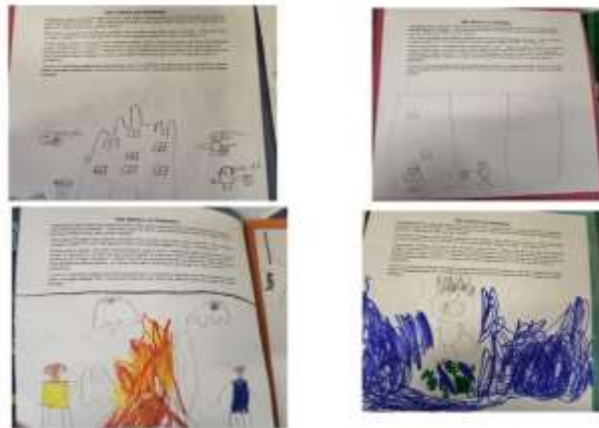


Ethical Education:



We have been learning all about the history of Halloween this month and we have integrated our learning into Gaeilge where we have learned lots of new words: Oíche Shamhna (Halloween), Cailleach (witch), púca (ghost), vaimpír (vampire), ceann cait (owl), cnónna (nuts), úlla (apples).

We all worked together to create our own story to explain about the history of Halloween. The boys and girls told me what to write and I was happy to do the typing. We then drew our favourite part from our learning.



That's all for October. Have a wonderful Mid-Term break. See you all again in November.

Kind Regards,

Alison.