



Dear Parents,

December proved to be an extraordinarily busy time! We had an English Curriculum Inspection with Catherine King. She visited our classrooms, looked at samples of written work and spoke with pupils and teachers. Over the last four years, we have put a concerted effort into our School Self-Evaluation (SSE) process with the main aim of supporting and promoting both the children's Oral Language and Reading skills. These two areas were noted as particularly good over the two days of Inspection- so well done everyone. We now look forward to turning our focus to the 'Written Word' and will work on any recommendations forwarded by the Inspector to enhance the children's written competencies in the New Year. So, you can all look forward to the creation of stories for you to enjoy in a variety of genres!

We also went on a host of trips to welcome in December! The Senior end enjoy a trip to see the musical Matilda and also proving their literacy skills with their Fighting Words trip. Whilst the Junior end of the school hosted a fun Festive PJ day. However, the one event that stood out above all others was the incredible Winter Festive Performance hosted at the Community Centre on December the 20th. The children alongside all their teachers worked incredibly hard to offer a glittering array of Festive Songs, drama's, poems which I am sure all parents agree proved to be a fantastic night. I would also like to thank our PAC who helped organize the Raffle and a selection of baked goods and gifts. It proved to be a highly successful and fun occasion and a wonderful way to close off our 2023 School year!

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Festive Holiday. We look forward to see you all again on Monday the 8th of January 2024.



*Nollaig Shona agus Bliaín úr faoi
Mhasíc Doaibh*

*Ó gach duine i Woodstock ag
Foghlaim le Cheile!*

Dr Nicola Martin

Principal (Woodstock Educate Together National School)



Second & Third Class December Woodstock ETNS Review

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The 2nd/3rd class have been quite busy during December. We began the month by writing our own school play. The children brainstormed ideas and came up with a play that we hope you all enjoyed. The children also went on two trips this month one was to Matilda in the Dominican College and the other one was to the *Fighting words* workshop in the Wicklow town library. The children seemed to really enjoy both of the trips.

Here are some of our 2nd and 3rd class students on our trip to the writing workshop in the Wicklow library.



During our *Fighting Words* workshop the children worked together to create a story as a class. They voted on the title of the story and worked together to develop the plot. The facilitators talked to the children about all the different people who are involved in developing stories like the author, illustrator, and editor. For the second part of the workshop the children created their own stories. The effort and engagement on the day was very impressive and I know the children really enjoyed going to the Wicklow library.





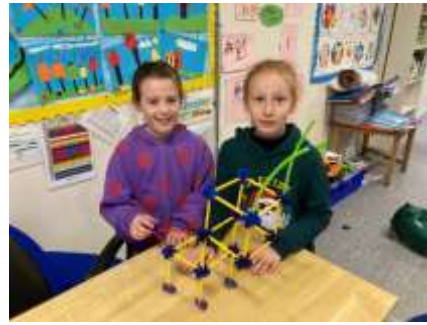
Numeracy

During December the children focused on learning all about data, they also revised some other topics covered during the first term of school. There has been a focus on critical thinking in our maths work. With the children discussing questions orally, using hands on supports and plenty of estimating and working out. On Friday mornings the children still focus on hands on maths tasks and games, this has helped them to reinforce what they have previously learnt in class, we have added some new resources to the classroom which has made these games more engaging. An example of these resources are our spinners and the k'nex which have been kindly lent to us by Blackrock Education centre.



The K'nex have been used to make bridges with support gaps of 50cm, homes with doors and windows and even reindeer!





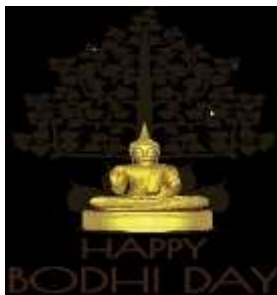
Check out our winter scenes we created using a variety of materials including recycled materials.



Ethical Education

This month there are many celebrations and festivities happening. The children learnt all about Bodhi day, Hanukkah, and Christmas.

Hanukkah





I have really enjoyed teaching both 2nd and 3rd class during my first term in the school. I am looking forward to all the exciting things that are planned for the second term in the new year. Wishing you all an enjoyable winter break and looking forward to seeing you all again in January.

Best wishes,

Philip