



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you enjoy our **February Woodstock ETNS Review**. The pictures showcase the incredible work the pupils have created together and the wonderful learning achieved over the last month.

A few notes for your diary:

I am delighted to inform you that the school has successfully secured funding from the Department of Social Protection, **School Meals Scheme**. This will fully fund the provision of a hot meal service at Woodstock ETNS. Freshtoday will be our lunch service provider. This Irish company is based in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford since 2010. The timeline for delivery of the programme is still in progress but will most certainly be ready for September 2024. Please note this will be an opt in/opt out service so parents can choose whether to avail of the hot meals or provide their own packed lunches. Full details to follow soon.

Summer School Trips

It is hard to believe but our annual Summer School trips are already organised! We have endeavoured to keep the costs as low as possible, however transport has added greatly to the overall price.

- *Junior and Senior Infants - June 11th Airfield: Total per Child is 22 Euro*
- *First Class June 7th Festina Lente: Total per Child is 33 Euro*
- *Second and Third Class June 5th Alive Outside Kilruddery: Cost per Child 40 Euro*

The PAC:

I would like to sincerely thank our PAC for organizing a highly successfully and fun Quiz Night at the Parkview Hotel on Thursday the 29th of February. It was wonderful to see some many parents and locals support our growing school. A huge amount of work behind the scenes goes into these functions and we are highly appreciative to all those involved. A massive Thank-you for the Woodstock ETNS Team. We look forward to next year's event!

Annual Book Fair:

Will take place afterschool March 8th -12th. Volunteers welcomed. More details to follow.

Keep well & kind regards,

Dr Nicola Martin

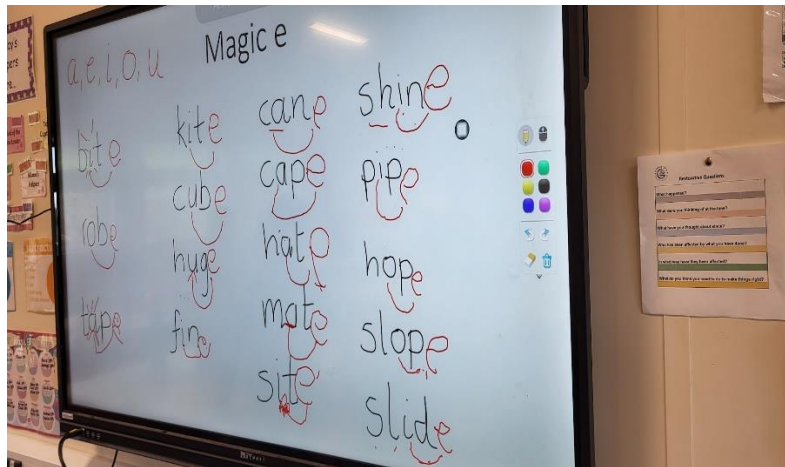


Hi everyone,

February has been a busy, busy month. Here are some of the exciting things that we have been learning about.

English:

We learned about the super powers of “magic e” this month. We thought of lots of words that have “magic e” in them and we learned different strategies to help us spell them.



February brought about a brand-new learning style. We have started our “reading workshops” and we love them. Every Wednesday we get into our reading groups and we work together to read our story and answer the questions. Then we draw a picture to show our understanding of our reading. At the end of the lesson, we present our stories to all the other reading groups. As each group gets a different story, we learn lots from the other groups too.



We started to learn about “procedural writing” this month. As it is a tricky writing genre, we have spent lots of time engaging with procedural speaking. That is where we are given a statement and we decide whether we agree or disagree with it. We then present our thoughts in a clear and thoughtful way and try and get others to agree with our opinion.

Maths:



We looked at estimation this month and we conducted some experiments to estimate (or guess) the number of tokens needed to balance on different parts of our body.



Gaeilge:

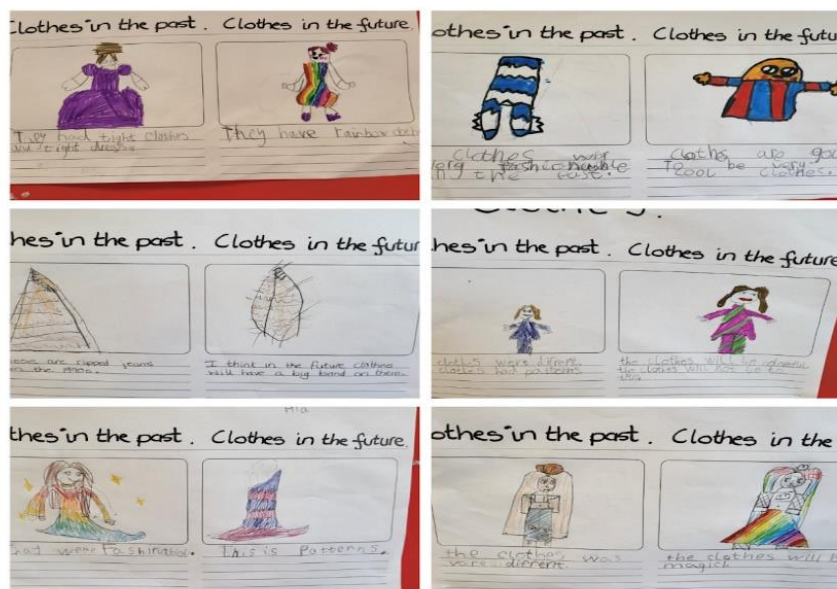
We learned about our hobbies (caitheamh aimsire) this month and we enjoyed playing Deir O'Gradáigh (Simon Says) to learn all of the different words for different activities



History:



We learned about clothes in the past as we really liked some of the different styles that we saw. We then talked about the different styles of clothes that we like today. We then made predictions about what we think clothes in the future will look like (it looks like some of the older styles are going to make a comeback!).



Science:

At the start of the month, we conducted a superhero balloon experiment. We designed our balloons as our own superhero and we had races to see which balloon could fly the furthest.



Art, Music and Drama:



We learned about Pablo Picasso's cubism and we really enjoyed creating our own cubism art work.



We had some free-play clay time and we made our own creations. When they had dried and set, we painted them, but Alison forgot to take any pictures of the final product (oops!!).



In drama, we listened to the story "The Smartest Giant in Town" by Julia Donaldson. We then did some role-play. Children took turns being the giant and the different animals in the story. When in the role of the giant, the children had to explain why they had given away their new clothes to each animal. When in the role of the different animals, the children had to come up with ideas as to how they could thank the giant for his kindness.

PE:

We had great fun running some bean bag races. We made the most of the few days that we dry and did PE outside.



Engineer's Week:

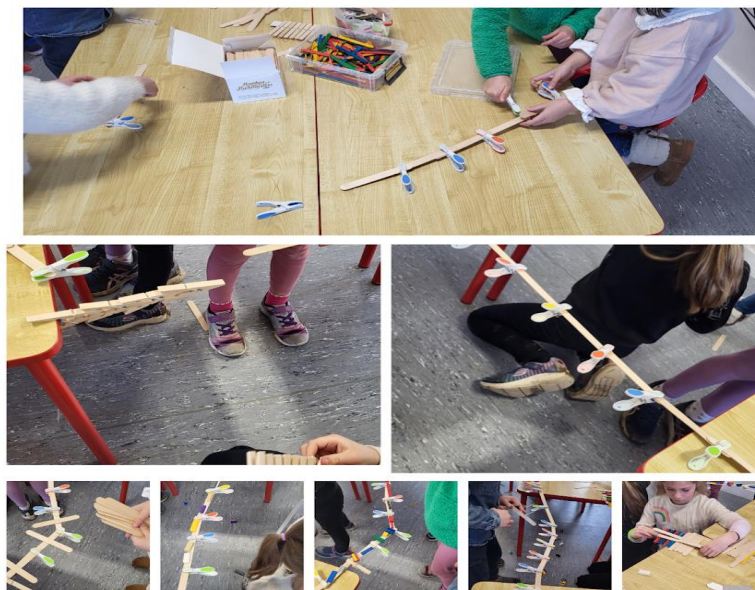
The highlight of February was definitely Engineer's Week. We had so much fun. We have some future engineers in our class. We know how important planning, thinking and communication is for an engineer. First class have all of these skills and put them to good use this week.

First, we planned our designs for our paper aeroplanes. We then designed our planes and decorated them. We then had a race to see which plane would fly the furthest. We tested our planes inside and outside. The children then reflected on what made each plane fly high/low, far/not far. Children made predictions for how they could change their plane designs to make them fly further.





Next, we designed some bridges using lollipops and clothes pegs. The children had to build their bridge to reach from one table to another. Bonus points were given if the bridge stayed in place with Lego blocks on it. Again, the children showed wonderful critical thinking skills and spent time discussing how to make the strongest possible bridge.



Then, the children were asked to create the tallest tower using toothpicks and playdough. The only requirement of this experiment was that the tower stood independently at the end of the lesson.



The children enjoyed making their names from pipe cleaners and Lego blocks. Both of these activities required thought and planning – both strong characteristics of a successful engineer. As you can see, the children got full marks for this activity.





Finally, the children were split into three teams and were given the challenge to create the biggest marble run possible. The rules were simple, the marble run had to run directly from the start point at the top to the end point at the bottom and it had to stand and run independently (that meant no hands holding it up or little blows of air to encourage the marble to run). This required teamwork and communication and all of the children worked so well together.



What can I say? February has been fantastic. Talk to you all again at the end of March.

Kind Regards,

Alison.