

Woodstock ETNS November Newsletter

Message from the Principal

November was a month filled with a diverse range of new learning opportunities and activities as can be seen below in the class teachers updates and pictures. We held our first school assembly in the community centre. We hope to do this every month from now on. Our goal with these assemblies is to create a togetherness amongst all students in the school by giving them the opportunity to lead the assemblies as much as possible. We also want the assemblies to highlight the children's learning by having them share their work with the school while also focusing on our school ethos.

Science week was a big success in Woodstock ETNS and tied in wonderfully with our work on the [curious minds](#) programme which the school is currently participating in. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those parents and indeed Emma's sister, mam and her dog who were able to come to the school to demonstrate how they use science in their jobs everyday.

Finally, in term 2 of the school year we will be looking for people who speak different languages to support us as we participate in the *Say Yes to Languages* module. If anyone in the school community would like to get involved in this or would like to know more about it please get in touch with me. As always please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or queries you would like to discuss.

Beir Bua,

Philip

Junior Infants

November was the month that Junior Infants started their phonics. They worked on the sounds 's, a, t, i, p and n'. They have learned the rhymes, actions and have even begun blending. They should be so proud of themselves!



The monthly theme was 'The Doctor's Surgery' which tied in very well with Science Week. The girls and boys were lucky to experience many visits from wonderful parents and had great fun role-playing and medicine making.



We are currently in the middle of preparing for our Winter Concert and look forward to seeing you all there.

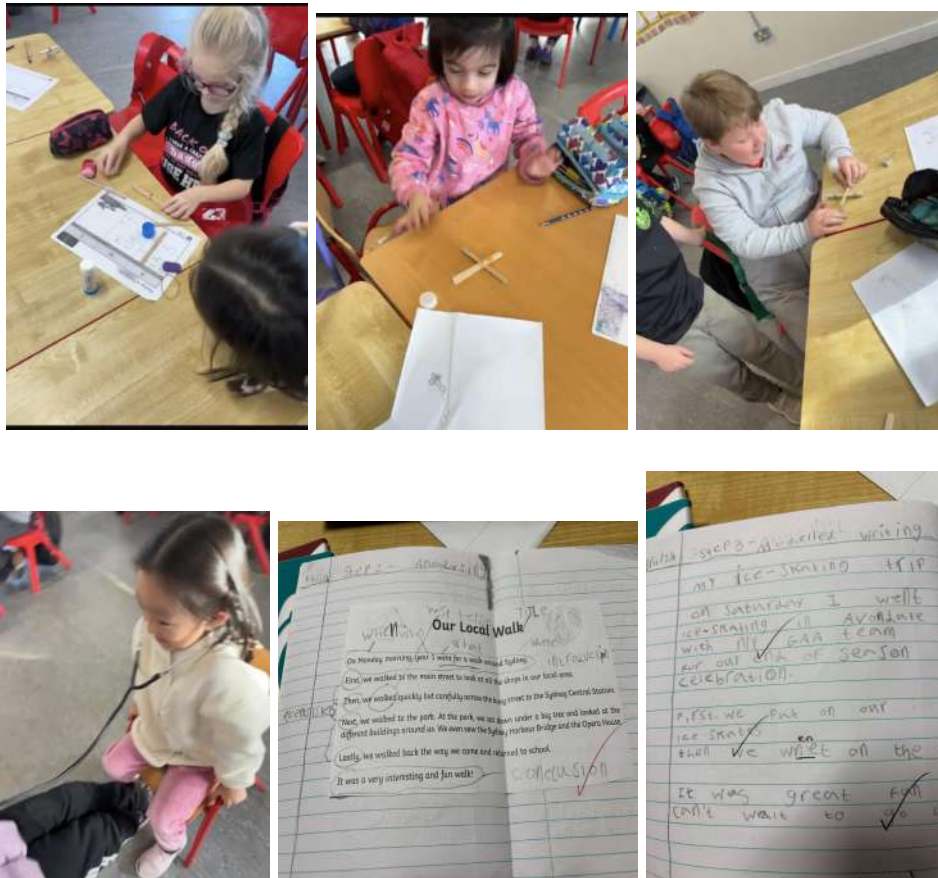
Senior Infants



November has been a fun month for Senior Infants. They learnt all about the Inuit people and what life might be like in cold regions. They also looked at how life is similar and different to our lives in Ireland. For art they used clay and designed their own igloos. They had 3 visitors for Science week, one being a furry friend. Where they learnt about the function of the heart. Great fun was had by everyone. In Maths we have been learning about the seasons, days of the week and months of the year and have been dancing and singing along to songs to help us remember.

1st class

First Class celebrated Science Week in November. The children enjoyed learning about their hearts and how their heart rate is influenced by exercise. The class had help from dog helper Cooper to measure the effects of exercise on the heart. The boys and girls learned about photogrammetry techniques from First Class parent Niall. The children were very interested to hear about a major mudslide in New Zealand that still has impacts over 10 years later. The children undertook a STEM challenge of making catapults using lollipop sticks and elastic bands. There were some wonderfully creative catapults!



During November, the boys and girls focused on recount writing as their writing genre. We looked at some of the similarities and differences between recount and procedural writing. The boys and girls have been making fantastic progress in their writing, well done to all the boys and girls. During November the class have also been very busy practicing for their Winter Performance in December. The class is very excited to perform for you all!

2nd class



November has seen 2nd class participating in many science activities to celebrate Science Week. We were fortunate to have many different visitors come to our class who engaged the children in discussion and hands-on activities all centred around science. In class we also did activities that looked at our reaction times and the air quality in our school.

This month we completed our work on procedural writing by making bird feeders following our own procedural writing plan. I have been impressed by our general improvement with this writing genre over the last 6 weeks.

The class have also been busy over the last month preparing for their winter performance. The children have shown great enthusiasm for this and have really enjoyed the process. As gaeilge we have been learning all about bia while in music we recreated the sounds of a storm using only things that we could find in our classroom. We uploaded a video of this to the class seesaw page. In maths we have been learning all about money and also investigating problems relating to patterns and sequences. The children's ability to reason and apply their knowledge around certain concepts in the new maths curriculum has been very good.

3rd/4th class

November was a very busy and exciting month for Third and Fourth Class. We had a great time celebrating Science Week. The children were very lucky to have so many fantastic guest speakers in our classroom telling us about interesting careers in science and doing fun experiments with them. Big thank you to all of our guest speakers for sharing their time and knowledge with us.



The Third and Fourth Class students had lots of fun getting their hands muddy as they planted garlic which is now growing in pots behind our classroom. Thanks to Ruth for organising and doing this with the kids.



In Maths, the children have been doing super work on fractions. In the pictures below, you can see them using concrete materials to help strengthen their understanding.

