

# Woodstock ETNS February Newsletter

## *Message from the Principal*

While February has been a relatively short month in school with the mid-term break happening right in the middle of the month it has still been filled with lots of fun and new learning experiences in the school. Our new sensory room has been set up and is a calming space which is already proving to be of such benefit to the students. With our parent volunteers and student council members to the fore our library is now starting to take shape with well over a thousand books available for children in the school to explore. Thank you to the whole school community for supporting this. The students now also have access to maths boxes in each of their classrooms. The resources in these boxes make maths come to life in the classroom and support us to implement the new maths curriculum in our school.

February also involved some trips out of the school, with swimming lessons taking place for 2nd, 3rd and 4th class. It is fair to say that the children really enjoyed themselves and a big thanks must go to our secretary Sinead for making this possible. We look forward to offering swimming lessons to more classes in the next school year after the success of our initial block of lessons. The 4th class boys and girls also attended the schools first ever football blitz. The students who attended represented the school really well and we're all very proud of them.

Lastly, I would like to mention that on April 11th at 8am the school will be hosting our second coffee morning of the school year. This time in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland. More details to follow.

Beir bua,

Philip

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## Junior Infants

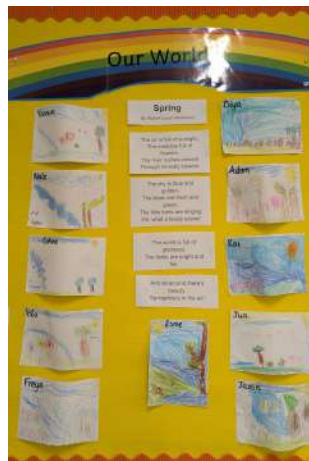
In February, the Junior Infants began exploring the season of Spring and created beautiful cherry blossom tree artwork.



They are making great progress in sound awareness and sentence writing, which we practice frequently. They should be very proud of themselves!



The whole school learned a spring poem by Robert Louis Stevenson. The Junior Infants created actions to help them remember the words and made artwork inspired by the poem. They are a wonderfully creative group!



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## Senior Infants

February has been a busy month in Senior Infants. Viviano and Claudio came in and made pizza with the class. This was lots of fun and all the learners really enjoyed it. A big thank you to Viviano and Claudio for all their effort.



To follow on our learning about making pizza, all the learners used their explanation writing skills and wrote a piece, explaining how to make a pizza. I was so proud of all their hard work.

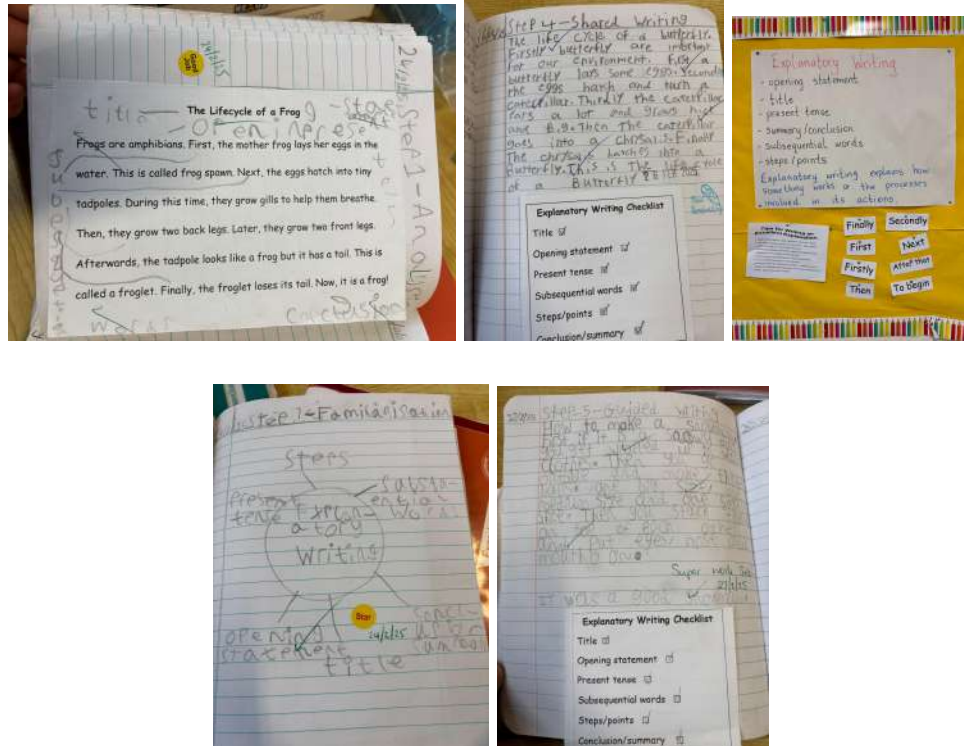


We have also enjoyed welcoming Spring in and created a 'peek into spring' picture.



## 1st class

This month, First Class delved into Explanatory Writing as their writing genre. The boys and girls are getting very familiar with the First Steps 7 steps to a writing genre. They wrote some excellent explanatory pieces for example the life cycle of a butterfly and how to make a snowman. It is wonderful to see the boys and girls' confidence in their writing grow so much throughout the year.



During PE this month, we have been focusing on team sports and working together as part of a team. It has been great to watch such sportsmanship and leadership from some of the children.





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## 2nd class



During February the children in 2nd class learnt all about Eadaí in Gaeilge. They took part in comprehension groups with Jacqui and Aoife on Mondays and finished off their maths stations which were based on fractions for January and February. Next month the children will be doing numbers work for their maths stations and focussing on narrative writing which is the writing genre the whole school is doing in March. During this month the children also finished their swimming lessons. The children engaged really well with these lessons and learnt an important life skill, while also gaining some independence by learning to take care of their possessions. Everyone in the class is looking forward to an exciting few weeks ahead before the end of the second school term.

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## 3rd/4th class

3rd and 4th Class have had a great month. Woodstock ETNS attended The FAI 5-a-side tournament for the first time. We had a great day and got to play lots of games against different schools from around Wicklow.



We learned about The Normans in history. The children found out that many Irish surnames (such as Barry, Belton, Butler, Cusack, D'Arcy, Devereux, Dillon, Fay, Fleming, Fitzgerald, Lambert, Nugent, Plunkett, Roche, Sinnott, Taafe, Tobin, Tuite and Wall) can be traced back to the Normans. We also learned about Norman Castles and found out that the Black Castle in Wicklow Town was actually built by The Normans!

In Maths, Sarah Jane has been coming into our classroom recently to help us with our work on our Fractions Stations. During these stations, we split into four groups with two groups working on fractions independently and the other two groups working on fractions with a teacher. Each group swaps so that they get a turn on each station. It has been great to see the children's understanding of fractions developing as they work in these smaller groups.