



Woodstock Educate Together National School

April Review 2026

Message from the Principal:

I hope this message finds you well. Wishing all our families a happy and restful May mid-term break. I would like to share a few important updates and reminders for the weeks ahead.

Wellbeing Focus – Visiting Workshop

As part of our ongoing focus on wellbeing this term, we are delighted to welcome Reuben the Entertainer (Entertainer.ie) to the school later this month. Reuben delivers engaging and age-appropriate comedy-based workshops that explore important topics such as internet safety, bullying, and wellbeing. This initiative aligns with our current School Self-Evaluation (SSE) focus on wellbeing.

The workshops will be tailored to each age group:

- **4th & 5th Class** – “*LIKED*” (Internet Safety & Online Etiquette)
- **1st–3rd Class** – “*UNLEASHED*” (Wellbeing Workshop)
- **Junior & Senior Infants** – Magic Show

We are confident that this will be a fun, engaging and meaningful experience for all pupils.

Supporting Your Child Through Assessment

In the coming weeks, pupils from 1st to 5th class will take part in the Drumcondra Primary Tests in Mathematics, English Reading and Spelling. These are age-appropriate assessments that help us understand how each child is progressing in their learning. Senior Infants will also engage in the Middle Infant Screening Test (MIST). This is a short, child-friendly and untimed assessment used to identify pupils who may benefit from additional early literacy support. Following this, some children may take part in the *Forward Together* programme, a small-group intervention delivered over a number of weeks to support early reading skills, while also building confidence and self-esteem.

We would like to reassure you that these assessments are **not** about ranking or comparing children. They are simply tools to help us identify strengths and areas where additional support may be helpful. Every child’s learning journey is unique.

How we will support your child:

- Assessments will take place in a calm and familiar classroom environment
- Teachers will guide pupils clearly and encourage them to do their best without pressure
- Results will be used to support teaching and celebrate progress

Together, we can ensure this is a positive and confidence-building experience for all children.

Attendance Reminder – Forest Schooling and Other Activities

We have recently become aware of a small number of instances where pupils are being withdrawn from school during term time to attend alternative programmes such as forest schooling. School attendance during term time is essential and expected for all pupils, except in cases of illness or unavoidable circumstances. Removing children from school for optional activities disrupts their learning, affects continuity in the classroom, and can impact both academic progress and social development.

While we recognise the value of outdoor learning, it is important to note that Woodstock ETNS already provides rich and structured outdoor learning experiences as part of the school day, including gardening, environmental activities, and outdoor lessons aligned with the curriculum. We ask for your full cooperation in ensuring that your child attends school every day.

Thank you for your understanding and support in maintaining high standards of attendance for all pupils.

May Dates for Your Diary

- **Monday, May 4th – Friday, May 11th:** May Mid-term Break
- **Friday, May 15th:** Primary Curriculum Training Day (School Closed)
- **Monday, May 11th – Friday, May 22nd:** Drumcondra Testing
- **Tuesday, May 26th:** Whole School Wellbeing & Social Media Workshops
- **Wednesday, May 27th:** 2nd & 3rd Class School Tour (Alive Outside)

Finally, a reminder that you can find helpful information, school policies, and regular updates on our website: <https://woodstocketns.ie/>. In addition to our Monthly Reviews, we also share highlights of our experiential learning, outdoor activities, and classroom experiences on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WoodstockETNS/>.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Nicola
Principal
Woodstock ETNS

Emma's Junior Infant Class:

Junior Infants have had a great time in April enjoying some nice Spring sunshine and enjoying their first ever Maths week! Below is a picture of some 3D monsters that the children made during Maths week.



In literacy, the boys and girls focused on Group 6 of the Jolly Phonics programme with sounds (y, x, sh, th and ch). They also started their first core readers and enjoyed following the adventures of Luke, Emma, Pip and Rags.



In Maths this month, the children looked at Money deciding whether items were cheap or expensive, combining coins to make up 5c and deciding which coin would be the best fit to buy certain items. They also looked at partitioning numbers, looking at different ways of making 2,3,4 and 5.



In Gaeilge this month, the boys and girls started 'An Teilifís', focusing on some of the following vocabulary: Moncaí, leon, tíogar, bord, cathaoir, tolg, solas, teilifís, raidió.

A highlight of this month was Bike Day. The boys and girls loved the excitement of cycling, scooting and striding to school. Well done to all who got involved!



Rose's Senior Infant Class:

April has been a short but packed month for Senior Infants. Our overall theme this month has been the clothes shop. Some of our favourite play stations have been role play in the clothes shop, designing clothes to hang on the washing line, making a felt outfit and some yarn art.



The story we have been focusing on this month has been 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. We enjoyed making a new tie for George the Giant in Art because he gave his away to a cold giraffe! We also answered comprehension questions on the story in English. We also looked at materials in Science this month and we had to choose the best material to make a raincoat for teddy. That was lots of fun! In History we looked at clothes we wore as a baby, as well as photos of clothes in the past.



This has been a really busy month in Maths too with lots of new topics. We enjoyed cutting and sorting items into light and heavy. We got really hands on when doing subtraction using bears and cubes, as well as numricon and playdough to solve some subtraction sums. During Maths Week we had a lot of fun with a maths trail outside and doing a hunt for number 17 in the classroom!



We learned how to name some of the items you find in your sitting room in Irish. Lots of the children really enjoyed cycling to school on Bike Day. That's just a snapshot of some of the things Senior Infants got up to this month!



Nicola's First Class:

STEM /Maths:

This Month we designed bridges using different materials! The class worked together to explore how spaghetti & Marshmallow can be used to construct and explore designs: We also used unused spoons to make windmills. We are continuing our Maths work on Data, busy working in teams to collect data (peoples favourite animals/foods/colour) so we can create picograms and data charts.



The Arts/Music Appreciation:

The Class made use of our wonderful Ukuleles and percussion instruments to create their own musical interpretation of Sea Sounds[Amhrán Na Farraiige](#) - why not enjoy a listen at home too? The children all choose to go over this song once more even though they listened to it earlier in the year- The class show a great love and respect for music!



Wellbeing & Physical Literacy :

WE participated in a Whole School Fitness Morning. It was not only great to work as a whole team, it reminded us of how important a healthy diet is. Everyone had fun, got exercise and loved being in the outdoors.



Our Bike to School Day was a Huge Success! It was a wonderful opportunity to participate

alongside our neighbouring school and also have the Garda help keep us all safe on the roads. We are hoping to have a visit to school to advise us on 'road safety'.

Keep up the cycle to school routines:)

As Gaeilge:

In Irish we are having lots of fun

learning about animals...

Cad a Chuala tú?- Chuala Mé...Bó/ Asal/Madra....



Philip's Second Class:



April was a very enjoyable month in 2nd class. The weather has been very good which has allowed us to get outside more during the school day. As a result of this the class were able to plant pumpkins and carrots in our school garden. We started eating our lunch outside and even did a fun maths trail around our school. As you can see above rubix cubes are really popular in our class as are hands on activities which we did a lot of this month including tower building challenges during maths week. We also had a special visit from the fyffes fittest schools team after all our hard work completing the fitness challenges each week. This month we also completed report writing tasks, used our newly purchased PE equipment and participated in bike to school day.



Brian's Third Class:

Third Class celebrated Maths Week with lots of fun and interesting activities. They created a 'Maths About Me' piece of art, solved maths riddles at break time and completed a maths trail around the school. The children also completed a STEM challenge where they had to build the tallest tower possible from marshmallows and spaghetti!



We welcomed fitness expert Sharon Flanagan to our school as part of the 'Ireland's Fittest School' campaign. She put the children through their paces with a fun and challenging workout. At the end, we had a banana relay race which was great fun.



In art, we developed our colour-mixing skills by using paint to create a stormy sea scene. This linked in with our class novel where we have been reading 'The Wreck of the Zanzibar' by Michael Morpugo. Painting a moving ocean is challenging but the children did amazingly well.



Catherine's Fourth & Fifth Class:

Fourth and fifth class have been working very hard on our class book, which we are going to have bound and printed by OurClassBook.ie. The stories, comic strips, poems and illustrations are the result of a lot of hard work, and the children are really excited about seeing the finished product.

Fourth & Fifth Class - Core Learning

In Maths, fourth and fifth classes have been learning about multiplication. We have been working hard on revising our short multiplication strategies and tables, and learning long multiplication, also using decimal places in fifth class.

We had a lot of fun during Maths week, colouring in tessellating patterns for a Maths Art competition. We also enjoyed the daily Maths riddles in the playground. Well done to Chloe, Laila, and Mia McD for their winning entries. We completed a Maths trail around the school site in groups, and we had two winning teams in the end! We had a lot of fun revising various strands of Maths during this activity, as well as appreciating the functional application of Maths all around us!



In English Writing, we have been finalising our contributions for the class books that we will be publishing as a hardback book during summer term. In English reading, we have

been reading about the famine in Ireland by reading chapters from 'Under the Hawthorn Tree' by Marita Conlon-McKenna. In Gaeilge we have been learning key vocabulary to do with the topic 'An tEarrach' (spring) ag imirt cluichí agus ag caint le chéile. (playing games and talking together in Irish).



In SESE, we had a debate about the causes of the Irish famine. The children presented their arguments in groups. We have also been learning about clothing, different fabrics and the fast fashion industry.

In P.E., we have continued with our GAA skills sessions with Aoife, along with trying badminton for the first time. It was great to see lots of the class cycle, scoot and walk to school on Bike Day!

In Art we have been working on our illustrations for our class book.

