



## Woodstock Educate Together National School

### March Review 2026

#### ***Message from the Principal:***

March has been particularly vibrant with a wide range of events and initiatives that have greatly enriched the pupils' overall experience. Highlights included Seachtain na Gaeilge and Lá Glas, where our school community embraced Irish language and culture with great pride. Our Book Fair fostered a love of reading and storytelling while the *Say Yes to Languages* initiative brought exciting opportunities such as Italian pizza-making, allowing pupils to explore language and culture in a fun, hands-on way. Odd Sock Day was another memorable occasion celebrating individuality, inclusion and kindness. These activities are just a snapshot of the many enriching experiences our pupils eagerly participated in this month. They reflect our ongoing commitment to nurturing well-rounded, confident and happy learners. As a school we strive not only to create meaningful learning experiences but also to place a strong emphasis on wellbeing by encouraging teamwork and celebrating children's creativity and talents through events such as Lá Glas. We hope you enjoy the class reviews that follow.

#### **A Gentle Reminder: Traffic, Public Space & Parking:**

Please support the school in maintaining the health and safety of all by practising safe driving at drop-off and collection times. The areas outside the school and across at Newtownmountkennedy Community Centre are public spaces and are not designated exclusively for Woodstock ETNS nor Newtown Primary School. We ask that all interactions in these shared areas are respectful and courteous. There have been instances of unsafe driving and inappropriate behaviour, which are concerning and do not reflect our school values. We understand that these times can be busy and sometimes frustrating and that some families may need to park for longer due to additional needs. We ask for patience, understanding and kindness towards one another.

#### **Digital Devices Reminder:**

Digital devices such as smart watches with the ability to record video, audio or take photographs are not permitted in school. From a health, safety and safeguarding perspective, recording devices are not appropriate. Thank you for your support in this matter.

#### **One for the Diary:**

- Monday, May 4th – Friday, May 8th: School closed for Spring Break
- Friday, May 15th: School closed for Primary Curriculum Training Day

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Le gach dea-ghuí,  
**Nicola (Principal)**

### Emma's Junior Infant Class:

March was a crazy busy month for Junior Infants! We celebrated the beginning of Spring, Seachtain na Gaeilge and World Book Day. The boys and girls also soaked up some of the Spring sunshine in the playground which was enjoyed immensely.



In literacy this month, we have been doing stations twice a week with Claire focusing on letter formation and blending. This has been very beneficial for the children which is evident in their progress. In addition to this the children have moved onto Group 5 of the Jolly Phonics programme looking at z, w, ng, v and oo. In numeracy, we have looked at weight. The children discussed heavy and light, heavier and lighter and ordered items from the lightest to heaviest and vice versa. We have also been looking at combining numbers within 5. In Gaeilge this month, we have been looking at 'Sa Bhaile'. The children thoroughly enjoyed Seachtain na Gaeilge from Irish dancing with Amy to the whole school Céilí at the end of the week.



The theme for this month was Spring and there was a big emphasis on natural changes that occur during Spring time. The children enjoyed some role play activities in the 'Garden Centre'. They used their artistic minds to create some daffodils and lambs and used their STEM minds to make some imaginative flowers. Well done Junior Infants on all your hard work this month!

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## Rose's Senior Infant Class:

Senior Infants had a great time at the start of March with World Book Day. Many of the children enjoyed dressing up and bringing in their favourite book to talk about with the class. We had lots of fun with our monthly theme of the vets. We looked after a lot of sick animals during role play. One of our favourite stations was cleaning the mud of some very mucky farm animals! We built farms using concrete materials and we made them using stickers too. Junk art is one of the most requested activities, as our class loves building and making things.



In English we have been learning all about the magic e and what it does in words. We have also been using our question words to ask questions about the books we are reading. We have written simple reports about dogs. Some other activities we have enjoyed are matching simple sentences with pictures and we loved getting outside to write our tricky words with chalks!

In Maths we have looked at length, patterns and the number 16. This last week we have been learning about the coins 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c and 20c. We enjoyed pretending to be shopkeepers at a fruit and vegetable shop.

In Gaeilge we have been learning how to say some of the items in our home in Irish. Some of the words we learnt are: leaba, doras, cófra, fuinneog, lampa, bord, sorn and clog. We enjoyed listening to the story 'An Fear Sinséir' (The Gingerbread Man) in Irish. We have made bunnies and dog/cat collages in Art. We were learning about Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr. We celebrated Saint Patrick's Day with Irish dancing, cards and the story of Saint Patrick. It has been a busy month and we are looking forward to the break ahead!



## Nicola's First Class:

### SESE / Science:

Tapping into the longer days and brighter weather, we got outdoors for some playful and engaging SESE learning experiences. We used bubble experiments to explore *surface tension*: how liquids resist changes to their shape, even when a force is applied. There was a lot of soapy foam as we created our solutions which added to the fun!



**Literacy & Numeracy:** This month, our literacy and numeracy work was inspired by the mythical hunter-warrior Fionn Mac Cumhaill (An Fhiannaíocht) and the legend of the Giant's Causeway. Laura treated the class to some wonderful *sean-nós* style storytelling. Afterwards, we explored the hexagonal shapes of the Giant's Causeway, using them to create animals and to re-enact the legend. We also dramatised a retelling of *Fionn Mac Cumhaill agus an Bradán Feasa* (The Salmon of Knowledge).



**As Gaeilge:** we had great fun celebrating Lá 'le Pádraig and learning about Ócáidí Speisialta. Tá bród orm go mór as an rang, especially their whole-class recital of the rann *An tSeamróg* in front of the entire school to celebrate Lá Glas. The children were go hiontach ar fad! I wonder if you can still recite it?

*Is maith liom an tseamróg  
An planda beag glas.  
Trí dhuilleog bheaga  
Le chéile ar ghas.*

### The Outdoors/Nurture:

The children also enjoyed a visit to the local playground. It was a well-deserved treat after all their hard work!



## Philip's Second Class:

March was a really exciting time in the school. We had many activities and lessons related to Seachtain na Gaeilge which took place between the 1st and the 17th of March. There was a strong focus during this period on Irish culture and language. The students in the class really embraced Irish dancing and we all learnt the steps to the Siege of Ennis and we regularly performed it in class. It all culminated in a lá glas and a performance of Irish songs in English and also as Gaeilge. Bhí na paistí ar feabhas!



In class the children continued to work hard on our class book. I have been really impressed with the improvements right across the class in the structure of their writing, their written expression and their engagement with writing activities generally. This month we also continued our team teaching in maths focusing on time. We have begun learning about Spring and all the changes that occur at this time of year too. With the increasing sunlight and better weather we have also been able to go outside to the garden during reading activities which has been really enjoyable. Our Fyffes Fittest school competition has continued which has kept the children active and engaged. I hope all of the children have an enjoyable Spring holiday and I look forward to the final school term.



### Brian's Third Class:

Third class enjoyed using the tablets to research about New Zealand in pairs. The children scanned QR codes which brought them to child-friendly websites with information about New Zealand. They used their research skills to gather and record information. The students then used this information to create posters teaching people about New Zealand. We discussed the importance of balancing visuals and text when creating a poster. It was great to see the children collaborating on these posters.



To celebrate the fact that it's starting to feel a little more like Spring, 3rd class created paper flower chains. Many of the students decided to work together to make the longest chain possible. We stuck our flower chains up in the classroom as a nice Spring decoration.



We have been learning about persuasive writing in third class. The children have worked very hard on their own piece of persuasive writing which they wrote on a topic that they felt passionate about. They followed the writing process as they planned, drafted, revised and finally published their writing. Keep an eye on Seesaw because the children will add their writing to their Seesaw Journal this week.

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## Catherine's Fourth & Fifth Class:

We have been very lucky to have Lucy working with us in March and teaching a range of exciting lessons across the curriculum. A big thank you to Lucy for all of her hard work with all of the children.

Fourth and fifth class have just finished their swimming lessons in Wicklow, and they have made so much progress with their swimming skills and confidence. We have started work on our class book, which we are going to have bound and printed by [OurClassBook.ie](http://OurClassBook.ie). Each child will contribute an illustrated piece of writing to the book, and parents will have the chance to order a hardback copy. More information to follow!

### Fourth & Fifth Class - Core Learning

In Maths, fourth class have been learning about decimals to one tenths, one hundredths and one thousandths. Fifth class have also been revising decimals for one tenths, one hundredths and one thousandths. Fifth class have also been converting fractions and mixed numbers into decimal numbers and we have been solving problems involving decimals.

We have also been working on measuring length in mm, cm, m and km, and we have had lots of practical activities using rulers and metre sticks. We have discovered that the perimeter of the classroom is 37m, correctly estimated by Oisín!



In English Writing, we have started working on our first drafts for the class books that we will be publishing in hardback after the easter holidays. The children have been very busy planning their stories, poems and reports, so we are all very excited to see the finished products! In English reading, we have been reading about the famine in Ireland and we have been exploring about life at that time through story. In Gaeilge we have continued to learn key vocabulary to do with the topic 'Caitheamh Aimsire' (hobbies) and La Fhelle Padraig (St. Patrick's Day), ag imirt cluichí agus ag caint le chéile. (playing games and talking together in Irish). We have thoroughly enjoyed a range of activities during

Seachtain na Gaeilge, including Trath na gCeist (table quiz), rince Gaelach (Irish dancing), and taking part in the Comortas Ealaine (Art competition). We awarded a Gaeilgeoir an Lae each day and we were impressed with the efforts of the children to use their Irish each day.

In SESE, we have been learning about the Irish Famine, and exploring historical maps and primary sources of data to discover the impact of the famine on the population in Ireland. We have learned about the complex factors and societal reasons that caused the famine and the impact of mass immigration both on Ireland and on other countries. We have been learning about the six major climate types around the world and the factors that affect these. We have also been learning about the components of the human digestive system during Science, and we have created diagrams to demonstrate what we have learned.



In P.E., we have continued with our GAA skills sessions with Aoife, along with working on our swimming skills during our weekly swimming sessions. In SPHE, we have been learning about growing up, body changes and human development at different stages.

We have had our final Italian lesson with Philip this week and we have really enjoyed learning some Italian words and phrases, making pasta and pizza!

In Art we have been using chalk with shape to create chalk rubbings in relief. We have created art with the theme of Ireland for Seachtain na Gaeilge. We have used the story of the Children of Lir (Clann Lir) as inspiration for art using a variety of media to depict the setting and the characters from the story. We have also created art using chalk and silhouettes on the theme of the Irish famine.





In Music, we have been singing *Ámhran na bhFiann*, the Fields of Athenry, *Beidh Aonach Amárach* and *Killeagh*, which we then performed at our whole school assembly for *Seachtain na Gaeilge*.



In Drama, we created freeze frames to explore the topic of the famine from different perspectives.

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