



Woodstock Educate Together National School

September Review

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A very warm welcome back to all our Woodstock ETNS families. I hope everyone enjoyed a lovely summer break. It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back and to see the children return with such enthusiasm and excitement for the year ahead. We are looking forward to another year of learning, friendship, creativity and fun together.

We are also delighted to welcome some new members to our teaching team this year; Rafe, Nicky, Nadine and Caroline. We are very happy to have them join the Woodstock ETNS community and look forward to all they will bring to our school!

Parent Association Committee (PAC)

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our PAC AGM on Tuesday 29th September. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout with many new faces and volunteers joining our School community.



A very special thank you to Jitka, our outgoing Chairperson, who, alongside the wider PAC team has made such a lasting contribution to Woodstock ETNS over the past three years. From helping fund our new library, to supporting wellbeing through our beautiful Woodstock ETNS Kindness Tree mural, to providing our sharing picnic tables which energises outdoor learning, teamwork and play. Our PAC has made a wonderful difference to our school.

We are also delighted to welcome back Sensory Yoga with Viv. We are very fortunate that the school BOM and PAC can work together to bring this valuable wellbeing resource back to Woodstock ETNS. Also congratulations to Geraldine Brennan, our new Parent Nominee to the Board of Management. We look forward to working with Geraldine in the year ahead.

I appreciate how challenging additional school closures can be for families, so I will continue to give as much advance notice as possible: Please note below-

Notes for the Diary:

- 5th October 2026: Online Admissions Open & Industrial Action: School gates open 8:45am only
- October Midterm : 23rd- 30th October
- 24th November 2026: School closure(Staff Training: PCF Wellbeing)
- February Mini Midterm: (17th-19th) * 17th School closure/PCF Training
- 30th April 2027: School closure(Language Awareness Training)
- 16th June 2027: School closure(Staff Training: PCF Wellbeing)

Woodstock ENTs school lotto:



Congratulations to Yvonne Healy - Winner of the nationwide jackpot of €800!



In November 2024, we introduced the school lotto, an exciting fundraising

initiative that allows participants to join for as little as €2.50 per week ! **How do I register for the school lotto?** Simply click [THIS LINK](#) for a chance to win while supporting the school and helping to raise valuable funds.

How are the funds distributed? The funds raised through the school lotto are allocated as follows:

- **School Fund:** Most of the funds support Woodstock ETNS, contributing to equipment & resources.
- Weekly Winner:** A portion of the funds is allocated to a guaranteed weekly prize, with winners receiving a €20 Dunnes Stores voucher.
- **Monthly Jackpot:** Another percentage contributes to the monthly jackpot, which is currently at €250 & grows each month until claimed.
- **Administration:** A portion of the fees goes to "Our Fundraiser," the company managing the lotto operations.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your continued support & best of luck to all!

The New 2026/2027 PAC is as follows:



- Chair: Sinead Murray & Seaфра Griffin, Deputy Chair
- Treasurer: Ralph Armstrong-Astley & Deputy Treasurer: Roisin Kekki
- Secretary :TBA
- 6th Class: Ian Brook
- 5th Class: Denise McAvinia
- 4th Class: Roisin Kekki
- 3rd Class: Fiona Armstrong-Astley
- 2nd Class: Stephen O'Connell & Shweta Gupta
- 1st Class: Seaфра Griffin
- Snr Infants: Niamh Sheehan
- Jnr Infants: Shweta Gupta & Adelina Filip

Few Important Reminders:

- **Attendance:** We strongly encourage families not to arrange Forest Schooling or other regular activities that result in children missing school days. Every day matters, children can miss important learning as well as the social, emotional and collaborative experiences of being part of their class community. Regular absences also affect continuity and progress within the class. Please be mindful too, that once a 20 days of absence is recorded, Tusla is automatically notified.
- **Gate & Keypad System:** Thank you for your patience as we continue to get used to the new system. While it may take some time to settle in, these measures are in place for the safety of all.
- **Physical Education & Yoga:** Monday & Wednesday, please wear suitable clothing/ runners.
- **After-School Activities:** Anyone for Science, Playball, Tennis, Irish Dancing and Coding are now in full swing. As these are optional activities provided by external providers, please ensure you have their contact details for any queries regarding bookings, payments or cancellations.

Industrial Action: Unfortunately, there will be no early morning supervision by school staff from **Monday 5th October** until further notice. Therefore, the school **gates will open at 8:45am**. Please do not send children to school before this time.

Finally, please keep an eye on our school website for policies & important updates (: <https://woodstocketns.ie/> alongside weekly updates- <https://www.facebook.com/WoodstockETNS/>).

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Nicola (Principal Woodstock ETNS)

Emma's Junior Infant Class:

September has flown by for our new Junior Infants. They have settled in so seamlessly and are loving their new school. In Maths, the children have been busy sorting and classifying colours and objects.



In literacy, the boys and girls have started their Jolly Phonics programme and have learned the following phonics sounds - s, a, t, p, i, n.



The themes the children have explored this month have been 'Myself' and 'School'. The children discussed the story of 'The Monster who came to school' and discussed some of the kind and helpful things that the monster did in school versus some of the unkind things that the monster did in school. The children then made their own classroom rules and have been working hard to follow them ever since.

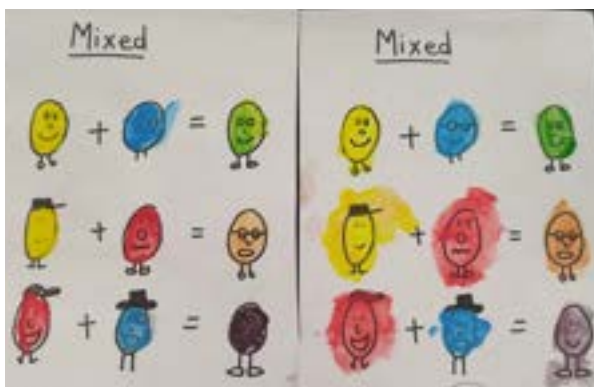
In Gaeilge, the children have learned the following phrases: Cé tusa? Is mise _____ and Cad é

sin? Sin _____. The children have particularly enjoyed learning some songs in Irish such as 'Rólaí Pólaí', 'Is mise an Traein' and 'Tá Teidí ag Siúl'. As part of our Wellbeing curriculum the children enjoyed some PE in the Community Centre across the road, as well as some GAA with Aoife on a Monday. The children also learned about their zones of regulation and do a feelings check-in every morning. Well done Junior Infants on a fantastic first few weeks!



Rose's Senior Infant Class:

Senior Infants are off to a great start this September. Our first theme was 'Birthdays' and we had lots of fun holding a birthday party for Teddy and making cards for him. We have been busy adding and making sets up to 5 in Maths. We really enjoyed the story 'Equal Schmequal' to learn about the equals sign. We also learned about ordinal numbers – 1st, 2nd and 3rd. In Art we have been learning a lot about the primary colours - red, yellow and blue. We enjoyed learning how to mix secondary colours by listening to the story 'Mixed' by Arree Chung. We also learned a little about Piet Mondrian who liked to use primary colours in his artwork.



Our next theme was 'The Dentist' and we discussed how to keep our teeth clean and healthy. We really enjoyed our role play area of the dentist office and took turns being the dentist, receptionist and patient. We also had playdough, junk art, construction, sensory play and craft stations. We had lots of fun! We particularly enjoyed using beans and playdough to make a mouth. We can't wait to move onto our next theme of 'Autumn'!



Nicky's First Class:

We have had a busy September here in 1st Class. Our theme this month has been Myself. We have been focusing on Myself- Mé Féin in Gaeilge learning about our different body parts and greeting one another. We have also been learning the days of the week! In Maths, we have been working on numbers up to 20 and counting in doubles. We have been revising our addition and using blocks/lollipop sticks and even acorns to help us count.



In Literacy, we focused on recount writing. We wrote about our summer and more recently our weekends, focusing on who, what, where, when and why questions. In SESE, the children have been learning about a bird's eye view of places. We looked at our school from a birds eye view on Google Earth. We could see all the focal points in our school including our yard, the school prefabs and our lovely school garden.



We had Kate, Fiadh's mum, helping us plant acorns in the school garden . We read the lovely story 'The Oak Tree' by Julia Donaldson in the garden and looked at its life cycle. In Art, we drew self portraits of ourselves including all our lovely features. We also did some leaf monoprinting with Kate.

In SPHE, we discussed words to describe ourselves. We created colourful name bows and chose 5 words that best describe ourselves. It's been a busy September and we look forward to lots of October fun!



Philip's Second Class:

September has been a really enjoyable month in 2nd class. Our theme for this month has been Mé féin (Myself). We have learnt about our community in Geography creating our own community display in class. In gaeilge we have been learning how to introduce ourselves and others. We have had great fun harvesting apples, pears, carrots, potatoes and pumpkins from our school garden. We also cleared the garden and prepared the soil for a new year of growing and participated in a grow at school online assembly where we presented our harvest.



In numeracy we played games related to numbers, place value and 2D shapes. During these games children were given a choice about what they would like to play. Creating choice and multiple means of engagement has been really important as it helps to support all learners. We are all really looking forward to Maths Month this October!

Digital literacy and being safe online has been a focus for us this month too. Through the use of Minecraft Education the children completed a cyber safe challenge and we were introduced to some basic coding. This month has also seen the return of Viv, our yoga teacher, who has conducted wonderful yoga lessons for us.



Rafe's Third Class:

Third Class have had a great start to the new school year. We worked together to create our class charter. The children also joined in lots of games and activities to share their interests. They created these brilliant 'Get to Know You T-shirts' that you can see in the picture below.



The Third Class students have also been very busy across all subject areas. In Maths, we worked on our Place Value and Addition skills. The children have been learning to write in the Recount genre by retelling stories of different events. In Irish we have been learning to talk about Myself (Mé Féin) and The Feelings (Na Mothúcháin). Below are some pictures of Third Class' work on The Feelings (Na Mothúcháin).



Cross country team relay: 36 children from across 3rd - 6th classes took part in the county cross-country team relay event for schools at the end of September. A big shout-out to 3rd class who entered 4 teams of 4 into the competition. The children participated brilliantly and demonstrated excellent teamwork on the day!

Catherine's Fourth Class:

Fourth class has had a busy and productive start to the school year. We have two wonderful new children who have joined our class and they have settled well with the warm welcome from their new friends.

In Gaeilge, we have been focusing on the topic 'Me Fein' and talking about ourselves and our families. (Me Fein agus mo Chlann). In English, we have been reading excerpts from novels including Roald Dahl's 'Matilda' while developing our comprehension skills. We have been exploring a poem each week during Poetry Corner. We have been focusing on the genre of the month, recount writing. We have been editing and re-drafting our work before publishing our final piece of writing. The children have worked really hard on their writing and are very proud of their efforts.



In Maths, we have been learning about place value up to thousands. We have revised our addition strategies and learned some new strategies for mental Maths addition. We have been solving problems and playing games to deepen our understanding. We have also been learning about 2D shapes, including quadrilaterals, pentagons and octagons.



In History, we have been learning about schools in the past, from hedge schools through to the present day. We have interviewed our older relatives (thank you to everyone involved!) about attending schools in the past. We have compared and contrasted the information that we found and we have identified similarities and differences between schools in the past in Ireland, China, Moldova, Poland, Germany, Ukraine and Sweden!

In Science, we have been exploring materials and their properties. We conducted a group investigation on the ability of different materials to absorb the sound of an electronic timer. We measured the distance the sound travelled outdoors using a trundle wheel and then compared results. We worked in groups to measure, record and test different materials using an experimental approach.



In Art, we have been creating self-portraits and examining self-portraits produced by famous artists such as Frida Kahlo and Vincent Van Gogh. In Music we have been singing songs and performing in groups. In P.E., we have been exploring different ways of travelling, participating in team relay races and we have re-started our GAA skills.



We have started to learn French as part of our modern foreign languages (MfL) programme. We have been learning and using our new French vocabulary including greetings and goodbyes, introductions, counting to 10 and colours.



Alison's 5th and 6th Class:

We had a great start to the new school year as **5th and 6th class**.

We have been busy learning about lots of new things. Here is a glimpse of what we have been doing for September.

Maths:

We have been learning about **lines, angles and degrees**. We learned that where two lines intersect, they create an arc; also known as an angle. We worked in pairs and drew angles using a ruler and had our partner measure our angles.

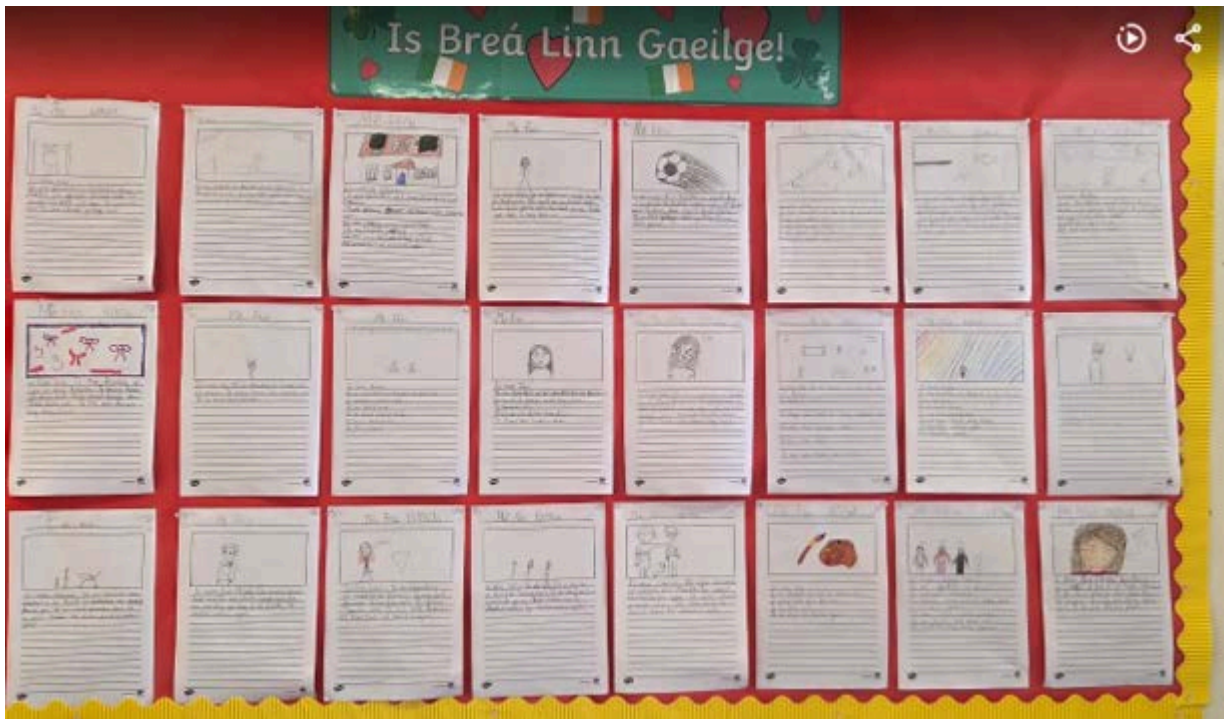


We have also been learning about **positive and negative coordinates** and played “battleship coordinates” to reinforce our learning.



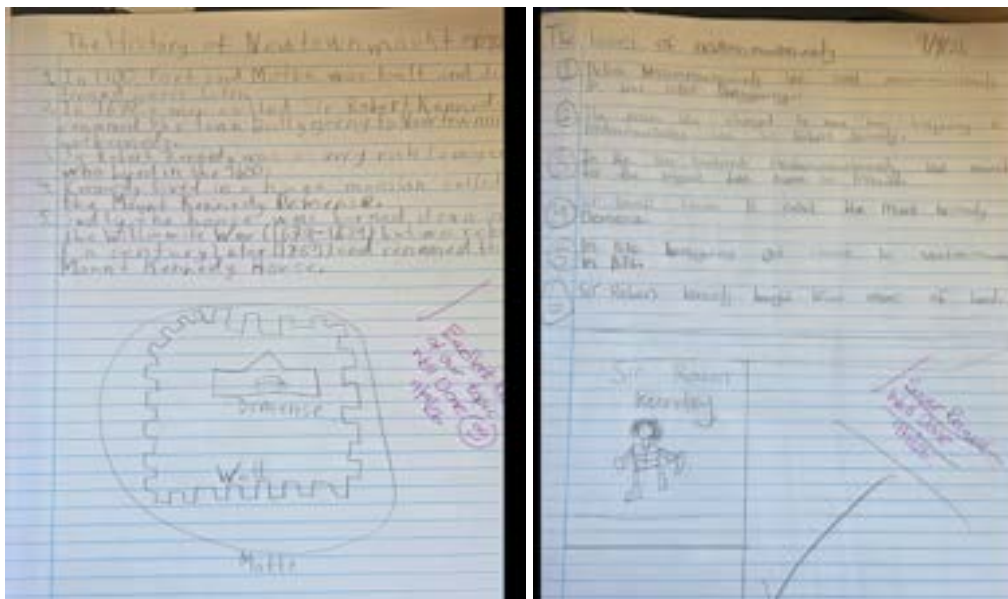
Gaeilge:

Táimid ag foghlaim faoi **“Mé Féin”**. Tá a fhios againn conas ár n-ainmneacha a rá, cén aois atá orainn, cathain atá ár mbreithlaethanta, cé mhéad deartháir agus deirfiúr atá againn, cén dath agus cén fad atá ar ár gcuid gruaige, agus cén dath atá ar ár súile.



History:

We learned about the history of **Newtownmountkennedy** – originally known as Ballygarny. We learned about **Sir. Robert Kennedy** and the role he played in establishing Newtownmountkennedy.



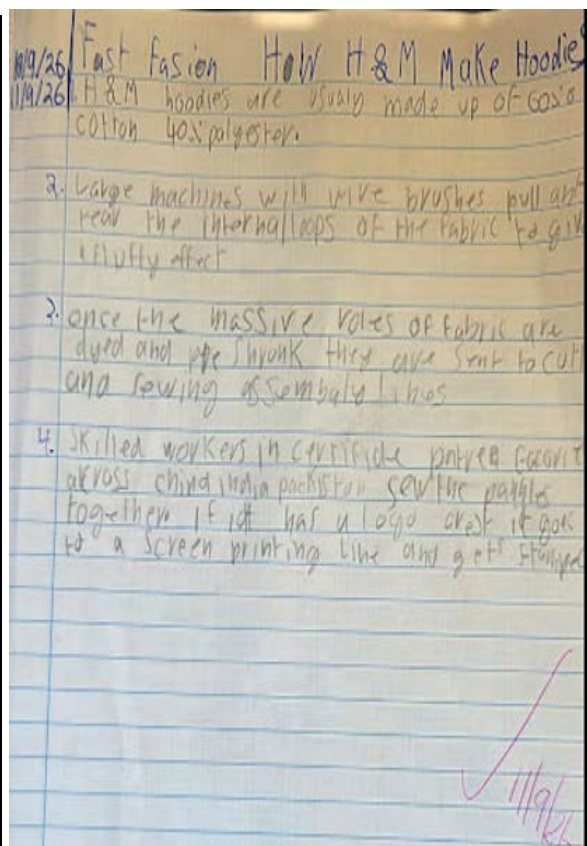
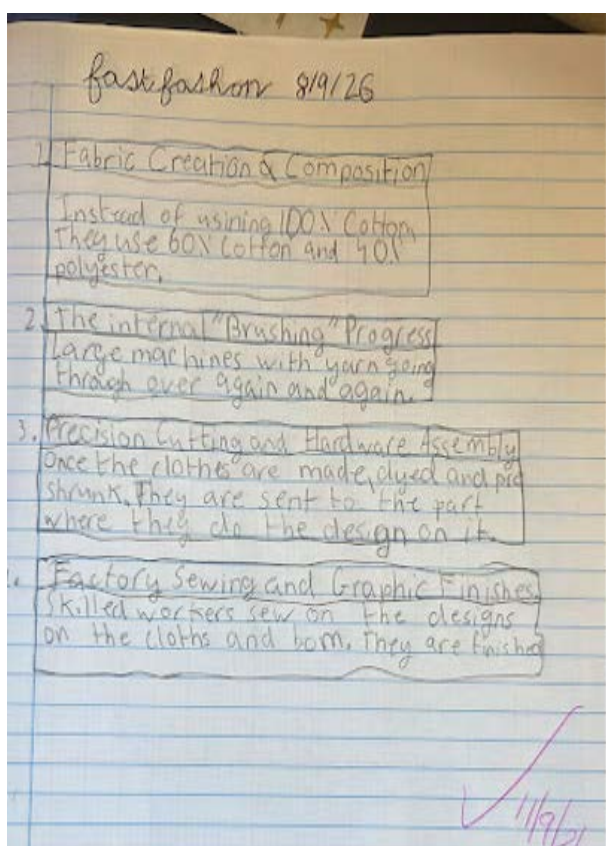
SPHE:

We have celebrated and appreciated our **identity**.



Ethical Education

We learned about **fast fashion** and researched popular brands and investigated their practices. We discussed sustainable fashion and how we can play a role in protecting the environment.



Art:

We have been busy studying many different artists and learning about their lives and their work. We read the story “**The Dot**” by **Peter H Reynolds** and learned that we are all artists.



We learned about **Vincent Van Gogh** and drew some real-life objects in the classroom.



We learned about **Käthe Kollwitz** and used hands as a symbol of love and protection. We drew what is important to us inside the hands.



We learned about **Saul Steinberg**, the “Master of Doodles”. We had great fun doodling real-life objects and making them abstract.





"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all"