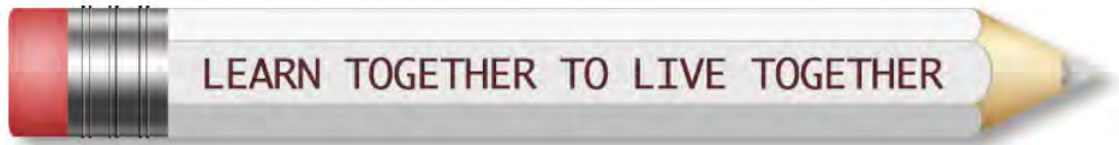




TULLAMORE EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL

Collins Lane, Tullamore, Co Offaly - tetns1@gmail.com - 057 9361190

Scoil Náisiúnta Ag Foghlaim Le Chéile An Tulach Mhór



**October 2021**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you enjoyed the mid-term break and that the children had a good rest. Hallowe'en night didn't fall on the best day of the holidays but the children have recovered!

#### Maths Week

Maths week took place from October 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. All classes were given activity packs and watched live stream activities. The corridors were adorned with exciting maths facts and there was much discussion over the number of Lego pieces in the tub and the number of Golf Balls in the bucket! Róisín (1<sup>st</sup> Class) guessed the correct number of Lego pieces and both Isobel (5<sup>th</sup>) and Abdul (4<sup>th</sup>) guessed the correct number of golf balls in the bucket. The winners of the Maths Week Art Competition were Asme (Junior Infants), Tom (Senior Infants), Aadhyasri (1<sup>st</sup> Class), Robert and Tara (The Arc), Mila (2<sup>nd</sup> Class) Rhys(3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Mark (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Síofra (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Solomiya (6<sup>th</sup> Class). Thanks to Michelle for organising all events.

#### Minecraft Education Edition

We are introducing the use of Minecraft Education Edition in the Senior Classes. This is a game-based learning platform that builds STEM ( Science Technology Engineering Maths) skills. Thanks to Darren for organising this for us.

#### Parent/Teacher Meetings

We will be holding our Parent/Teacher meetings by phone. They will take place the week of 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of November.

## Secondary Schools

The secondary schools have started their admissions process and information on schools has been passed on to the 6<sup>th</sup> Class children and parents. Promotional videos from the local secondary schools were also posted to the school Facebook page.

## Admission Process

The Admission Process for Tullamore ETNS for 2022/23 will be live from November 1<sup>st</sup> next. The Admission Policy, the Admission Notice and the pre-admission/pre-enrolment form for the mainstream school and The Arc are available online at [www.tullamoreeducatetogether.ie](http://www.tullamoreeducatetogether.ie) or in hard copy from the office. The office email is admin@tullamoreeducatetogether.ie .

## One Day Together

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> we had our dress up day. It was the annual One Day Together day when we mark being an Educate Together School. The classes paraded around the yard so that we could all get a good look at each other's costumes. The costumes were spectacular! Prizes for the best homemade costumes went to Itanas (Junior Infants), Killian (Senior Infants), Skaiva (1<sup>st</sup> Class), Izzy and Lola (The Arc), David (2<sup>nd</sup> Class) Rhys (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Katalina (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Rimgaudas (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Hanna (6<sup>th</sup> Class). The Student Council chose the best homemade staff costume. This went to Abigail.

## Assembly

We had our second zoom assembly of the year on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The hand writers of the month were Carmen (Junior Infants), James (Senior Infants), Arwa (1<sup>st</sup> Class), Joe (The Arc), Alannah (2<sup>nd</sup> Class) Diana (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Amelia (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Ignas (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Georgia (6<sup>th</sup> Class).

## Student Council

The Student Council for 2022-2023 has been elected. Congratulations to all those elected. The members are as follows: Diana and Arnas (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Ivan and Barbara (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Emel and Rayan (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Oscar and Aysel (6<sup>th</sup> Class). Izzy will be the liaison person from The Arc. The council's first task was to choose the best staff costume on One Day Together. The first meeting will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> next.

## Learn the guitar online

Darren has developed a website called [guitarwithmrfahy.weebly.com](http://guitarwithmrfahy.weebly.com). The website will take you through the stages from tuning a guitar up to playing contemporary songs. This site is a must for all budding guitarists and is free to use.

## Parental Involvement

Thanks to Stephen for his help with equipment.

## Sport Activities

Thanks to Shauna for doing such a good job labelling our PE equipment and to Ronan for his input. A cleaning routine is in place for the equipment.

### Calendar

We will be producing a calendar this year. We will do our usual performance but it will take place outdoors, weather permitting. It will take place the week of December 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> and we will be more specific nearer the time.

### Parent Teacher Association AGM

The Parent Teacher Association AGM took place on October 6<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended and Anna de Siúin chaired the meeting. The committee is as follows: Clara Brennan ,Jagoda Bareja ,Valisha Carne, Marisa Fusciardi, Olha Chorniy, Martina Muller, Alicija Wrobel and Louise Keogh (Teacher ). The officers will be decided at the first meeting.

The PTA has made representation numerous times to Offaly County Council regarding the issue of the lack of progress on the installation of a signalised junction at Collins Lane. The latest response from Tom Shanahan, Engineer “estimates that construction work will be substantially complete by the end of the year with final commissioning of the lights likely to be the end of January 2022.” Thanks to Enda Molloy for his persistence on this matter on our behalf.

### Housekeeping

There is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress. Your co-operation with maintaining high attendance and punctuality is greatly appreciated. However we realise this year that parents are being extremely cautious around head colds and other minor illnesses and we appreciate this.

The passing of invitations and cards must take place outside of school hours. This ensures that no child is excluded or hurt.

The children must wear appropriate footwear for P.E.

Keep safe,

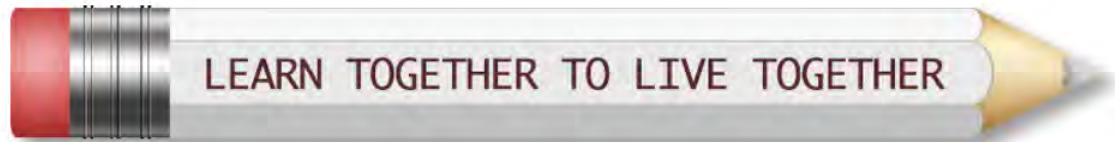
**Cathy**



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September 2021

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome all the children and staff back to school after our summer break. We would like to extend a special welcome to our new pupils in Junior Infants, new pupils in the other classes and to Shauna and Darren on their return and to our new staff members, Ger and Katie.

### Settling In

Any parent who has concerns regarding their child please feel free to make a phone appointment with the class teacher. All teachers are very willing to accommodate parents in this regard. The earlier concerns are dealt with the better for everyone involved. It is quite common to have teething problems and periods of adjustment at the beginning of the school year. The official Parent Teacher meetings will take place the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> by phone. IEP meetings will take place in person.

### COVID-19

We had a positive case in the school in the second week of September and two and cases this week. Public Health carried out risk assessments and procedures were followed. An information note was sent to you via Aladdin regarding the changes in procedures as per September 27<sup>th</sup> last.

Last year we were one of many schools chosen for a Safe Provision of Schooling visit (COVID-19 inspection). The school met the requirements in relation to all areas: Child Protection; Planning; Appointment of a Lead Worker Representative; Provision for Staff Training; Control Measures. There were no recommendations. The school was complimented on its implementation of measures in all areas.

### Art and Craft Money

Each year in early September we ask for an Art and Craft/Insurance fee for each child. As book rental was paid in late August as opposed to June we held off asking for the fee until now. The fee is €30 for one child, €50 for two and €70 for three. Please send it to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. The insurance money covers school activities. Some parents have paid it already as they are aware of it from other years. Thank you for that!

### LTP

This year, we are piloting an element in the new Learn Together Programme for Educate Together. 6<sup>th</sup> Class will be working on the Human Rights and Global Citizenship element.

### Healthy Lunches

Please ensure your child has a healthy lunch. One treat is permitted on a Friday. In the interests of keeping the school green we ask the children to bring home any wrappers or cartons they bring into school.

### Parental Involvement

Thanks to the parents who helped out this month: Jenny, Jonathan and Stephen

### Assembly

We had our first monthly assembly of the year yesterday. It took place on Zoom.

Congratulations to Carina (Junior Infants), Leanna (Senior Infants), Zain (1<sup>st</sup> Class), Jennifer (2<sup>nd</sup> Class), Amelie (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Isobel (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Niamh (The Arc), Daniel (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Diana (6<sup>th</sup> Class) who were the September recipients of our handwriting awards. Well done to all!

### Educate Together Day

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> we have our annual Educate Together Dress Up day where we celebrate being an Educate Together school. This year costumes will have to be worn all day with no extra detachable bits and pieces. Please ensure they are comfortable to wear! Again we will have prizes for the best home-made costumes.

### Sport

Offaly Sports Partnership carried out time trials with the Junior Infants -6<sup>th</sup> Classes. 4<sup>th</sup> Class enjoyed an FAI futsal workshop.

### Retirement

Fionnuala Morgan has retired after a career that has spanned forty years. Fionnuala is the second teacher to have retired from the school, Patsy Lee being the first. Fionnuala was the first Principal of Tullamore ETNS and a founding member of the school. She has made history in that it is the only Educate Together in Offaly and she was there for the exciting, ground breaking time when the school was established. We wish her the very best in her retirement.

### County Photos

County Photos were in to take photographs of the Junior Infants and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes.

### Coming Up

In October the Infant Classes are going on a trip to Charleville Castle grounds. We have Maths Week to look forward to and Educate Together day. We will also have student council elections and the AGM of the Parent Teacher Association on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m.

### Competition Winner

Liam York came first in his category in the Trócaire Poetry Ireland competition. He was a runner up in the competition last year. Well done Liam! This is his poem:

Journey to Peace

As she walks down the war-stricken road,

Gazing around at the ruined homes,

Imagining all of the life that once inhabited these old ruins,

She knows she must walk on,

She keeps on walking,

Comes to a meadow,

No more scattered debris,

No more distressing scenes,

Just vast, open green,

She walks and walks,

Arriving in a distant town,

Without broken buildings, without bombs.

Will she find safety here?

Will she find peace?

No one should be forced to flee their homes,

To be forced to search for safety,

But still, they are.

Can we now imagine a world of peace?

Can we take this journey together?

### Secondary School

It might be an idea for 6<sup>th</sup> Class parents to follow the social media pages of the secondary schools for information on enrolment.

### Housekeeping

There is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress. Your co-operation with maintaining high attendance and punctuality is greatly appreciated. However we realise this year that parents are being extremely cautious around head colds and other minor illnesses and we appreciate this.

The passing of invitations and cards must take place outside of school hours. This ensures that no child is excluded or hurt.

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Keep safe,

Cathy

