

TULLAMORE EDUCATE TOGETHER

Scoil Náisiúnta Ag Foghlaim Le Chéile An Tulach Mhór

'Learn Together to Live Together'



END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

It is amazing to think that we have reached the end of our school year. The last few weeks in particular have been a whirlwind with Active Week, Green Week, Swimming, Camogie, School Tours, Standardised Testing, School Reports, Fitness Tests, Curriculum Training, Track & Field, Graduation, Student Intake Welcome Meetings, Assemblies, Sports Day, Talent Show and our Attendance Awards. All of this comes at the end of an incredible school year in Tullamore Educate Together, a year of recognition for the high quality of teaching and learning taking place across the school as outlined in our Whole School Evaluation (WSE) in Term 1. It has also been a year of transition and moving into the slightly unknown, that can be a daunting prospect at times especially when you cherish your school community. Cathy demonstrated a lifelong commitment to Tullamore Educate Together and on her retirement she left behind an incredible team who care greatly for this school and for our children. I would like to thank our wonderful staff, children and families for welcoming me into Tullamore Educate Together, I hope that I can ably lead the school for many years to come.

As the year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many of the people who make this learning environment the special place that it is. First and foremost, I would like to commend our children for their enthusiasm and energy every day, you make our school what it is. Thank you for all your hard work, for the kindness and respect you show to each other and to all. You bring so much colour, kindness and laughter into our school and it is always a pleasure to learn together.

I would like to sincerely thank our remarkable in school management team of Michelle, Shauna, Fionnuala, Alison & Sarah for their counsel and support throughout the year. Thank you for your commitment, energy and for assuming so many additional responsibilities. Thank you for leading our school so capably and for the contribution you make to our whole school community.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of our teachers and additional needs assistants who demonstrate their kindness and professionalism every day. Amongst all the focus weeks, curriculum evaluations, school tours, book fairs, parent meetings, assemblies, school performances, yard duties and end of year reports to name but a few, there is a full curriculum to be taught at each class level. There is a mountain of unseen planning and preparation that takes place throughout the year to help deliver high quality teaching and learning. I witness first-hand and appreciate how much thought and care all of our staff invests in each and every child, so when I say thank you for everything, I mean it wholeheartedly.

I must thank our families for your commitment to attendance and I am genuinely looking forward to welcoming the reintroduction of our Parent, Teacher Association. Your knowledge, expertise and skill-sets can provide unique learning opportunities for all our children. I also must thank Richard for how he manages to keep everything operating so smoothly. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful school space and our building and grounds always look immaculate, this is entirely down to efforts of Noel & Katarzyna and we are very grateful for everything, thank you sincerely.

Finally, I would like to thank our Board of Management for their support this year. Thank you for your commitment and for all the time you give so willingly to uphold high standards in the running of our school. Each member makes a remarkable contribution towards our school's governance. Their guidance and support is invaluable.

On behalf of all of us here in Tullamore Educate Together, we would like to wish all our families a safe, restful, and joyful summer break. We will start again at our beginnings on the 26th of August 2026. Slán go fóill.

END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY & ATTENDANCE AWARDS

At our end of year assembly we thanked all the children for their efforts throughout the school year. Handwriting Awards were issued to: Ayleen (Junior Infants), Momina (Senior Infants), Valerie (1st Class), Kiril (2nd Class), Julierissa (The Arc), April (3rd Class), Eve Rose (4th Class), Skaiva (5th Class) & Kateryna (6th Class). Thanks to Breda for overseeing. Junior Infants delivered a fantastic assembly on Symbolism, the children should be so proud of themselves for speaking with such confidence and clarity, well done on a fantastic first year in Primary School. Jennifer Balint was presented with a medal from Offaly Schools Partnership for finishing in the top three out of almost four thousand students across the county who took part in endurance fitness tests conducted recently. It is an incredible achievement from an outstanding athlete.



We also recognised students with wonderful attendance for this school year. Forty-seven children missed five days or less and Michelle presented them with certificates and prizes at assembly. Special mention must go to; Thea (SI), Lina (2nd), Kira & Keziah (3rd), Rowan & Tanishqa (4th), Akash (5th), Eason & Jennifer (6th) for perfect attendance this year. Special recognition was also awarded to Jennifer (6th) for 100% attendance on four different occasions during her time in Tullamore Educate Together. The Cathy Lyons Award was presented for the very first time to a student in 6th Class who had the best attendance across their entire eight years in Tullamore Educate Together - congratulations to Mark (6th) on winning the inaugural award.



6TH CLASS 2026 GRADUATION

We say a fond farewell to the wonderful children of Sixth Class. As I stated at your Graduation, you are an incredibly talented group of children who always support one another. Thank you to Shauna & Sarah for making it a memorable final year in Primary School. You have been excellent role models for all in our school and you have set the bar really high for future year groups to try and emulate, most notably your complete demolition of the staff soccer team on Sports Day. You leave here not only with knowledge and skills but with strong values that we hope will guide you in the years ahead. We will miss you all tremendously and our school will be a different place without you all and know, you are always welcome to return to update us on your adventures. Oh the places you'll go! We are so very proud of you all and we know that you are ready for whatever comes your way.



CLASS ALLOCATION FOR 2026/27

Allocation of class teachers will be confirmed when recruitment for 2026/27 is finalised. I can assure you that this will be in the very near future. Delaying this announcement provides certainty on allocation and avoids having to revisit and implement subsequent changes following teacher appointments for 2026/27. I thank you all for your patience and understanding as we go through the recruitment process.

SPORTS DAY

Physical activity, sport and movement have certainly been at the heart of life in Tullamore Educate Together this year. With Sports Day taking place across all class levels, there has been a wonderful atmosphere around the school as children challenged themselves, supported one another and, most importantly, had fun. Of course, sport and physical activity are not just something we celebrate during Active Week or on Sports Day. They are woven into daily life in Tullamore Educate Together throughout the year. I would like to thank all staff who create opportunities for children to be active.



TULLAMORE'S GOT TALENT

On Wednesday we welcomed the return of our Talent Show. The children displayed a multitude of talents from - storytelling, singing, dancing, gymnastics, drama, Irish dancing, puppetry, to tin whistle and piano. It was a wonderful celebration of our children's talents and heartwarming to see them all shine. A massive thank you to Alison and all the children in 'The Arc' for leading a truly wonderful Talent Show this year.



NOT RETURNING TO SCHOOL? LET US KNOW

At this time of year, I like to gently remind families to let us know if there are any plans for your child(ren) not to return to the school next year. We understand that families' circumstances can change, and we are always here to support smooth transitions where needed.

Having an accurate picture of our enrolment is very important for the school. Our staffing allocations are directly linked to pupil numbers, and early notification of any departures allows us to plan carefully, manage our admissions process effectively, and ensure that we can provide the best possible resources and supports for all of our pupils.

If you do know that your child will not be returning, I would greatly appreciate it if you could let us know as soon as possible, even if plans are not yet fully finalised. This early communication makes a real difference and is, in many ways, one of the most helpful ways you can support the school community.

COLIN DUNNE TRACK & FIELD

On Friday the 5th of June, students from 3rd - 6th class travelled to the Tullamore Harriers to represent our school in the Colin Dunne Track & Field Championships. Our students performed brilliantly with some stand out results across multiple events. The children were wonderful ambassadors for our school and it was great to see the children competing in their new school singlets. A massive thanks to Sarah, Shauna & Breda for organising and for training the children over the last few weeks.



THE ASHLING MURPHY MEMORIAL FUND

Our school has just purchased thirty ukuleles. Funding for these instruments came from the Ashling Murphy Memorial fund. Students from 3rd to 6th classes will be given ukulele lessons during the course of next year. We would like to sincerely thank the Ashling Murphy Memorial fund for their kind donation to our students' creativity.



SAY YES TO LANGUAGES

We are delighted to announce that our application to 'Say Yes to Languages 2026/27' was successful. Next year, in term 2, 5th & 6th Class will learn French for 10 weeks. The aim of the programme is to raise awareness of the importance of modern foreign language education and to support the implementation of the redeveloped Primary School Curriculum. We look forward to developing our French language skills next year.



PARENT, TEACHER ASSOCIATION 2026/27

It will be wonderful to see the re-establishment of our PTA in September. Our parents have so many unique skills, talents and expertise that can contribute to our school and create a strong school community. I would like to thank those parents who have demonstrated a desire to lead our PTA and I would encourage everyone to consider joining in any way they can, every little bit of support helps. The aim of the PTA is to provide opportunities to enrich our children's school experience and to enhance their learning environment. Dates for our PTA meeting and election of officials (Chairperson, Treasurer & Secretary) will be shared at the start of the new school year.



BOM AGREED REPORT

The Board of Management met in person on the 15th June 2026. Below is their Agreed Report:

- The Board approved the election of Vincent Gleeson to the role of parent nominee and welcomed him onto the Board.
- The Board welcomed increased funding from the Department to facilitate the opening of our third ASD class in 2026/27.
- The School Specific Primary School Survey Results were shared with the Board, the results are the following:
 - The school response rate was 27% with 50 out of 183 families responding. Margin of error is + - 11.3%.
 - Co-educational Preference: 94% - Single Sex School: 6%
 - Multi-denominational/non-religious patron: 72% - Denominational patron: 28%
 - Education through Irish: 2% - Education through English: 98%
- The Board were updated on Admissions for 2026/27 and the importance of school leavers notifying the school was highlighted.
- The Board were informed that attendance levels have remained between 91% - 92% in recent years and we need to maintain focus on developing this further. The Board would like to thank Michelle for monitoring school attendance and for engaging with families and the EWO to support school attendance.
- The Board discussed staffing for 2026/27. Fixed-term and substitute posts are currently being advertised with interviews taking place in the first week of July.
- The Board learned that the school was successful in its 'Say Yes to the Language' application for 2026/27. 5th & 6th Class students will take part in French lessons for 1 hour/week for 10 weeks in Term 2 2026/27. The Board would like to thank Darren for facilitating these lessons.
- The Board were informed that SEE (History & Geography) will be the school's Primary Curriculum focus for 2026/27.
- The Board were pleased to learn that thirty ukuleles were purchased for the school from the Aishling Murphy Memorial Fund.
- The Board were also pleased to learn that the school was successful in securing funding and specialist support from the Arts Council over the next two years as part of the Creative Schools programme. The Board would like to thank Darren for leading this initiative.
- The Board welcome the return of our Parent Teacher Association in 2026/27 and would like to thank all those who have expressed an interest and a willingness to be involved.
- The Board would like congratulate our 6th Class students on their recent Graduation and would like to wish them the very best into the future.
- The Board would like to thank all staff for their enormous contribution throughout the school year and in creating a wonderful environment for all children to learn and grow. The Board would also like to thank the children of Tullamore Educate Together for a wonderful year and wish everyone a restful summer break.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

26th August School Re-opens

26th August - 4th September Junior Infants Shortened Day 9:20 - 12:30.

23rd September County Photos - Junior Infants, 6th Class & Siblings.

