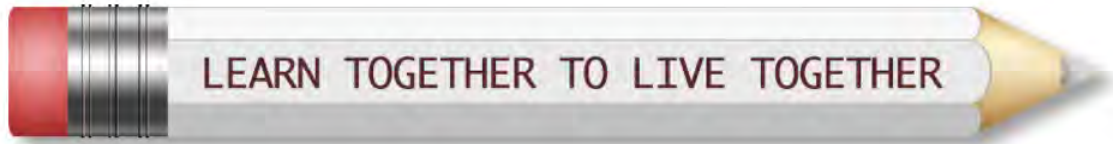




TULLAMORE EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Scoil Náisiúnta Ag Foghlaim Le Chéile An Tulach Mhór



September 2023

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 Ellen, Eimear, Aisling, Michelle H, and Eileen.

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 20th-24th.

Art and Craft Money

Each year in early September we ask for an Art and Craft/Insurance fee for each child. The fee is €50 for one child, €90 for two and €120 for three. Please send it to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. The insurance fee is for a 24 hour cover which applies to social, domestic and leisure activities in addition to school activities. Most parents have paid it already. Thank you for that!

Aistear

Aistear is a framework for learning through play. This month's theme was 'Home'. The children learned the relevant vocabulary and phrases through role-play, game-playing and art.

Annual Ballooning Championships

The Irish Ballooning Association is holding the annual Ballooning Championships in Tullamore this year from Saturday 23rd September to Thursday 28th September. Shauna organised a visit from one of the participating groups which entailed a demonstration of the balloon equipment and a talk on how

it all works. Due to Storm Agnes it wasn't possible to inflate the balloon. The children really enjoyed the demonstration.

Learn Together Programme

This year we are focusing on the Learn Together Programme strand, Moral and Spiritual Development in assembly. 6th Class were the first class to participate and their topic was kindness. The class sang a lovely song which they also signed to mark International Day of Sign Languages which was last Saturday. Well done 6th Class!

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.

Assembly

We had our first monthly assembly of the year on September 28th.

The winners of last year's talent show-The Super Magic Bros received their long awaited trophies!

Congratulations to Aiza and Valerie (Junior Infants), Rithvik (Senior Infants), Louis (1st Class), Rowan (2nd Class), Noah (3rd Class), Jennifer (4th Class), Yeva (The Arc), Della (5th Class) and Ayman (6th Class) who were the September recipients of our handwriting awards. Well done to all!

Thanks to Breda for the upkeep of the handwriting noticeboard.

Parent Teacher Association

The Parent Teacher Association AGM is on October 4th next at 7.00 p.m. Every parent/guardian of a child in the school is automatically a member of the PTA. A committee is elected at the AGM of which three people will be officers: a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer. This will be the first committee since the pandemic.

Board of Management

The current Board of Management's term is up on November 30th. A Board of Management has eight members in total. There is one female parent nominee and one male parent nominee on the Board. These are elected at a meeting of parents in November organised by the Chairperson of the Board. The Board also consists of two nominees by the Patron Body, Educate Together, of whom the Chairperson is one, one teacher nominee and the Principal. These six nominees then elect two community nominees to bring the number of members to eight. The Board of Management is responsible for the running of the school and the employment of staff. The Principal answers to the Board of Management. The current parent nominees are Sharon Lawrence and Jonathan D'Arcy. Parent elections will be held in early November.

Enrolment

Enrolment for the academic year is open on November 6th next. All admission information is available on the school website.

Educate Together Day

On October 27th we have our annual Educate Together Dress Up day where we celebrate being an Educate Together school. Please ensure costumes are comfortable to wear! Again we will have prizes for the best home-made costumes. This is also the last school day before mid-term begins. School goes to 3.00 p.m. on this day.

Clubs

Shauna and Doireann are starting a before-school choir every Friday September 29th from 9.00 a.m.- 9.20 a.m. for children in the 3rd-6th Classes who have an interest in singing.

Cathy L is starting a quiz club at first break every Wednesday from October 4th next.

Secondary School

The local secondary schools are visiting the school and information on open nights has been widely circulated on social media and on the school websites.

Attendance

There is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress. Your co-operation with maintaining high attendance and punctuality is greatly appreciated. As part of the Board of Management's revised strategy on attendance, parents who take their children on holidays during the school term are required to fill out a separate form in addition to filling in the absence on Aladdin. This form will be posted out to parents. Parents will also receive a letter at intervals reminding them of the number of days their child has been absent from school.

Housekeeping

Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 4th Class are strictly nut-free zones.

We do not mark children's birthdays in school. Please do not send in any food for distribution as it will be returned.

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.

Coming Up

- October 5th :Vision Screening for Junior Infants
- October 13th :Photographs taken of Junior Infants and 6th Class
- October 27th : Educate Together Day
- Maths Week
- Student Council elections

Take care,

Cathy