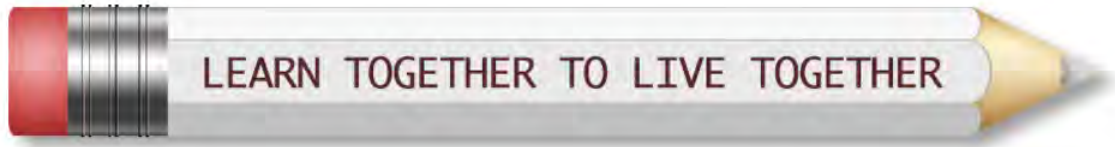




TULLAMORE EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Scoil Náisiúnta Ag Foghlaim Le Chéile An Tulach Mhór



October 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### Maths Week

Maths week took place from October 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. There was great excitement on the junior corridor guessing the number of lego blocks in a jar. Three children, Alisa (SI), Alicia (1<sup>st</sup> Class) and Eoghan (2<sup>nd</sup> Class) guessed correctly with 16. On the senior corridor the children had to guess the number of balls in a bucket. The correct number was 48 and the following children guessed correctly -Zerah (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Tom and Dovijus (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Chloe (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Alex (6<sup>th</sup> Class). The eight children won prizes as did the following children for the Maths Art Competition:

Junior Infants 1: Kaya- 2 D Shapes  
Junior Infants2: Aodhan- 2D Shapes  
Senior Infants: Cindy – 2D Shapes  
1<sup>st</sup> Class: Dhaarvine-Maths Facts  
2<sup>nd</sup> Class: Lina-Inspired by Maths  
The Arc1.-Kali Ann-2D Printing  
3<sup>rd</sup> Class1: Artem- Pattern  
3<sup>rd</sup> Class 2: Caoimhe-Symmetry  
4<sup>th</sup> Class: Rowan- Quadrilateral Robot  
The Arc 2: Oliwia 2D Shapes  
5<sup>th</sup> Class: Lucy-Geometry and Co-ordinate mapping  
6<sup>th</sup> Class: David -Tesselation

A big thanks to Michelle for organising a great week.

### Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings will be the week of 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> of November.

### Vaccinations

Junior Infants had their MMR vaccination.

There is also an opt-in anti-flu vaccination made available through the school for all staff and children on Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> next.

## Secondary Schools

This year there is a central online application system for Tullamore College, the Sacred Heart School, Coláiste Choilm and Presentation School, Killina. This is available at [apply to school.ie](http://apply.to.school.ie). It opened on October 1st for three weeks. All of this information was sent already to 6<sup>th</sup> Class parents via Aladdin.

## Admission Process

The Admission Process for Tullamore ETNS for 2026/27 will be live from November 3<sup>rd</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 Arc closing date is earlier than that of the mainstream enrolment.

### **Number of places being made available in 2026/2027**

The number of places being made available in Junior Infants is	<b>24</b>
The number of places being made available in the special class catering for children with a diagnosis of ASD who also have a written recommendation for a place an autism class attached to a mainstream school is	<b>0</b>

### **Number of places being made available in other classes in 2026/2027 is**

Senior Infants	<b>15</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Class	<b>0</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	<b>0</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	<b>3</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Class	<b>8</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> Class	<b>1</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Class	<b>0</b>

### **The number of places offered in 2025/2026 were as follows:**

Junior Infants	<b>32</b>
ASD Class	<b>1</b>
Other year groups	<b>10</b>

## One Day Together

Today, October 24<sup>th</sup> we had our dress up day. It was the annual One Day Together day when we mark being an Educate Together School. The Board of Management will make a donation to Educate Together and this money is put towards up-skilling teachers and Board members on relevant areas. The classes paraded around the yard so that we could all get a good look at each other's costumes. Prizes for the best

homemade costumes went to Sarim and Hannah (Junior Infants), Margot (Senior Infants), Moustafa (1<sup>st</sup> Class), Eoghan (2<sup>nd</sup> Class), Itnas and Caoimhe (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Ayla (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Oliwia (The Arc), Iffah (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Eason (6<sup>th</sup> Class). The Student Council chose the best staff costume. This went to Aisling, who turned up as Michael D. Higgins -rather aptly, on this his last day as President of Ireland. She also had his dog, Misneach in tow!

### Assembly

We had our second assembly of the year on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. The hand writers of the month were Sarra (Junior Infants), Denny (Senior Infants), Nilolaiya (1<sup>st</sup> Class), Alex (2<sup>nd</sup> Class) Gvidas (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Ekhlal (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Ben (The Arc), Mateja (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Zakari (6<sup>th</sup> Class).

Michelle introduced the 5<sup>th</sup> Class performance about Diwali as part of the Learn Together Programme. 5<sup>th</sup> Class did a wonderful dramatization of the origins of the Festival of Lights. Well done to Ethel and 5<sup>th</sup> Class! It was super.

### Student Council

The Student Council for 2025-2026 has been elected. The members are as follows: Gabriella, Louis, Lev and April (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Meabh and Mohamad (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Noah and Lucy (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Mija and Kyril (6<sup>th</sup> Class). The council's first task was to choose the best staff costume on One Day Together. The first meeting was held on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all those elected.

### Wellbeing Warriors

Shauna oversaw the election of this year's Wellbeing Warriors Committee. The committee is going to look after our wellbeing through a variety of activities and strategies throughout the year. The members are as follows: Itanas, Miah, kira and Milan (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Rohit and Maria (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Róisín and Dovydas (5<sup>th</sup> Class), and Alex and Jennifer (6<sup>th</sup> Class). Congratulations to all those elected.

### Green Team

Alison oversaw the election of the Green Team. This is our first Green Team since Covid-19 so it's great to see it back in operation again. The team members are as follows : Valeriia, Irfan, Keziah and Rían (3<sup>rd</sup> Class), Ayla and Tom (4<sup>th</sup> Class), Akash and Ripley (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Yousaf and Adriana (6<sup>th</sup> Class)

### Play-based learning

The new curriculum framework places a lot of emphasis on learning through play. This was always central to our practice in the school. This month's theme was 'school'. The children learned the relevant vocabulary through role-play, game-playing and art.

### GAA Round-up

Our girls and boys teams have been taking part in Cumann na mBunscol for the last months. Their games were as follows:

Tullamore ETNS Girls' vs Kilcormac October 1<sup>st</sup> in Kilcormac  
Tullamore ETNS Boys' vs Walsh Island October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Walsh Island  
Tullamore ETNS Boys' vs Cloneyhurke October 9<sup>th</sup> on the pitch  
Tullamore ETNS Girls' vs Edenderry October 10<sup>th</sup> on the pitch  
Tullamore ETNS Boys' vs Kilcormac October 21<sup>st</sup> in Kilcormac  
Tullamore ETNS Girls' vs Scoil Mhuire October 22<sup>nd</sup> in O' Brien Pk

We didn't make it to the finals this year but we had some very good games. Our new jerseys looked great! Well done to the panel of players.

Thanks to all the teachers involved: Sarah C, Sarah Mc, Breda, Aisling and Shauna.

### Credit Union Quiz

The Credit Union Schools Quiz is usually in February. We will be picking two teams from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes after the midterm break. If your child is interested in taking part I would recommend that they have a look at some quiz questions over the next week or so.

### Colin Dunne Primary Schools Track and Field Competition

This took place in the Harriers on Tuesday October 14<sup>th</sup>. Max in 6<sup>th</sup> Class won a medal. Well done to all involved. Thanks to Shauna, Breda and Sarah for all their work.

### Whole School Evaluation (WSE)

There is a new curriculum framework being introduced on a phased basis over the next five years or so. One example of change is that a modern language will be introduced. Another will be the change in times allocated to different subjects. The new curriculum in English and Maths is already being implemented.

We had a whole school evaluation on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> whereby two Department inspectors, Lena Ní Dhuinn and John Fitzgerald came to evaluate teaching and learning in the school as well as our work in relation to diversity. They also spoke to a focus group of children about their experience of the school. They chose two students to do a walk around the school building.

The feedback was very positive and they were very impressed with the children.

### The Pitch

MCOH Architects have supplied further information to Offaly County Council in respect of the planning application for a new school building on the site beside Tullamore ETNS. It's available to read on the County Council page where submissions were made. In summary (and in my words) it adds more car park spaces to the plan and makes them more visually appealing (plants). It disputes that soft play area for Tullamore ETNS is their issue and that we have adequate play space as it is. It outlines that there are enough school places in the seven other schools in the town to meet any potential growing need and that the greatest need is actually a new school building for Offaly School of Special Education. A decision is due on the application by November 16<sup>th</sup> next.

### School Closure

The school is closed to children on Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> for staff training.

### Retirement

As I will be retiring at the end of this term. I am in my 35<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher, the last nineteen of which I have served as principal of Tullamore ETNS. My last day will be Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The recruitment of the principal position is a national competition open to primary teachers who have 5 years recognised teaching service. It will be overseen by the patron body, Educate Together.

Thank you for your continued support.

Enjoy the rest of the break and see you all on November 3<sup>rd</sup> !

Cathy