

Dear all in our school community

As we head into our Easter Break we look back on another great term in school and highlight some of the upcoming plans for the summer term ahead

Please see attached our end of term news-round from all of the classes.

We wish all children, staff and parents a wonderful break over the coming weeks.

We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 28th April at 8.40am!

With all best wishes

Wicklow ETNS

## **Some highlights from term 2**

### **Sporting Achievements**

Football - Both the boys from 6th class and the girls from 5th and 6th class, thoroughly enjoyed playing in the annual FAI 5a-a-side tournament in Greystones this year. Despite winning many of their games, they just missed out on qualification for the next round.

Chess - Children from both 4th and 6th class took part in the Ficheall tournament in Arklow this year. Our 6th class team came second, missing out by just half a point to the eventual winners, which was a super effort. Many of our 4th class played tournament chess for the first time and we were delighted that other schools commented on the good behaviour and respect shown whether they won or lost.

### **Student Council**

The Student Council were lucky enough to visit the Ombudsman for children office at the start of the term. It was really informative for the council to see how the Ombudsman works and what they do. We also had a visit from the Wicklow Cancer Support society who collected the cheque from our fund-raising efforts earlier in the year. Over €1000 was an incredible effort.



**Green Schools** Our Green Schools Committee have continued to keep a tally of all children who COW (cycle), SOW (scoot) and WOW (walk) on Wednesdays. They are delighted to report that all classes have done their very best this term with a special well done to Rafe's Senior Infants and to Hannah's 5<sup>th</sup> Class who achieved the Golden Boot Award on several occasions this term!

We were very lucky to have some very special tadpoles in school in recent weeks, it was a joy to observe them grow and they were a great source of chats for our students each day. They have now been safely moved to their new home in our school pond. Watch out for frogs in the coming months!

We were delighted to achieve first prize in Wicklow County Council's Sustainable Development Awards this year and the Green Schools Committee were very proud to accept the award on behalf of the school this week from Sarah Rubalcava, Wicklow County Council.

The Green Schools Committee will be heading to Kilmacurragh in the Summer Term to learn more about Biodiversity and tour the Gardens there. They deserve very high praise for their super work so far this year in school-Thank you all.



**Green Schools Committee 2024 2025** from left to right Back row Emilia 5<sup>th</sup> class, Cara 5<sup>th</sup> class, Mina 4<sup>th</sup> class, Sarah Wicklow CO CO, Zander 5<sup>th</sup> class, Sinead Principal, Cal 5<sup>th</sup> class, Ella 6<sup>th</sup> class, Olive 6<sup>th</sup> class, Ben 5<sup>th</sup> class, Joshua 3<sup>rd</sup> class

Front row Emilia 3<sup>rd</sup> class, Ella 3<sup>rd</sup> class, Casey, 3<sup>rd</sup> class (Daniel 6<sup>th</sup> & Philip, Oscar & Ellie 4<sup>th</sup> class not in photo)

## School Garden update

We are delighted to see classes being able to get out to garden and explore our school outdoor areas. The growing garden is coming on really well with plants of all varieties thriving in both our polytunnel and in our raised beds. Special thanks to our garden helpers especially caretaker, Oisín and parent Donna please let info@ know if you would like to get involved. Many classes have been able to get out into our wildlife 'Coill Beag' where there are lots of native trees just coming into leaf, our new pond and plenty of insects and birds flourishing

**PTA Committee** Sincere thanks to our PTA committee for their wonderful work throughout the year. Thanks to committee member Elaine Convery who finished her term on the committee thank you.

The new committee are as follows

**Chairperson: Wendy Doyle (returning)**

**Secretary: Anja Karamalis (returning)**

**Treasurer: Aline Byrne (returning)**

### Committee members:

Sophie Barnes (returning)

Avril Kilfeather (returning, board member)

Aoife O'Malley (returning)

Jennifer Keane (returning, staff member)

Jennifer Andrews (returning)

Rachel Moriarty (returning)

Sarah O'Toole (new member)

Deborah Higgins (new member)

Kunle Arogundade (new member)

## Get Ready to Quiz!

Parents, guardians, and quiz lovers—it's that time again! 🧠 ⚡

Join us for the **Annual PTA Quiz Night** on **May 14th at 19:30** at **Wicklow Golf Club**. It's a night of fun, laughs, and a chance to prove you know more than your kids about random facts. 🤖

There will be **prizes** for **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place**—so bring your A-game!

**Cost:** €10 per person (Team size is 4, don't worry if you don't have a team, we'll set teams up on the night)

**To Register:** Email [pta@wicklowetns.com](mailto:pta@wicklowetns.com) to secure your spot!

We can't wait to see you there!

Your PTA team

**Staff Updates** We say a very fond farewell to Sylvie who has worked as part of the SET team over the past year Thank you for your lovely work Sylvie during this time.

Sinead, our Principal, will be on leave throughout the summer term and we wish Sinead all the best during her upcoming surgery and recovery. During this time Sharon will be acting Principal & Eamonn Acting Deputy. Jen will continue in her role

as Assistant Principal 1, and we are delighted that Mercedes returns in early May as our other assistant Principal 1. A heartfelt thanks to all other teachers on our in school leadership team: Rory, Amy, Rafe, Denise and Edele.

We also thank our wonderful office staff and caretaker. Thank you, Lisa, Alma, Debbie L. and Oisin, for all you do for the staff, children, and parents. We appreciate your wonderful work greatly. We also are very grateful to our cleaning team

### **Building Great News!!**

As communicated last week we are immensely excited about the repair to the school roof which is currently taking place. Works will continue over the Easter Break with all internal and electrical repairs expected to be completed. There will be final preparations and a deep clean of the Additional Needs Area and the School Hall in advance of the new term on Monday April 28<sup>th</sup>, with a phased reopen\* as follows

Joe's Class relocate to Additional Needs Area

Jen's Class move upstairs (to be very close to the other 2<sup>nd</sup> class)

Paul's Class move downstairs and will be delighted to be very close to the yard and to the hall

Sherpa Kids will use the hall and collection point for parents/those collecting will be the middle doors at the hall, as per previous arrangement

The school hall will reopen for school use once all preparations have been completed

The School Library planning can now begin to reopen our school library during 2025 2026 school year

\*May be subject to change dependent on works being completed on time

Special thanks are due to all staff throughout the past year for your grit and determination through many changes, moves & uncertainty, the students you have been amazing and worked hard throughout. And to all the parents who gave support and demonstrated patience and trust during a very difficult and often frustrating time in the school's history-thank you all.

**Hot school Meals Update**-Special thanks to Aoife & Christina, our amazing hot school meals staff, who do a wonderful job every day in preparation & serving up the meals to the children daily!

Carambola - Menu change

A new Spring/Summer menu is now available for selection on the Carambola website (for meals delivered when we are back after the Easter holidays). There is some information from Carambola below.

A few items are being removed from the menu and there are 'automatic replacements' which will be provided unless parents log in and select another meal.

We would advise all parents to log on to the Carambola website by midnight **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April** to review meal selections for Term 3.

### **Our NEW Spring/Summer Menu is now LIVE!**

Parents can now log in to amend their child's order for the first week back after Easter Break.

The delicious new items added to the menu are:

- A baked Cod Goujon, served with Sweet Potato Mash and Peas - *Dairy Free*
- A chicken "spice bag" - a mix of chicken breast, peppers & potato bites in a tasty (but good for you!) spice mix - *Gluten Free and Dairy Free*
- A fresh, basil, nut free Pesto Pasta - *Nut Free, Vegetarian*
- A Vegan Bean Burrito Bowl - *Gluten Free, Dairy Free*
- A tasty Beef Burrito Bowl - *Dairy Free*
- Swedish Meatballs with mashed potatoes, peas and gravy - *Gluten Free*

**Some items from the existing menu have been removed during this change, so it is important to note which items they are. If a child is currently receiving any of the items listed below, they will receive a replacement item automatically unless you log in to amend the menu. We have emailed parents about this change.**

- Italian Lasagna with Garlic Bread - this will be replaced with Meatballs with Pasta and Tomato Sauce
- Shredded Beef with Mash and Gravy - this will be replaced with Roast Chicken Breast, mash, veg and gravy
- Cottage Pie with Diced Carrot - this will be replaced with Roast Chicken Breast, mash, veg and gravy
- Veggie Lasagna with Garlic Bread - this will be replaced with Gluten Free Pasta with Tomato Sauce
- Chinese Style Veggie Rice - this will be replaced with Vegan Bites Medley with mixed veg

### **Please Note Dates Plan for the term ahead**

Some dates for your diary in the summer term.....

### **Early school closures**

**Friday 2 May phased** closure Staff Meeting

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 12 noon** closure for all students for staff Bi Cinealta (Anti bullying) training. Special thanks to all parents and students for your valued feedback on our recent surveys

**School Photographs 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**PTA Quiz 14<sup>th</sup> May**

**Mid Term Break** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June (Inclusive)

**June** will be active month, there will be no homework for the month of June (start gathering those school books at home!), with sports days happening and all school tour dates as follows

10th June	2nd Class Wells House Tour
10th June	6th Class Alive Outside Tour
11th June	Senior Infants Kia Ora Farm Tour
18th June	1st Class Avondale Tour
18th June	3rd Class Greenan Maze Tour
19th June	Junior Infants Glenroe Farm Tour
20th June	4th Class Clara Lara Tour
20th June	5th Class Hidden Valley Tour

There will also be Bike to School Day in June....more details to follow

6<sup>th</sup> class Graduation will take place the evening of **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June.**