



Weekly Update

Dear school community,

What a phenomenal week we have had at Wicklow ETNS. All our classes completed their standardised tests without any issue and we are so proud of how they all did their best and took this in their stride.

Today, we had our first Junior Assembly in the hall since our last one in October. We sang Happy Birthday three times as we acknowledged 85 birthdays that had taken place between November and April! We heard lots of news from the classes, some of which we have shared with you below.

Classroom News

Junior Infants: This week, we've really enjoyed making our timeline posters and seeing each other's baby photos and noticing how much we've all grown and changed. We also learned about people who help us in our community and we even got to be builders outside in the sunshine using giant Lego™

Senior Infants were learning all about water this week. Playing with and chasing bubbles, visiting the aquarium and learning about the deep blue sea made it a fun week. We've loved learning new yard games with 6th class and Mercedes, especially 'Crocodile, Crocodile'! Our skipping challenge has brought us to places as far as Luxembourg, Bern and Lichtenstein. Well done senior infants!

1st Class had a jam-packed week this week, learning all about wonderful bees on World Bee Day; working on our Rounders skills in the sunshine and even doing some data collection and graph making. We did our first ever standardised tests and smashed it. We worked hard and were so proud of ourselves for trying our best and showing what we've learned. Well done first class!

2nd Class had a busy but fun week this week. Standardised testing took place so we got to do lots of ultra-tag, daisy chain making, extra DEAR time and football on the green as a well-earned reward. We also started GAA with Jack and it was brilliant! We are also learning about social media, dreams. Space, emotions and memories!

3rd Class worked hard doing their standardised testing this week but also got to enjoy marking World Bee Day by starting their own bee projects. We also wrote our own stories and are working towards writing and illustrating our own books and finished our water safety posters!

4th Class did themselves proud by completing their standardised testing this week. They were rewarded with lots of action in P.E. with lots of 'Rounders' and games of 'Capture the Flag' and football.

5th Class worked really hard and completed their standardised testing. They still made time to do amazing water safety projects which they are proudly displaying at the back of their class. 5th class also did their county projects and used a wheel to spin and decide who gets to work on what County.

6th Classes completed their standardised testing this week but also found time to help the senior infants on yard time. They are learning their graduation song at the moment so the halls are filled with their dulcet tones. They have barely a minute as they're also working on final touches for their graduation art portraits. It's all go for 6th class!

Green Schools' News

The winners of the Golden Boot this week are: **Junior Infants Green** and **3rd Class Green**. Well done to all who walked, cycled, scooted, took the bus or carpooled this week.

Green Schools' committee will visit Kilmacurragh Botanical Gardens next Monday with Mercedes and Geraldine, and we'll look forward to hearing more from them about this trip later this year. Please remember to wear appropriate clothes for the weather on the day: sun cream and rain gear both needed.

Fighting Words Workshop

Next week, Eamonn's 4th class will attend Wicklow Library to take part in the first Fighting Words workshop for our school, with Janet's class will be attending next month. As published authors, our 4th classes will enjoy this writing workshop. More information available here: <https://www.fightingwords.ie/what-we-do/information-parents> and we will eagerly await a report from 4th classes afterwards.

Children's Books Ireland


Next Thursday, Rory's class will receive a visit from author Eilish who published her first book, *Fia and the Last Snow Deer*, in September 2024. It has since been selected as one of the An Post Irish Books of the Year for 2024. Eilish already worked with Paul's 6th class earlier this year, and this follow-on workshop will now involve Rory's class. More information about the book is available here: <https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/fia-and-last-snow-deer>

Visit from Water Safety Ireland

Next Tuesday, the whole school receive an address by Sarah Flood from Water Safety Ireland who will discuss water safety with the children in an age-appropriate manner and will bring in life buoys and life jackets to familiarise the children with this life saving equipment. This will build on the work the teachers have begun and will continue into June.

Sports Updates


Reminder: Sports Days Provisional dates: Senior Sports Day will take place on Thursday, 12th June off-site at Wicklow Rugby Grounds. Please email us at info@wicklowetns.com with Senior Sports' Day volunteer in the subject line if you can help on the day. Thanks to all who have already volunteered. Junior Sports Day (J1 – 2nd classes) on Friday, 13th June at the school. Both dates are dependent on the weather, with decisions being made closer to the time to cancel if necessary.

 **Bike to School Day** – Tuesday, 17th June is still our provisional day for this event, again weather permitting. More information to follow.

Skip Around Europe Challenge

The student council are helping Rafe and Edele coordinate and tally the skipping challenge. Here is their report from this week, compiled by Matilda, 5th class:

"This week we continued skipping all around Europe and beyond. As well as that, Julie made a beautiful poster of the world so we could track our skips. Skipping is a good activity to get you out of your classroom and to get active. Guess what! We have done 69,082 skips this week. It is less than last week but we did do all our tests this week!"


 **GAA** Jack from the local GAA club continues to teach GAA skills to our 2nd and 6th classes this term on Fridays. We'll look forward to hearing from them in the coming weeks about the skills they are learning!


Home Based Summer Programme details for 2025 have been announced by the Department of Education and all families with a child/ren eligible to avail of this scheme should have received an email from the school today. Any queries on this should be emailed to: info@wicklowetns.com marked FAO Mercedes/Denise ASAP.



Junior Infants 2025-26 – next week we will welcome our incoming junior infants and their parents/guardians on Tues 27th and Thurs 29th to visit the school and get ready for joining our community.

Reminders:

6th Class Reminder– Graduation Contribution Payment – if you haven't already done so, please can you pay the contribution towards the graduation events by Monday, 9th June. Thank you.

 **SCHOOL TOURS School Tours** – All school tours are booked and began today with Joe's class heading to Kia Ora Farm. Thank you to all who have already paid for their tours. **Reminder: outstanding tour payments need to be paid in full by Friday 30th May.**

 **5th Class families** received an email about the traditional hosting of the Graduation for our 6th class families. If you can help on the night of the 24th, please email info@wicklowetns.com for the attention of Alma.

  Please do not bring dogs or other pets onto the school premises with the exception of assistance animals. Thank you.

We would also like to thank you for your cooperation in not sending fruit-winder-type products in lunch boxes as they can make for a very messy and sticky floor.

Finally, we are enclosing two external attachments which may be of interest to you. One from The Department of Education concerning information for schools on drug and alcohol use and a second communication from Túsla detailing an upcoming Fostering information evening.

! FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES !

Monday 2nd June – Bank Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday 3rd – Friday 6th June – Mid-term break. School Closed
Monday 9th June – Half-Day closure for *Bí Cineálta* staff training
Thursday, 12th June – Senior Sports' Day (off-site)
Friday, 13th June – Junior Sports' Day
Tuesday, 17th June – Bike to School Day
Tues, 24th June – 6th Class Graduation (evening)
Thurs, 26th June – Early school closure for end of year