



## Weekly Update

Dear school community,

I hope you are all feeling rested after our half term break. We are into a busy time of the year now with lots of sports, tours and activities.

## Classroom News

**Junior Infants:** learned all about Summer this week. Their role play area was transformed into an ice-cream parlour and they loved pretending to serve and eat their favourite ice-cream. They enjoyed playing with kinetic sand in their messy area and especially enjoyed building sand castles with it. They had water races using sponges in preparation for sports day and also practised their relay races. They've enjoyed listening to Summer stories, songs and rhymes.

**Senior Infants** went on their school tour to Kia Ora farm this week and had a great day. They loved petting and seeing the baby bunnies, go karts, feeding all the different animals and seeing the alpacas and llamas. They enjoyed their delicious ice-cream and playing in the playground, playing football and having fun in the maze and in the sand!

**1st Class** Blue celebrated their hard work this week with a delicious and well-earned pizza party. While there was some disappointment that sports day had to be postponed, spirits were high as everyone is now looking forward to the rescheduled event next Friday. The week also included a wonderful "Pet Day", where students shared stories about their beloved companions, created drawings, and made clay sculptures of them to present to the class. In Naoise's class, in SESE, they were diving into the fascinating world of Mary Anning, the famous fossil hunter and took on the role of young historians – examining fossils, putting together their very own fossilised dinosaurs, and learning all about the process of how fossils are formed. In Maths, they turned their attention to Time – not just reading clocks, but also exploring calendars and TV schedules. The class have done brilliantly working out days, months, and programme times.

**2nd Class** went on their school tour to Wells House in Wexford this week, where the children spent time with the animals, completed a historic house tour and enjoyed a train ride through their sculpture filled woodland looking for birds. They also enjoyed the petting zoo and the playground. An amazing day was had by all. The children have also been working with the ipads this week and have been researching some very interesting projects. GAA continued today with Jack and has certainly been highlight for the children!

**3rd Class** had their very first creative day on Friday! They had different stations and made their own Play-Doh, pet rocks, friendship bracelets and practiced their observational drawing skills. It was a well-deserved treat after an extremely busy year! They were also very busy learning about bees and hives and were skipping across Europe and building up their kilometres collectively but the highlight of their week was definitely Art day. They had a great day making stress balls, bracelets and experimenting with clay and paint.

**4<sup>th</sup> Class** had a busy week also. They played so much football and are mastering a Spanish dance tune, 'Fandango' on the recorders. They designed mythical creatures and drew cacti. In gaeilge, they even made fortune tellers and measured liquids in maths!

**5<sup>th</sup> Class** learned all about probability in maths this week. They used card games and die to help them with their learning. They're 'pros' at it now! They played Football and Rounders for PE which was really fun. In Gaeilge they have been learning all about An Samhradh and they even made their own wordle game. For Learn Together they learned all about Pride which is celebrated this month. We're very excited for our school tour next week! 😊

**6<sup>th</sup> Classes** had a great week this week, where they overcame many obstacles and had a splash on their school tour at Alive Outside in Kilruddery. Some of the activities they did were kayaking, jumping off a pier into water, going down giant water slides, completing part of the Hell & Back obstacle course, Bushcraft skills activities and building outdoor shelters. They also had a sweet time around the campfire making smores. They gave the tour 🧺 🧺

### Green Schools' News

The winners of the Golden Boot this week are: Senior Classes: 4<sup>th</sup> Blue and Junior Classes: 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue. Congratulations to both classes and a very well done to all who walked, cycled, scooted, took the bus or carpooled this week.


### Sports Updates

**Reminder: Sports Days Revised dates:** Senior Sports Day will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June off-site at Wicklow Rugby Grounds. Please email us at [info@wicklowetns.com](mailto: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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> classes) on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June at the school. Both dates remain dependent on the weather, with decisions being made closer to the time to cancel if necessary.

**Tennis:** Congratulations to our 6<sup>th</sup> class children Ben, Hunter, Charlie, Matthew, Olive, Fraya, Danice and Pradyun – who performed in the annual Wicklow Town schools' tennis tournament which took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May last. A great day was had by all! Our team of Matthew Ben, Hunter and Charlie came an impressive second place, missing out on winning the overall tournament by one single point. Thank you to all who supported.

 **Cycle to School Day** – Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, weather permitting.

 **GAA** Jack from the local GAA club has just completed teaching GAA skills to our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes this term on Fridays. The children thoroughly enjoyed the last number of weeks under Jack's tutelage.

**From Wicklow Library** – "Attached please find a poster for Wicklow Library's annual 'Summer Stars' reading programme. Children can sign up at the library and will receive a reading card to fill out and then submit weekly to be in to win an array of vouchers. It starts 13<sup>th</sup> June and will run all summer culminating in a magic show/celebration ceremony at the end where everyone will receive a medal and certificate. This year there will be a weekly draw with 3 vouchers given out.

The first draw will be Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June and the vouchers are:

€10.00 Book Voucher

€15.00 Hopkins Toy Store Voucher

€20.00 Apache Pizza Voucher

If the children are not members, it's super easy to join. Just have a parent come in with picture I.D. and proof of address (both found on a driver's license) and sign-up!"

## School Fees 2025 / 2026

Dear parents/guardians,

As you may be aware the Department of Education has continued the Free School Books Grant Scheme to all primary schools for 2025-26 maintaining payment at the same rate as last year. This grant scheme provides school books, workbooks and copy books free of charge to all pupils. This is extremely positive news and progress from the Government and is a most welcome support to all pupils and their families.

Based on the information and arrangements communicated to schools for the next academic year 2025/26, the school will purchase all books, workbooks & copy books for our pupils from this grant. These free books, workbooks & copy books will be supplied, name labelled and ready to go to all of our pupils on our return for the new school year 2025/26.

Whilst the grant is most welcomed, it unfortunately will not cover the cost of all pupil requirements. Therefore, we are asking for a contribution payment of €70 per child. This payment represents a small increase on previous years to cover the increased cost of items being purchased using this money. This will go towards the cost of the following additional items to support teaching and learning:

- Copying & Paper
- Pupil stationery -book box, pencil case and all stationery requirements (pencils, rubbers sharpeners, crayons, marla, colours, pens, glue sticks, mini whiteboards, rulers, scissors, geometry sets & calculators)
- Art & Craft Materials & Classroom resources -Paints, pastels, clay, brushes, glue, all paper, card etc...
- Online resources and IT support resources
- Pupil Personal Insurance this covers each pupil for 24 hours personal accident insurance for 365 days from the beginning of the school year, both in and out of school.

We would ask that this **payment of €70 be made by Friday 5th July** as most items will have already been ordered and paid for by the school by then.

Please note that books previously part of the book rental scheme will continue to be used as part of this scheme and we ask that these are returned to the school ASAP so that we can prepare and pass these on to next year's classes. Many thanks for those already returned and your support in this regard.

Further information about the Free School Books scheme can be found at: [www.gov.ie/schoolbookschemes](http://www.gov.ie/schoolbookschemes) and in the attached flyer.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

**! FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES !**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> class attending Inter-school rounders competition - Rathnew

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June – Cycle to school day and Senior Sports' Day off-site

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> class tour to Greenan Maze and 1<sup>st</sup> class tour to Avondale

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June – Junior Sports' Day

Tues, 24<sup>th</sup> June – 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation (evening)

Thurs, 26<sup>th</sup> June – Early school closure for end of year