

Pelletstown ETNS Newsletter

December 2024

Term 1



We've had a really busy first term of the 2024-2025 school year! You will see below some highlights from each class in the school! You will also see some of the activities being undertaken by our student committees; including the Student Council, our Gaelbhreach committee and our Amber Flag committee.

This term we welcomed some new staff to the school, including new Additional Needs Assistants (ANAs) Audrey and Jodie, who are both working with Junior Infants, and new ANA Ashleigh, who is working in Kingfisher class. We would like to wish Aisling (2nd Class teacher) well on her travels as she goes on leave in January, and we look forward to welcoming Stacey to the staff who will teach Aisling's class until the summer holidays.

We hope that all of our children and families have a peaceful break over the next 2 weeks, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday January 6th 2025!

Our class highlights



Cruidín - Junior Class



Kingfisher - Senior Class



Junior Infants - Wren

(Orla B's class had such a wonderful Term 1. We enjoyed lots of trips out in the community, and our Gymnastics lessons this term were a big hit with all the boys and girls in the class. We have all been working so hard and learning lots of new things everyday in school. We especially love our songs, playing in the movement and sensory rooms as well as listening to our class stories, doing Lego coding and Science experiments!



Junior Infants - Dreoilín

Aoife's class have settled really well into their first ever term in Pelletstown ETNS. We have enjoyed making lots of new friends and trying new things! Some of our favorite activities have been playtime in our doctor's area, going on nature walks and doing lot's of science experiments with Wren. We also performed a penguin dance for our first Winter Show!



Bill/Ellie's class have had a great first term in school! They have been busy with a range of activities such as going to gymnastics and daily excursions e.g. trips on the train/community walks! Bill will return from leave in January - We look forward to welcoming him back to school and we wish Ellie well on her travels!



Senior Infants - Robin

Kate's class have had a great Term 1. We have particularly enjoyed completing experiments during Science Week, taking part in maths activities during Maths Week and performing songs for the Winter performance. We have also really enjoyed our Literacy Power Hour this term - taking part in different stations to do handwriting, phonics, reading and lots more. These are some posters that we made all about the importance of recycling!



Stephanie's class have had a fantastic first term in Junior Infants! The children have settled in so well and are becoming more independent each day! We have been so busy learning lots of new rhymes, singing songs, playing together and learning how to read and write! Wren recently planted some organic micro-greens! We have been looking after them carefully and look forward to eating our mini broccoli plants!



Senior Infants - Spideog

Ailbhe's class have had a super Term 1 filled with fun and lots of learning. We had so much fun doing maths activities for Maths week, science experiments for Science Week and practising so hard for our Winter performance. We have also loved learning about the importance of recycling in Senior Infants! Here are some examples of our winter art and our recycling posters!



1st Class - Goldfinch

Lorna's class have had a fun and busy 1st term. We had our Children's Rights assembly, Community Garden visits, Science Week, Winter Fair, Book Fair, Protesting and Coding! We had lots of fun planting bulbs in front of our school and cannot wait to see them bloom in spring.



2nd Class - Gearg

Rory's Second class and Aisling Second Class visited Draíocht Arts Center in Blanchardstown in November. We had a great time exploring the stage and backstage areas. We did some fun activities and had a nice look around the gallery too.

1st Class - Lasair Choille

Shane's class had an eventful term with lots of learning. Participating in Science and Maths Week was an absolute blast! Experiencing lessons from a different teacher every day made it even more exciting, and we especially loved the hands-on science experiments.

One of our recent highlights was the coding workshop with Vince. It was such a fantastic experience! We got to build Lego models from scratch, and then we used code to animate them and make them move. Watching our creations come to life through programming was both exciting and rewarding. It really showed us how creativity and technology can work together!



3rd Class - Puffin

Amy's class had a fantastic Term 1 in 3rd Class! We enjoyed our nature walk around the school, visits to the mobile library, conducting science experiments, taking part in Drama lessons about the Stone Age, project work and our weekly problem solving activities. We are currently working really hard on our projects about Ancient Egypt and have learned so much! We also had a lot of fun

2nd Class - Quail

Aisling's Second class (as well as Rory's second class) visited Draíocht Arts Centre in November. We had the opportunity to explore the Art Exhibition, The Subversive Stitch, and we even got to perform on the stage in the main auditorium!



3rd Class - Puifín

Ríanne's 3rd Class had an amazing time at Dublin Port Cultural Centre learning about the bridges of Dublin and the River Liffey. We even got to see an original piece of the East Wall! 3rd Class enjoyed taking part in a map-based treasure hunt about Dublin's bridges and even building their own bridges from Lego.

performing our Winter Show
with Rang Puifín!



4th Class - Swallow

Grace T's 4th class have had a busy first term with trips to The Archaeology Museum and The National Botanic Gardens. We enjoyed representing the school at GAA matches, chess tournaments and at our first practice for the National Children's choir. Rang Swallow have enjoyed learning about the Vikings, coding, science week, maths problem solving workshops and lot of other fun activities!



4th Class - Fáinleog

Grace F's 4th had a great first term with many class trips on the train. We visited the Dáil, The Archaeology Museum and The National Botanic Gardens. The boys and girls were delighted with both their wins in GAA. We celebrated many of our themed weeks, including Maths week, Science week and Lámh day. We participated in a Lego Stem workshop and had GAA lessons with Ferghal. We took many walks down the canal, baked bread and made Viking longships out of clay. It has been a term filled with lots of fun and activities!



5th Class - Cuckoo

Darragh's class have had a fantastically busy term. We took a trip to the EPIC Museum to extend our learning on the Great Irish Famine, and we visited Paradise Place ETNS to practice for the National Children's Choir. We also have taken our buddy class to the community garden. Between all that, we've participated in Maths week, Science week, coding workshops, chess tournaments, and GAA competitions.



5th Class - Cuach

Sinéad's 5th class had a very busy first term. We recently went on a trip to the EPIC Museum as we have been learning about the Great Irish Famine. This term we have also enjoyed coding, some cool Science Week activities and practicing with our cluster schools for the National



6th Class - Blackbird

Joanna's class have had a fantastic term with a strong focus on learning about Irish history, specifically Ireland's fight for independence. The highlight for all of us was the trip to and guided tour of Glasnevin Cemetery. We heard fascinating stories about such people as Daniel O'Connell, the



6th Class - Lon Dubh

Claire's 6th Class visited the GPO and Kilmainham Gaol as part of their learning about the 1916 Easter Rising. They saw the jail cells of the leaders of the rising including Éamon de Valera, Pádraig Pearse and Countess Markievicz and the chapel where Joseph Plunkett married Grace Gifford. The

Children's Choir in May. We have had so much fun!

leaders of the 1916 Rising and the participants of the War of Independence and the Civil War. In the photo you can see the children listening to stories about the life and death of Michael Collins

best part was seeing the bullet holes in the walls of the GPO.

Student Voice - Our Student Committees



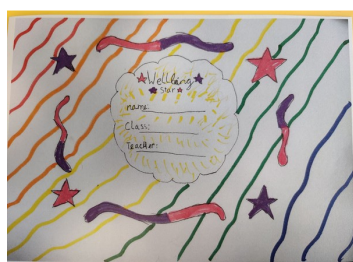
Student Council

The Student Council organised a parade for all classes on our dress up day. We held an election day in November where students from every class from 1st -6th voted for who they wanted to represent their class on this year's Student Council. The first job of the new Student Council was to organise a food drive for the Dublin Simon Community. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed so much for the Simon Community!



Gaelbhreach

Gaelbhreach Committee has been busy this term working together to come up with exciting ways to promote Gaeilge in and out of the class. Each week, members deliver new phrases to every class to learn and we meet to share ideas. We also share some fun jócanna (jokes) like 'Cé mhéad duine a bhíonn i mbriogáid dóiteáin? Naonúr naonúr naonúr!'



Amber Flag

The Amber Flag Committee works to promote wellbeing and positivity throughout our school. The committee decided on three goals for the year: daily laps, a wellbeing week and wellbeing stars. They have given out the school's first Wellbeing Star!

Other School News

Bí Cineálta: New Anti-Bullying Procedures

The Department of Education recently published Bí Cineálta Procedures to prevent and address bullying. These new procedures will come into effect in 2025-2026. The Board of Management and school staff are working on the professional learning elements of this, and in the New Year will begin devising the school's new Bí Cineálta procedures, in consultation with the school community. In order to facilitate further staff training in Bí Cineálta, we have been directed by the

Bí Cineálta

Procedures to Prevent and Address
Bullying Behaviour for Primary and
Post-Primary Schools

June 2024



Department of Education to close for a half day. This will take place on Thursday 13th March, 2025. School will finish at 11:30am (JI, SI, Cruidín and Kingfisher) and 11:45am (1st- 6th Class) on that day.

6th Class singing in Rathborne Nursing Home

6th class went to Rathborne Nursing Home on 19th December to sing some festive carols for the residents there. It was a gorgeous morning and it was lovely to see the children engage with the residents, as well as seeing the smiles it brought to their faces!



Winter Fair and Winter Performances

On 9th December, as part of the PTA's Winter Fair and Bake Sale, all of the classes performed in the hall. It was lovely to see so many families on the day and we are so proud of all the classes who put so much hard work and preparation into their performances!

We are so grateful to our PTA for organising such a magical day, as well as for all of the other work they have undertaken this term. Please read the PTA newsletter to see all of the wonderful things they have done for our school since September!

Inclusion

We are constantly working to ensure our school is an inclusive, neuroaffirmative place for everyone. All staff recently had training with AsIAm (Ireland's Autism Charity) which was greatly beneficial. We have been implementing some ideas that were brainstormed at the training, including having a quiet space for pupils at break times. This will further develop in the New Year to having indoor, quieter hobby club spaces available for pupils. We hope that this will provide a positive, enjoyable experience for our pupils during their break times. We are also making some changes to the school yards in the New Year with additional zones and play spaces available including ball games on the astro, sensory garden and large outdoor games tables to include chess, ludo and snakes and ladders.





GAA

We are continuing to build links with our local GAA club, Oliver Plunkett's Eoghan Ruadh. Games Development Officer (GDO) Fearghal comes to the school weekly for GAA sessions with Junior Infants - 2nd class, and there has also been an increase in the number of pupil's from the school attending the GAA nursery sessions in the club at Martin Savage Park. Any child interested in joining the club can contact Fearghal at the club on Saturdays. We are so grateful to the Plunketts Men's Shed who have been

working with the school and the PTA to help us develop our sensory garden!

National Children's Choir

4th and 5th classes are participating in the National Children's Choir this year. They have a lovely repertoire of 16 songs to learn, and have already covered 8 of these. They had their first cluster rehearsal in November in Paradise Place ETNS, and will have the 2nd rehearsal in February. They will all perform in the National Basketball Arena in April/May and a small percentage of the choir will then go on to sing in the National Concert Hall.



Dublin 15 Autism Class Application Trial

Our school is participating in the Dublin 15 Autism Class Application Trial. Reminder that the closing date for this is 8th January 2025. If you, or anyone you know, requires any assistance with this, there is a drop-in clinic in Powerstown ETNS on 8th January 10am - 11am.

Dates for your Diary:

Please note the below dates carefully:

January 17th and 18th: PTA clothing donation
(Friday 17th: All day, Saturday 18th: 9:00am - 9:30am at the Eric Young Sports Hall)

January 27th: School closed for maths curriculum training day

January 30th: PTA Table Quiz in Oliver Plunkett's GAA club

February 3rd: School closed - Bank Holiday

February 10th - 14th: Parent Teacher Meetings for Cuidín and Kingfisher class

March 3rd - 7th: PTA Readathon (Dress-up day on March 6th)

March 13th: Half day for staff Bí Cineálta training

March 17th: School closed - Bank Holidays



Pelletstown ETNS

Pelletstown ETNS Rathborne Vale, Ashtown, Dublin 15, D15X63X

email: secretary@pelletstownetns.com

website: pelletstownetns.ie

www.twitter.com/@pelletstownetns

