



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the third and final term of this school year. This one is always busy as we look ahead to our upcoming (much anticipated!) Junior Spring Disco as well as school tours, Sports Week and finally our Graduation for our three 6th classes.

That being said, the boys and girls still have 9 school weeks ahead and there is still some hard work yet to be done. We are enjoying the sunnier days and more playtime outside since coming back after spring break.

This week for World Earth Day, many classes took to the yards and school grounds to do litter picking. Thank you all for helping to make keep our school tidy! The staff have also completed a huge clear out and spring clean of our PE store room, general store rooms and Aistear areas, which was a great success!

Finally a huge thank you to all the PAC, volunteers, vendors (parents and external vendors), Sixth Class volunteers and you, the parent body, for making our Craft Fair last Saturday such a success. The atmosphere on the day was wonderful and we are so grateful for the time and effort that goes into organising such gorgeous events for our school and community. More details below!

Have a lovely weekend,
Leona



WELLBEING WEEK

Next week marks the beginning of Wellbeing Week in the school. Pupils and staff will enjoy some wellbeing initiatives thoughtfully put together by the post holder for this area - Niamh Doonan. We will share some updates with you following on from this week. Thank you Niamh!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **4th & 5th May** - School closures - Bank Holiday
- **18th May** - Weekly Cycle Right Training Program for 5th classes starts
- **20th May** - School closure to facilitate Department staff training
- **28th May** - Incoming JI Parent Info Session at 3pm
- **29th May** - Welcome visit for incoming JI - Half day for current Junior Infants,
Collection time at 11:30 - please inform minders/afterschools.



SCHOOL LEAVERS

A reminder that if you plan on relocating or moving schools it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. Pupil numbers have a direct impact on teacher allocation. Our enrolment is down as it stands and each pupil counts. Just let the office know by emailing info@stepasideetns.ie

A NOTE FROM THE PAC - CRAFT FAIR

A huge thanks to everyone who came to the third annual SETNS Craft Fair on Saturday. We hope you had fun and brought home some lovely handmade treasures. We are delighted to announce that the event raised a little over €6,000 for the school, which will be put towards the outdoor classroom project.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers who made the event possible and a huge thank you to our wonderful sixth-class students for their incredible face painting and marvellously creative (and delicious) offerings. Their efforts made a lovely addition to the fair that we hope will continue. Thank you also to everyone who purchased raffle tickets.

We know the many messages can be annoying, but the Craft Fair has become our biggest fundraising event and it is also a lovely way to invite the local community into our school. So to all who got involved or participated, in whatever way, we appreciate your efforts in supporting our school through this event.

PAC



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CONSULTATION

On Thursday, we shared a Google Form with all families inviting expressions of interest for involvement on our Parents Committee for planning our Outdoor Classroom and what this may look like. As you know, PAC fundraising from this year will fund this project in due course. Whether you have experience in the area or not, we would like to invite you to join the committee or share your ideas. You can follow the link [here](#) to do so!

JUNIOR SPRING DISCO

Stepaside ETNS will be hosting a Spring Disco on Thursday, 30th April! The disco is open to children in Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd Class and will take place in the school hall. Children should be dropped off at 7:00pm and collected promptly at 8:30pm. Raffle prizes include 'vouchers' for Extra Golden Time, Extra PE Time, Extra Yard, sitting beside a friend for the morning and a trip to the playground. There are also lots of fabulous toys and games to choose from! See below!

[Raffle tickets here!](#)

[Buy your disco tickets here!](#)



INCOMING JUNIOR INFANT WELCOME DAY

We are looking forward to meeting our incoming Junior Infants on **29th May** for their welcome visit. This will be a great opportunity for the children to see their classroom, meet some of their new classmates and some of the staff. A gentle reminder that this visit is for the incoming child and their parents/guardians only and not for younger siblings. This is to limit the number of people within the school building and make it more enjoyable for the incoming pupils.

Current Junior Infants will go home at 11:30 that day. Please make sure the childminders/creches/afterschools are aware of this early finish. An information session for the incoming JI parents will be held on **28th May at 3pm**. We will email you a welcome pack a day before with some useful information.



GREEN SCHOOLS UPDATE

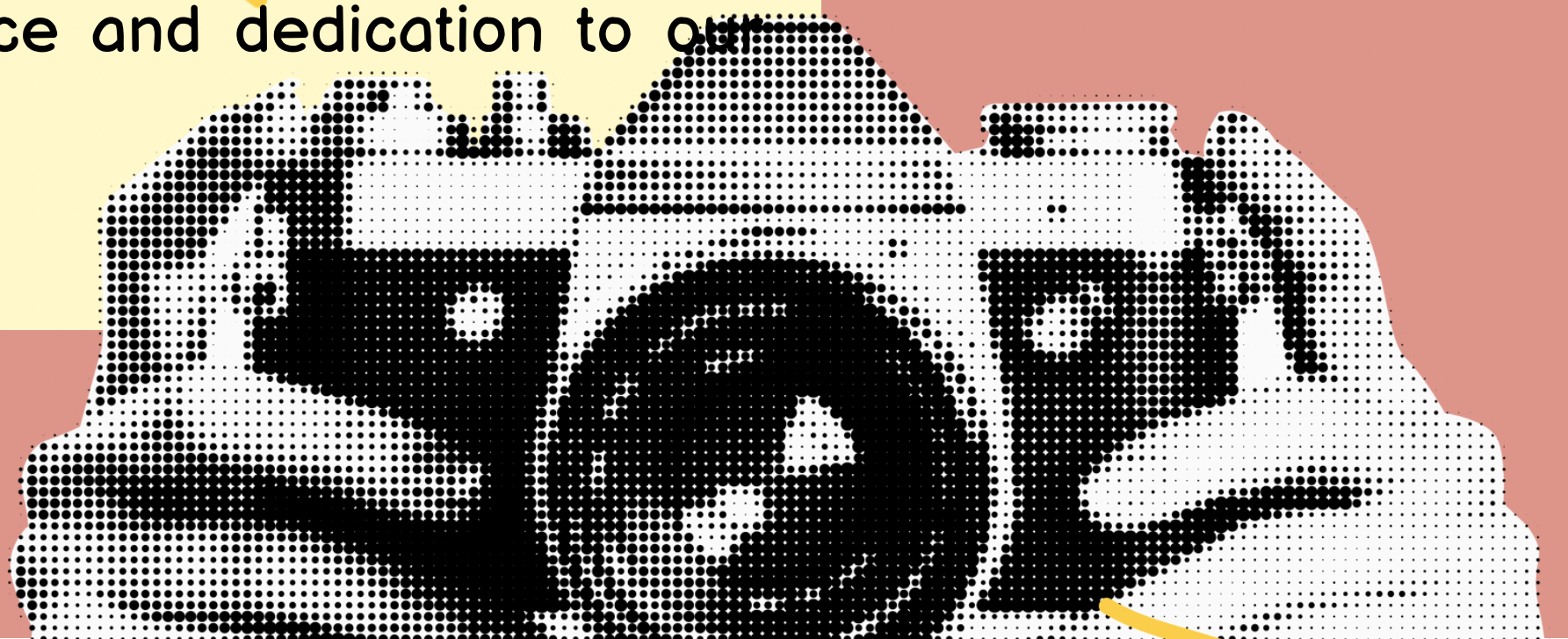
In light of our recent drive to cut down on paper towel usage in school, the Green Schools Committee conducted some research in the classes to determine how effective our efforts have been!

Last week, 28% of all students in our school had their own hand towels in class which are being used for hand washing. This week that figure grew to 39%! It would be fantastic to push that figure to 50% over the coming weeks and aim for even higher over the weeks to come. Thanks to the families who have been able to do so thus far.

The Green Schools Committee are determined to put the pressure on, so we are asking once again for families to send in hand towels with pupils over the coming weeks. The goal is to decrease our spending on paper towels, which was a whopping 16,000 euro last year overall.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

A huge thank you to the wonderful Rónan Palliser, who has again taken on the massive task of shooting our school photographs for this year, volunteering his services to the school free of charge. All money raised from the photos is donated back to the school and is a huge source of income for us. Rónan is a complete professional and has managed to capture the most gorgeous images of our pupils year on year. Also, a big thank you to the PAC volunteers, who assist Rónan on the job. A special mention to the unsung hero, Rúairí, Rónan's son in 6th Class, who has also been on hand to help set up over the last few weeks. We are so grateful to Rónan for his time, patience and dedication to our school and this huge job!



NEWS FROM THIRD CLASS C

3rd Class C have had a busy but fantastic few weeks since returning from the Spring break! We started off with an exciting trip on the Luas into town to attend an Irish Aid workshop. The children learned all about the wonderful work of Irish Aid through group activities and games, and they especially enjoyed taking part in an African drumming workshop—it was great fun! Afterwards, we treated ourselves to ice cream on Grafton Street and enjoyed some time running around in the fresh air in St. Stephen's Green. It truly was a fantastic day.

We were also delighted to welcome Freya's granny, Bridie, into our classroom. She shared fascinating stories about what school life was like in the past and how different it was from today. Bridie also spoke about her time as a teacher, including having a class of 43 students! The children really enjoyed the visit, learning new things and showing her how our classroom works today.

We were very excited to welcome Nicky and Austen from RTÉ Jr, who came to interview us about nature for an upcoming Ecolution podcast—watch this space!

We are also thoroughly enjoying our Climate Literacy workshops with the wonderful Sanja. We have been exploring important topics such as sustainability, climate justice, plastic pollution, and, most recently, fast fashion. Using pre-loved materials, we got creative and designed a fantastic range of items. We especially loved developing our sewing skills—creating stylish handbags, skirts and adorable teddy bears!



NEWS FROM THIRD CLASS C

