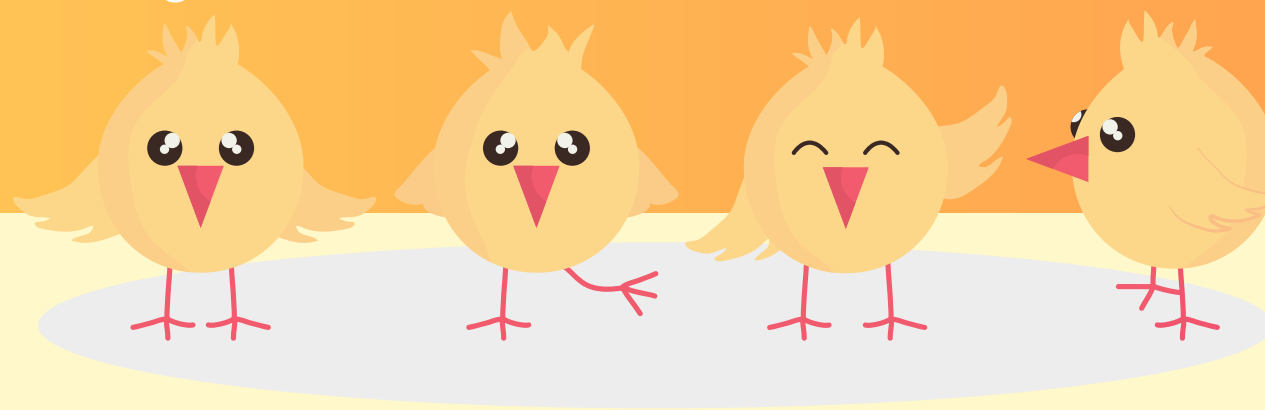


STEPASIDE ETNS

MARCH 27TH 2026



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the last newsletter of the term! How the time is flying by. As we come to the end of a busy and productive term, it is lovely to see the brighter days beginning to stretch ahead of us. Our pupils have been working incredibly hard across all classes, and we are very proud of their efforts and achievements. There is a huge improvement on our yards following a massive effort from the pupils to show kindness, care and inclusivity on our yards. A special mention to our three 3rd Classes as they are flying ahead on our Kindness Tree Challenge with three leaves.

We hope that all families enjoy a restful spring break, with opportunities to relax, recharge, and spend time outdoors. There is much to look forward to in the final term, including our Craft Fair on 18th April, the Junior Spring Disco on 30th April, as well as school tours, sports days, and end-of-year celebrations. We look forward to an enjoyable and memorable term ahead.

Enjoy the break!

Leona



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



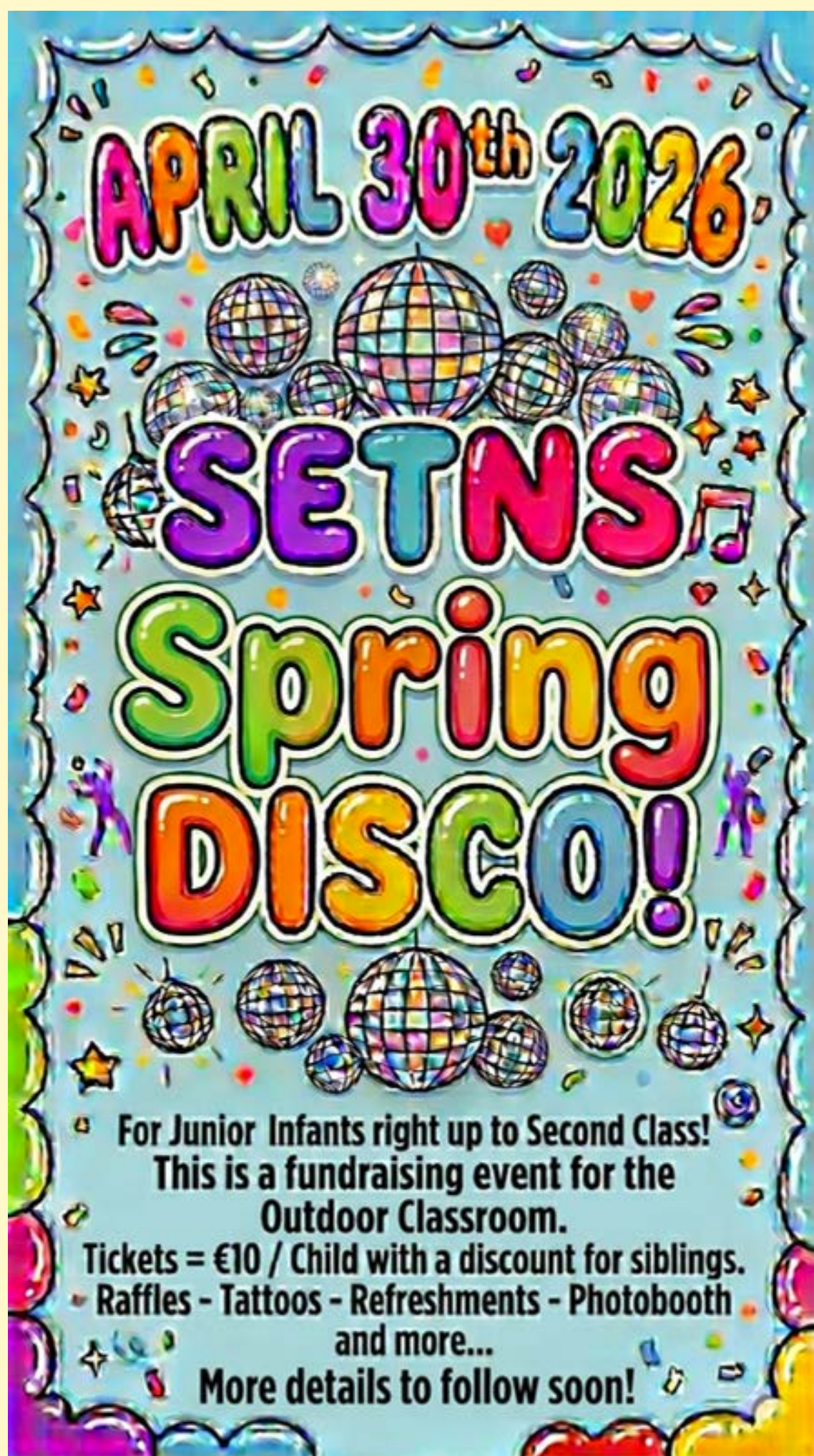
- **27th March - Spring Break. Half Day.** Collection Times:
 - 11.30am for infants and SS
 - 11.40am for all other classes
- **18th April - Craft Fair 11am-4pm**
- **30th April - Junior Spring Disco**

MORNING DROP OFF

We would like to remind all parents that there is no supervision on school grounds before the official start of the school day. Recently children have been arriving as early as 7:45am. At this time, no staff are present, and children are unsupervised on the grounds. This creates a significant safety concern, as children have been observed climbing on equipment and engaging in unsafe play.

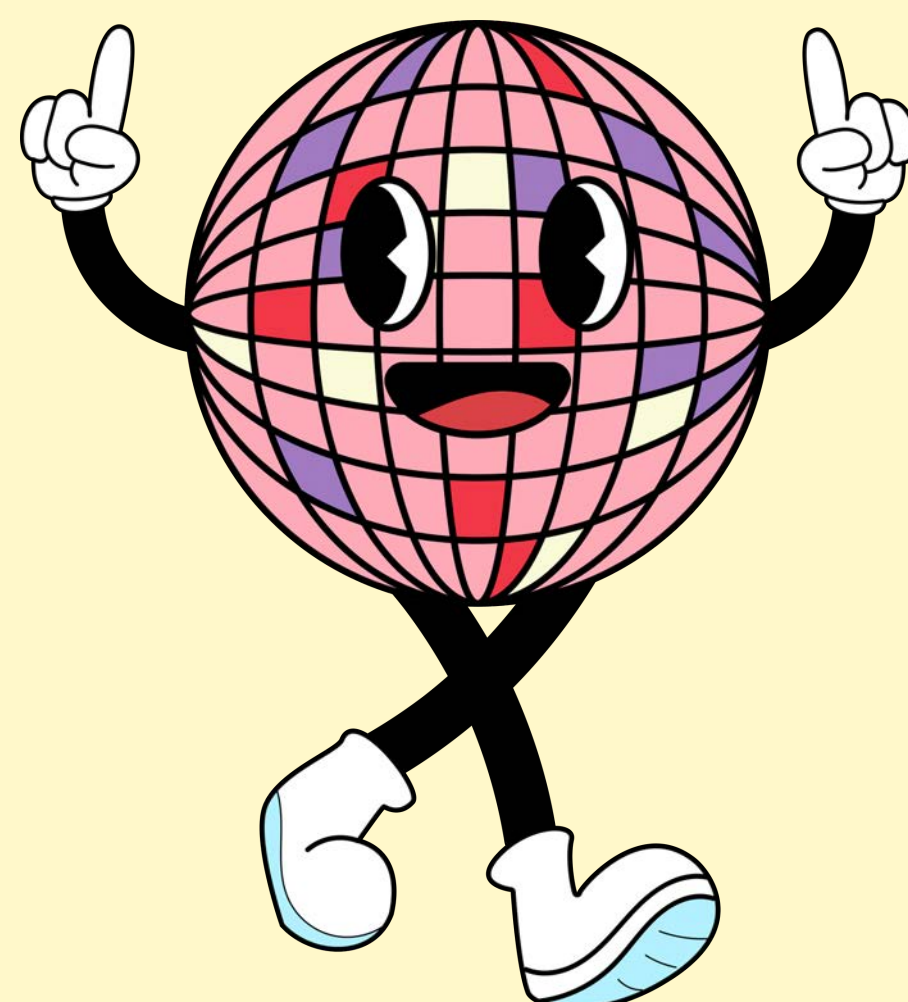
While we appreciate the demands of busy schedules, children should not be on school premises before supervision begins. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all pupils safe.

JUNIOR SPRING DISCO



Following the great success of our Senior Winter Disco, we are delighted to bring the fun to our junior pupils! The Junior Spring Disco will be open to children from Junior Infants to Second Class, and we can't wait to see their energy and dance moves on the night.

More details will follow soon, but for now, be sure to save the date and start getting those dancing shoes ready!



DIGITAL LEARNING SUPPORT

The staff had input from an Oide (professional development body for teachers and school leaders) representative recently to help with further development of our Digital Learning Plan. We have invested in interactive screens for our SET rooms which will be beneficial for the students and teachers alike. After the break we will be sharing more information about Digital Portfolios to include the use of Book Creator (Junior end) and Google Classroom (Senior end).

FUNDRAISING

A massive thank you to all parents and families for their very generous donations to our outdoor classroom fund so far this year. Our total so far is €9,247.72. We are so grateful for the massive generosity shown from families, particularly given the rising cost of things for everyone, so a huge thank you to everyone involved!



ROAD SAFETY AND ESCOOTERS

Please see the following letter received on 16th March from An Garda Síochána in relation to the use of e-scooters. We wholeheartedly support the introduction of this legislation in an effort to keep young people safe. We do not have any students bringing these scooters to school currently and would encourage parents to monitor use of same.



CRAFT FAIR - APRIL 18TH



Mark your diaries for the return of the Stepside ETNS Craft Fair, which will take place on Saturday, April 18, from 12 to 4pm, with quiet time beforehand from 11am to midday.

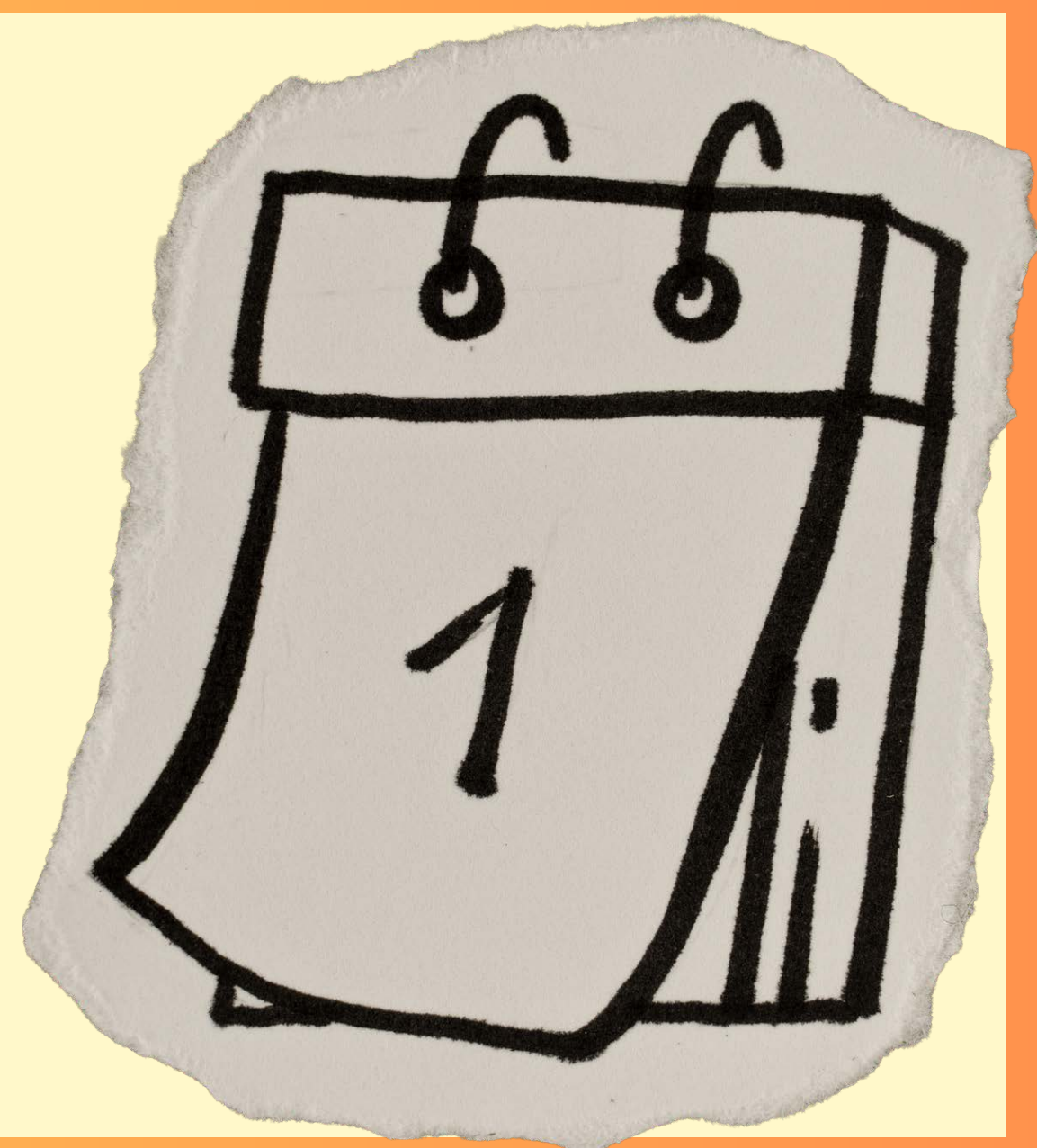
There will be lots to see and do for the whole family and as this is a community event, please invite your friends and family.

We are also looking for parent volunteers to help throughout the day so if you can give an hour or two of your time, please click link and choose one (or more) of the options:

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Board of Management recently agreed on the school calendar for the academic year 2026/2027. The calendar will be uploaded onto the website over the coming days and can be viewed on the next page.



27 August

School reopens

AUGUST '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

FEBRUARY '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

1 February

Bank Holiday

18-19 February

Mid-term Break

SEPTEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MARCH '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

17 March

St. Patrick's Day

22 March – 2 April

Spring Break

26-30 October

Mid-term Break

OCTOBER '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

APRIL '27

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

5 April

School reopens

NOVEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY '27

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

3 May

Bank Holiday

4-7 May

School holiday

23 December – 1 January

Winter Break

DECEMBER '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JUNE '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

7 June

Bank Holiday

25 June

Last day of school/half day

6 January

School reopens

JANUARY '27						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
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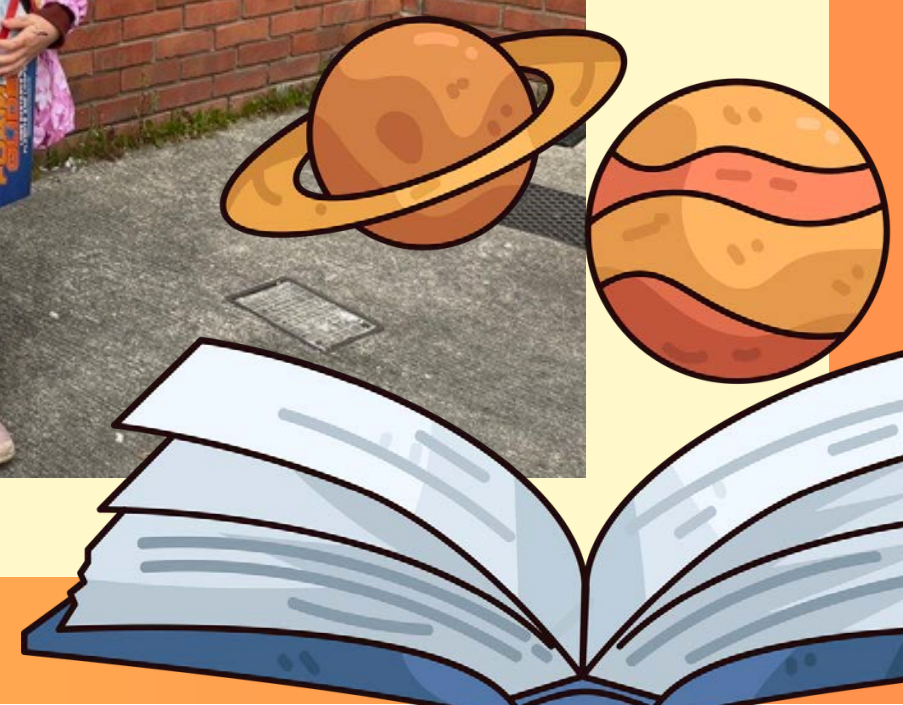
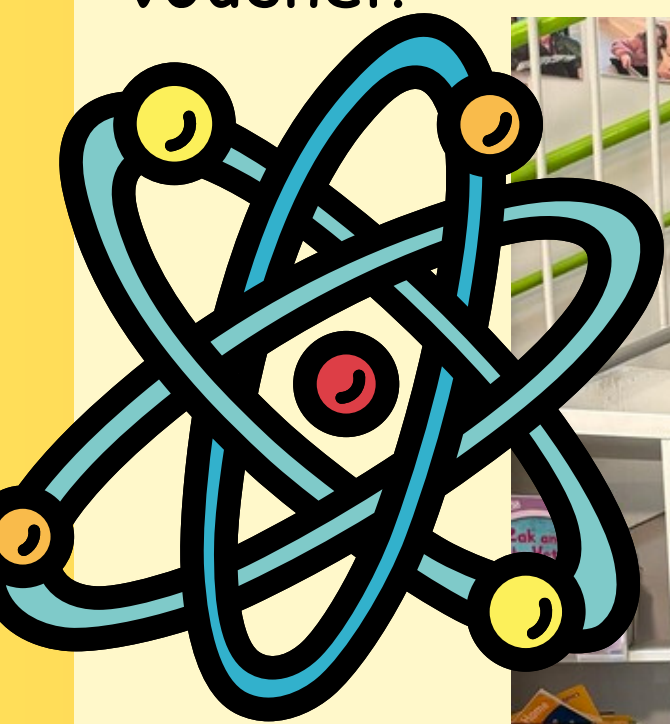
JULY '27

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

STEPASIDE ETNS SCIENCE FAIR

Our School Science Fair 2026 was a huge success this week, with over 55 projects entered. Students working in groups and individually, investigating chemical reactions, electricity, magnets, skeletal structures, colour blindness, memory, dinosaurs and much more. We had Rachel Molloy, Head of Science in Explorium, National Science Museum attend the school to judge the projects.

We thank Rachel for her time and Explorium for kindly sponsoring the top prize of a voucher.

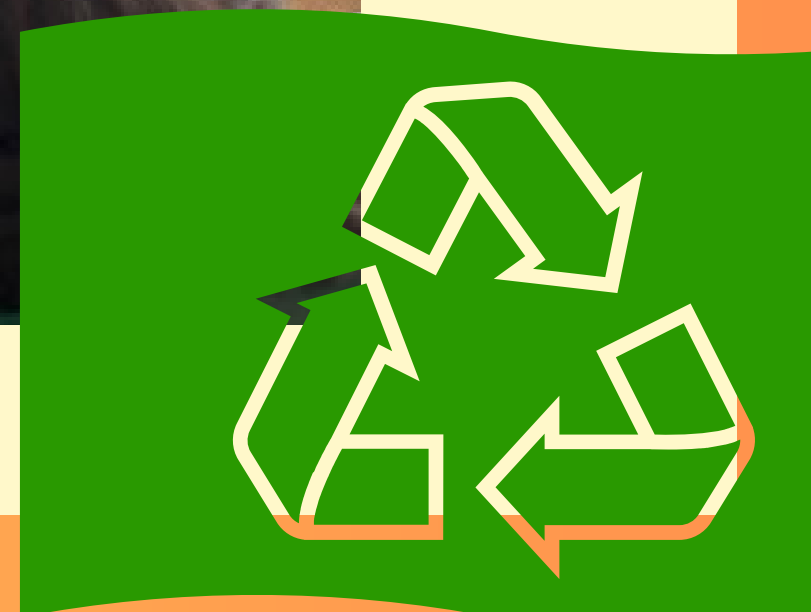
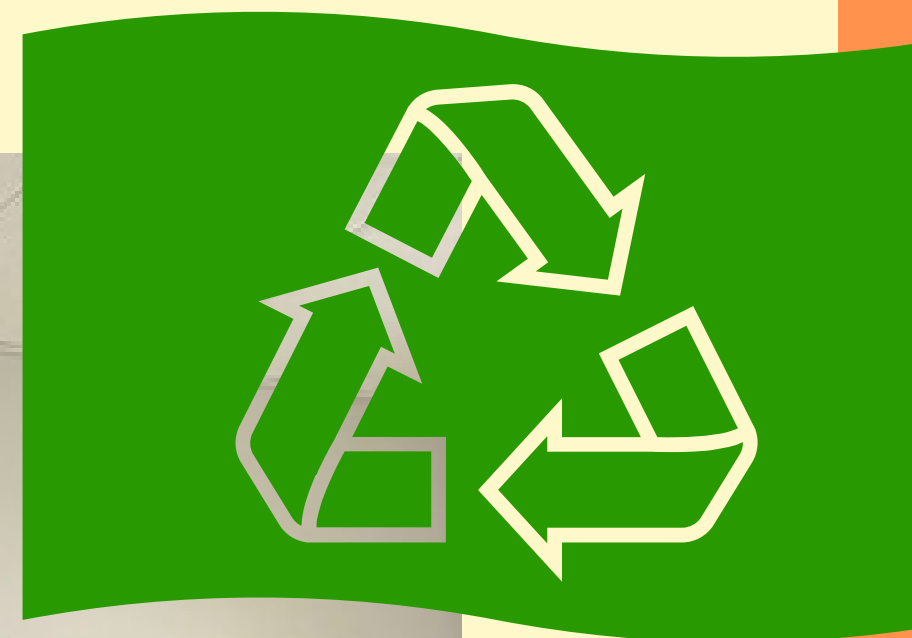
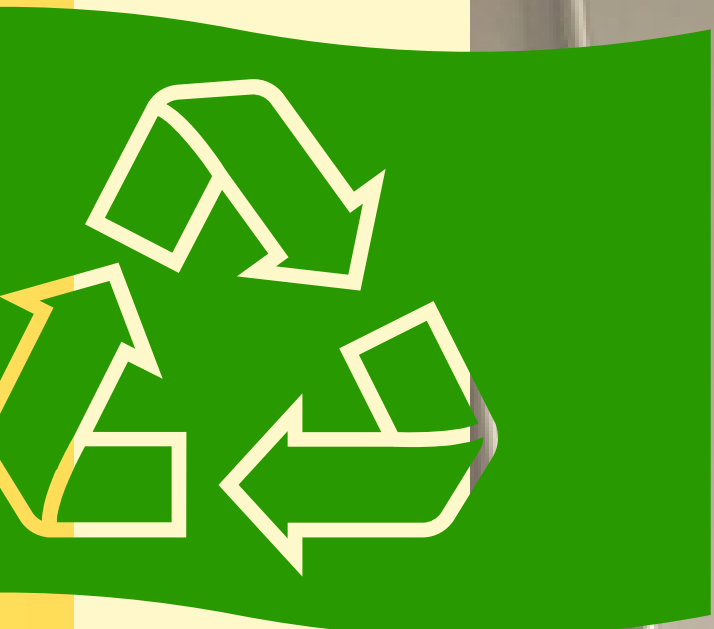


GREENSCHOOLS UPDATE



Greenschools received training with coordinator Craig this week. Craig checked our knowledge of waste disposal and of which items go in each bin. He was very impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge of our committee. Greenschools have identified paper towels as an area of focus for term 3. We have collected data on our paper towels use and we are determined to reduce the €16,000 we spent on paper towels last year. We feel this money could be spent in much better ways that benefit pupils and are more environmentally friendly.

We ask all families to send in a reusable small hand towel with students after Spring break, a facecloth size is perfect.





THIRD CLASS C - SARAH'S CLASS



3C have had a busy few weeks! They made the most of the recent spell of sunshine with a trip to the playground, enjoying some well-earned fun outdoors. The class are also loving their gymnastics block and have been showing fantastic enthusiasm and skill.

They had great fun with Mark the Science Guy during the recent STEPS Engineering Award ceremony webinar, celebrating all their hard work from earlier in the year.

In Maths, 3C have been learning all about time and even created their own human clock—using themselves as the numbers and hands!

They've also enthusiastically welcomed Sanja for an 8-week Climate Literacy workshop.

The class did an amazing job designing their very own sustainable islands.

Well done to all in 3C for their creativity, teamwork and positivity!





Some of the senior classes got to take part in an engineering workshop this month. Some engineers from the firm Barrett Mahony came to give a presentation on where we can see engineering all around us, and then the children took part in a bridge-building challenge with marshmallows and spaghetti!

Here are some pictures of 5C and 5A with Abi, a civil and structural engineer. 5 out of the 10 bridges made were strong enough to hold three classroom objects- pretty impressive!



BOM AGREED REPORT - MARCH 2026

- The Board of Management met on March 24th, 2026.
- During this meeting, the Dignity at Work, Harassment and Grievance Policy and the Protected Disclosures Policy (Whistleblowing) were both reviewed and updated.
- The BOM wishes to thank those who have made voluntary contributions of late.
- The Board received a letter from An Garda Síochána in relation to the use of scooters and relevant new legislation banning the use of these scooters for young people under the age of 16.
- The Board are delighted to approve the appointment of three new ANA's following recent interviews and would like to congratulate our three new staff members; Naimee, Ite and Jessie.
- The Board want to congratulate the Stepside ETNS Chess team who will go on to play in local finals after spring break. The Board also were delighted to hear our Girls GAA Team have kicked off their season with a great win last week and are looking forward to hearing more updates throughout the next term.
- The Board will fund the training of six staff members in October 2026 for First Aid Responder training. Thank you to the staff who have signed up and will take on this training outside of school.
- The Board wish to thank Kate Clifford and Sarah Devlin for delivery of CPI Training to half of the staff earlier in the year. This training was a huge undertaking for Kate and Sarah and also for the staff who completed multiple sessions including in person and online training.
- The Board of Management would like to extend its deepest sympathies to former principal Anne Carroll on the passing of her father, David. We are thinking of Anne and her family and sending our support at this difficult time.