



EDENDERRY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn Term 2024 - 1

THE ECHO

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The latest updates and stories from Edenderry Primary School, delivered straight to your digital device via the Edenderry App!

THE EDENDERRY ECHO

Welcome back to school and to the first Edenderry Echo of the 2024-2025 academic year.



A special welcome to all of the new boys and girls, parents/carers and staff who have joined us this year. We hope that you very quickly feel part of the Edenderry family. We aim to publish a half-termly online version of the Edenderry Echo, via the app and website, to share important Edenderry news and reminders with the school community. Being able to share the Echo digitally means we can embed links to simplify things for parents/carers, incorporate high-quality digital images to share school experiences and emphasise just how talented our children are. This first Echo includes many reminders which we hope will help you all to get settled quickly back into school routines. We hope you find it interesting and informative.

EDENDERRY PS APP GUIDANCE AND REMINDERS

If you are new to Edenderry, it is vitally important that you download and get to know our school app. Almost all school information, including the Echo, parental letters, urgent or updated information regarding school closures, etc. are shared with the school community via the app so if you do not download the app, you may miss something important.

The app can be downloaded in Apple or Android phones and tablets. When you first download the app, you will be prompted to, and you must input the password requested. This is simply five 1s - 11111. You will also be asked for permission regarding push notifications. You must allow push notifications. If you do not follow these two steps, you will not receive any of our communications. At this point, you should also be asked to identify your child's or children's class teacher, so you only get notifications relevant to you and your child or children. You must choose at least one class or again, you will not receive any of our communications. When any communication arrives from the school, you will hear a 'ping' sound. A small red circle will also appear on the Edenderry PS app icon to advise you of a message that is either relevant to the whole school or to your child's class. If you have any problems or concerns downloading the app, please drop in and we will help.

SCHOOL MEALS AND PAYMENTS ON THE APP

It is important to note that the school app is the only way that parents can select and pay for school meals. Please read the following guidance carefully.

- All weekly school meal orders and payments must be completed by 12.00 midnight each Sunday. The office staff are unable to process cash payments. It is important to note that you do not need to wait until Sunday. Dinners can be booked for the following week at any stage before that week. It may be a good idea to book them earlier in the week or weekend to be sure you have no issues.
- When you open the school app, select the 'bookings and payments' option.
- In 'bookings and payments' you will be prompted to identify the day or days you wish to purchase a school meal. **Free school meals do not need to be booked.**
- You should then select the 'proceed to payment' option.
- In the 'payment' section you will see the overall price for your booking. You will then also be prompted to add your child's name, your email address and your child's class before selecting your payment method.
- Once a booking is made **you should receive two notifications.** One to say your booking is confirmed and another to say that your payment is confirmed. The office staff will contact you if for some reason the payment is not confirmed. This may happen if you are 'timed out' when booking.
- Once all of that is done, the school will be notified of the booking and the class teacher will double check these against attendance each morning.
- If you paid for a meal which was not eaten due to absence, please consider that meal automatically included in the following week's booking. You should simply book and pay for whatever other days are required. The teacher will add the 'carried forward' meal manually.
- **Please ensure you are booking a child's meal and not a staff meal.** The staff meals are considerably more expensive.

Over the next two weeks we will also be introducing app payments for swimming and school trips. The process will be very similar to booking a meal, but we will advise you further when the first payments are required. Again, if you have any problems or concerns, please drop in and we will help.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We delighted to advise you that every single teacher in the school has again volunteered to contribute to our annual calendar for after-school activities. Unlike many other schools, this means that most of our activities are provided free. Considering our limitations in terms of staff numbers and the fact this is a voluntary staff service, it is important to note the following:

- The school will continue to provide extra-curricular activities only to those finishing at 3.00 pm.
- School sports will this year be offered free to all P5 to P7 children.
- Other alternative options will be offered free during the year to children from P4 to P7. These will mainly be in term two when outdoor sport is regularly curtailed by the weather.
- To ensure an appropriate teacher/pupil ratio for the safe management of the group, all outdoor activities will be supervised by two members of staff.
- To ensure outdoor sports can come inside when it rains, during term 1, only one sport will be provided on any day.
- We have insufficient teachers to offer free extra-curricular sporting activities for all children, however, we still want to provide the opportunity for all P4 – P7 children to access sport. Therefore, to widen our scope, P4 children who still wish to access extra-curricular sport can continue to do this on a Monday afternoon. The provider for this will be Sports City.
- Other opportunities may be considered and provided at a cost later in the year.

We sincerely thanks our teaching staff for their generosity in continuing to selflessly commit to this aspect of Edenderry school life.

We will share the new 2024-2025 extra-curricular planner with you during the first full week of term.

SENIOR SCHOOL RESIDENTIALS

Mr Mullan and Mr McClean are currently working closely with various providers in an attempt to identify and book our P6 and P7 residentials for 2025. This has been challenging in both cases due to changes in the facilities, programmes, staff, providers and cost. We view our senior residentials as a key aspect of life here in Edenderry, however, we are very conscious of the cost implications, and we are determined to ensure our residentials are both valuable and as cost effective as possible. This may therefore result in some changes to the programmes or locations. We will of course advise you of the confirmed booking as soon as it is feasible and this year, you will be able to make payments using the school app.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING 2024-2025

During the course of this school year, we will be reviewing our planning and practice regarding the following key curriculum and pastoral aspects.

Curriculum:

Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, PE, Art and Design with a particular focus on the development of practical and outdoor learning.

Successful Learning:

Measuring impact and need through assessment and teacher professional judgement and the development of our Shared Education programmes.

Health, Wellbeing and Safety:

Ongoing first aid training.

Improved opportunities to access counselling with a Reach Counsellor.

A review of Behaviour Management, including the simplification of school rules and restorative discussions.

Equity:

Developing approaches and support for children who require SEN withdrawal and children from newcomer families.

We also plan to review our school uniform and homework policies. We will be asking for your views on this so please keep an eye on the app and share your opinions. We want to be confident that any changes made include the views of all stakeholders, including our children and their parents/carers.

SCHOOL REFURBISHMENTS

We are very excited by some recent refurbishments at Edenderry. In June and July, some new facia and signage was installed to signpost our main entrance and improve our welcome for visitors. We are even more excited about the refurbishments to our PE hall floor which is now like new and properly marked for PE. We will also be introducing new 'roll-away dinner tables which will allow us to fully utilise this brilliant new facility more often.

The images show our old assembly and PE hall floor when compared to our refurbished floor.



The senior classrooms and toilets were also repainted during the summer!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Uniform - Over the course of the summer, many of you will have purchased new items of uniform. Please ensure these are well labelled so we can return lost properly to the owner.

Change of Information – If your contact details or address have changed, it is absolutely essential that the office staff are advised as soon as possible so we can contact you when necessary. Please telephone the school or call in and advise us of any changes in your information.

Medical Information – It is essential that you now ensure we have accurate medical details and any necessary medication, including inhalers or epi-pens for your child.

PE Kit – Our PE timetable will be confirmed as soon as possible. P1 and P2 children will be wearing their polo shirt each day, but they will need well-labelled shorts and trainers or plimsoles. These can be worn on their PE days. Children in P3 – P7 should come to school in their polo shirt on their PE days and have a pair of black shorts. These should be worn under their uniform if possible. Considering the cost of refurbishing the PE hall floor, all children must have trainers or plim soles to participate in PE.

P1/P2 Snack – The Foundation Stage staff will communicate with you later this week to confirm details and payments, etc. for P1 and P2 snacks. We may also add payments for this to the app later in the term.

Fun 4 U Club – Spaces are still available in the Fun 4 U club. Please check out the flyer sent home via the app earlier today for details. We have been working with the providers and will also be announcing an exciting change regarding the accommodation for Fun 4 U Club later this term.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

Our October Parent and Teacher Meetings will run between Monday 21st and Friday 25th October. This year, we hope to use the school app to make bookings for these meetings. This will give parents the opportunity to identify the day and time that suits them best, however, if the bookings will be confirmed on a first come, first confirmed basis. We will communicate further with you regarding this process during September.

SOME EARLY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our termly planner will get very busy over the next number of weeks so here are some early dates for your diary. Any agreed PTA plans will be added to this in the weeks ahead.

2 Sept	First full day of the Autumn term
3 Sept	P5 and P7 swimming starts
16 Sept	Extra-curricular activities start
17 Sept	PTA AGM
21-25 Oct	Parent meetings week (early finish)
28 Oct	Staff Development Day
29 Oct – 1 Nov	Mid-term holiday
8 Nov	Remembrance Assembly
5 Dec	Christmas Dinner
20 Dec	Last day of term (early finish)

PARENT AND TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

For many years Edenderry Primary School has benefitted greatly from the interest and support of a hardworking Parent and Teacher Association (PTA). The Annual PTA AGM will be held in school at 7pm on Tuesday 17th September. At this meeting we will provide an overview of the role and responsibilities of the PTA and discuss the current PTA constitution.

Schools today need the support of families and the community and in harnessing the power of a PTA, we believe we can:

- increase family engagement;
- increase opportunities for the children to have fun;
- implement programmes to engage families in children's success or school improvements;
- qualify for grants and awards to support the school;
- communicate with families more effectively;
- partner with other community organisations; and
- enhance fundraising efforts.

If you are interested and willing to volunteer as and when needed, please come along on Tuesday 17th to meet some other parents and hear more. This is your opportunity to support the school and to help us raise some money and deliver the best opportunities for your children.

AND FINALLY...

The staff here in Edenderry have already spent time over the summer considering our approaches for the year ahead. It is hugely important to us that right from the outset, our children feel welcome, happy, safe and confident in school regardless of their academic potential or the individual challenges they face. Last year, the school council produced this wordcloud to identify the pupils' vision for all Edenderry pupils. As parents/carers and staff, it is our job to help them to achieve this vision and that starts today!



Please remember that although we have child protection protocols in place, you are always welcome to speak to us if there is anything you think we can do better to help your child to reach these goals and to make school a happy place for them.