

The latest updates, information and stories from Edenderry, delivered straight to you via the Edenderry App!

THE EDENDERRY ECHO

Welcome to the first 2026 edition of the Edenderry Echo Newsletter, our digital newsletter delivered straight to your phone, laptop or tablet! We hope you find it interesting and informative.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As we start a new calendar year, we want to underline the importance of the children wearing the proper school uniform. Last year, we undertook a major review of the uniform, and we made changes according to your responses. Unfortunately, however, we have seen a decline in children wearing what is the approved uniform. In particular, please ensure the following:

- Children are not wearing a PE uniform (such as polo shirts, shorts or leggings) on days when they should be wearing a full uniform.
- As with the girls' dresses, boys should only be wearing shorts in the summer term and these should be school shorts, not sports shorts.
- Girls should not be wearing leggings underneath their skirt.

The Department of Education is firmly of the view that school uniforms play an important part in the engagement of pupils with their school, promoting a sense of identity, pride and unity and supporting the ethos of the school. The standards above are important to this ethos, and we want to ensure Edenderry continues to be seen as a place where the uniform is valued and respected.

CAR PARK THANK YOU

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone for your efforts in helping us to improve the practices in the car park particularly during morning arrivals. Your patience and your compliance with our requests have made a significant difference to both the safety and speed of arrivals; something many parents have been thanking us for.

In particular, the impact of drivers not parking on the double yellow lines, adjacent to the hedge, is huge. Traffic can now enter and leave without obstruction and children are no longer crossing the roadway from behind vehicles. Please keep up the good work!



APPLICATIONS FOR P1 NOW OPEN

We were delighted to welcome a number of new and existing families to our recent Open Afternoon.

Online applications for a Primary 1 place for September 2026 are now open via EA Connect. Please ensure your friends, family and neighbours are aware of this deadline.

Applications close at 12 noon on 21st January 2026, and while it is important to complete the application before this date, it is important to note that applications are not considered on a first come, first served basis.

Visit <https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent/> to apply and see EA's website for more information on the admissions process: www.eani.org.uk/admissions

If you have any questions or require any guidance or support in applying for a P1 place, please feel welcome to speak to Mr Blevins or Mrs Bleakney in the school office.



**STRICTLY
NO PARKING
in this area.**
**It is a danger
to our children
and therefore
prohibited.**

NEW CAR PARK SIGNAGE

Two signs like this will soon be placed underneath the existing RAMP signs in the car park to serve as a permanent reminder to all road users, that cars should not be parked on the double yellow lines adjacent to the hedge.

CONCENTRATION CONCERNS

During the first term of the year, we noticed a rise in children who struggle to maintain concentration and engagement during lessons. Alongside many other local schools, we are also observing an increase in poor and challenging behaviour. After careful consideration, we believe two key factors are contributing to this trend:

- Excessive screen time and exposure to inappropriate online content.
- High sugar content in children's drinks and snacks.

Why does screen time and inappropriate content matter?

Too much screen time and unsuitable online material can negatively affect children's emotional and social development in several ways:

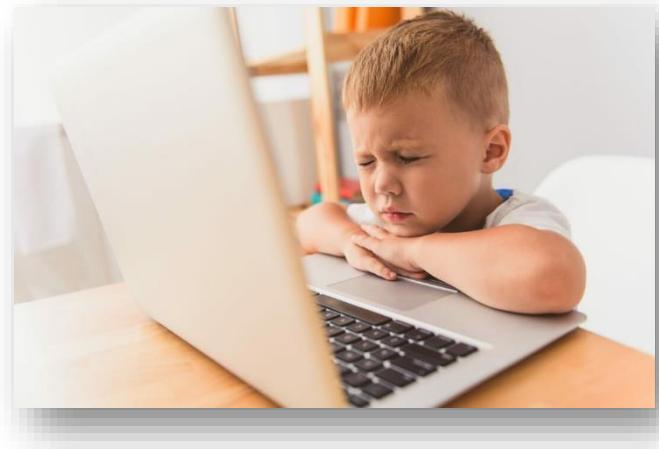
- Reduced attention span: Frequent exposure to fast-paced digital content can make it harder for children to focus on tasks that require sustained attention.
- Impaired emotional regulation: Overuse of screens can lead to heightened irritability and difficulty managing emotions.
- Sleep disruption: Screen use, especially before bedtime, interferes with healthy sleep patterns, which are essential for learning and behaviour.
- Exposure to harmful content: Inappropriate material can influence attitudes and behaviours, sometimes normalising aggression or unrealistic expectations.
- Limited social interaction: Excessive screen time reduces opportunities for face-to-face communication and play, which are vital for emotional growth.

What is appropriate screen time?

It is important for me to clarify that not all screen time is harmful. When used in a structured way, it can support learning and development. Within school, we promote the use of apps like Doodle for around 10 minutes each evening as an appropriate and beneficial use of technology because:

- Structured and educational: These apps are designed to reinforce curriculum-based skills, providing targeted practice rather than passive entertainment.
- Short, focused sessions: Limiting use to around 10 minutes ensures children gain the benefits without the negative effects of prolonged screen exposure.
- Promotes positive habits: Regular, brief engagement with learning tools helps build consistency and confidence in core subjects.
- Safe and age-appropriate: Educational platforms typically have safeguards in place to prevent exposure to harmful or unsuitable content.

By promoting structured, purposeful screen time, as a school, we ensure technology becomes a positive tool for learning rather than a source of distraction or harm.



Why is high sugar intake harmful?

Similarly, high sugar consumption can impact children's physical, cognitive, and emotional well-being:

- Physical health risks: Excess sugar contributes to obesity, dental problems, and energy spikes followed by crashes.
- Cognitive effects: Sugar highs and lows can impair concentration, memory, and overall learning performance.
- Emotional instability: Fluctuating blood sugar levels can lead to mood swings, irritability, and reduced resilience in managing stress.

Our School Policy

To support healthy habits and positive learning environments, we kindly remind you of our school policy:

- Water bottles should contain water only, unless a medical specialist has provided a reason for an alternative.
- Breaktime snacks should be low in sugar and preferably a healthy choice, such as fruit, vegetables, or whole-grain options.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in helping us create the best possible conditions for your child's learning and development. Together, we can ensure that our children thrive both academically and emotionally in the term ahead.



HEALTHY SNACK OPTIONS

Here are nine suggestions for snacks that would transform your child's ability to concentrate better in class.

9 packable nutrient dense school snacks

Fast Prep!



PTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE THANK YOU

On behalf of the PTA, we would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Christmas Fayre. It was a truly lovely evening, filled with festive spirit, and thanks to your kindness and generosity, we are delighted to share that a fantastic £1,068.00 was raised.

We are very grateful to the school and teachers for their continued support, and to our dedicated PTA committee and wonderful volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the event such a success.

A big thank you to all our stall holders for attending the evening. Each stall holder kindly donated a prize to our raffle alongside the following local businesses:

- House of Fireplaces
- Bodyfit Mums
- Moutray's Shop
- Uptown Framing
- The Print Guy
- Hoys Butchers
- Alana Fulton Nails
- Lauren's Beauty
- Castle Kings
- Regenerate War Graves.

Special thanks to Rhonda from the school kitchen for generously providing an amazing cake for the raffle and delicious soup on the evening, and to Kitchen Bakes for supplying shortbread.

Finally, thank you to the Wednesday Singing Group, alongside Miss McClelland, for their fantastic performance which created a wonderful atmosphere on the night.

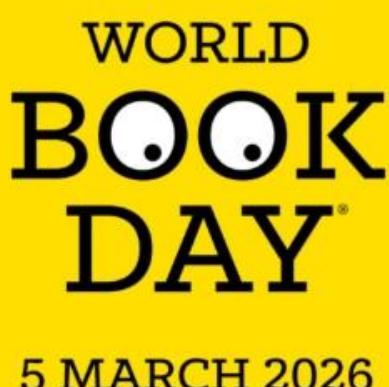
Thank you all once again for your amazing support.

PTA MEETING

Our PTA committee will be meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 20th January to discuss some special plans for World Book Day 'Willy Wonka Golden Ticket' activity on 5th March and to start planning the now annual Summer Fayre.

WORLD BOOK DAY – 5th March 2026

We have chosen not to add the pressure to parents of dressing children up every year, however, we are giving you early notice now that, to further add to the PTA activity, this year we will be encouraging the children to dress up as their favourite character from a book. So, get your thinking caps on. A prize for originality (linked to the PTA activity) will be given in each class, so imagination is as big a factor as the quality of the costume! Please note that this will be a voluntary activity, so children do not have to dress up if they do not wish to. Further details will follow in due course.





CONSTRUCTION WORK

Construction will continue this term on the new classrooms at the back of the school. This term will also see the refurbishment of the P5 boys' toilets and the storage areas on either side of the stage. Please be aware of the continued need for additional traffic on the school site and ensure children are very well supervised during arrival and collection times.

As the new classrooms will become the permanent home of our Junior SPSC class and our new Senior SPSC class, we would like to meet with the parents of the children in the current SPSC class to explain the rationale and purpose of this move.

To do this, we will host a 30-minute meeting for SPSC parents at 3.15 pm on Thursday 22nd January in the school staff room.

You can find some progress reports on the construction work on the school website.

P7 SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL PAYMENTS

We are concerned that a small number of P7 children are now behind on their Glasgow Residential Payments. This is an issue that needs to be addressed immediately. As advised in the original information, payment in line with the travel company's schedule is essential or your child's place on the residential could be at risk. Please speak to your child's teacher immediately if you have an issue as we have a couple of children on standby should a place become available.

P6 DEPOSIT PAYMENTS

Contrary to the views in the P6 residential survey, only a small number of parents have taken up the option of starting to make payments towards their child's P7 residential in 2027. It is not too late to start making payments, but this should be done now. Please remember that no payments in P6 will result in significantly larger and frequent payments in P7.

MONTHLY AWARDS

This term we will recommence our monthly prizegiving assemblies during which two certificates will be presented in each class. These awards will align with our school vision and specific targets we set with the aim of improving individual performance within our curriculum. Each month, one award will be presented with a pastoral focus in each class. For example, this could be for examples of friendship, kindness, good manners, etc. We will also each month be presenting a curriculum award in each class. The awards for this term will be presented as follows:

Month	Pastoral	Curriculum
January	Kindness	Literacy
February	Friendship	Numeracy
March	Good Manners	Digital Skills/ICT

It is really important to note that the curriculum awards in particular will be focused on personal achievement, improvement or excellence in targeted areas of the curriculum. So, every child has the potential to win an award based on their efforts during that month. Each class teacher will decide what aspect of that curriculum area they wish to acknowledge the improvement in. For example, within Literacy, it could be for creative writing, spelling, reading, or talking and listening.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The new term's programme of extra-curricular activities is now available to view on the school website and the school app. Please remember that places must be booked in advance and some of the practical activities are limited in number on a first come, first served basis. You do not need to re-book for hockey or boys' football if you have already registered your child for these activities. Sports City Activities can also be booked on the school website. Please see the link below for all bookings:

[Extra-Curricular Activities](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We have a packed schedule over the next number of weeks. Here are some of the key dates for your diary.

15 Jan	P5, P6 and SSPL swimming starts
20 Jan	PTA Meeting
21 Jan	P1 applications close
30 Jan	P5 Shared Education Museum Trip
22 Jan	SPSC Parents' Meeting
22 Jan	P7 Trip Payment Due
6 Feb	5-a-side football blitz
9 Feb	Staff Training Day
10 – 13 Feb	Mid-Term Holiday
13 Feb	Final P7 Trip Payment Due
5 Mar	World Book Day
17 Mar	St Patrick's Day Holiday
1 April	Last Day of Term