

HOLYWELL ETNS

AUTUMN

NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER
2024
EDITION

Midterm Break Reminder

School closes for midterm on Monday October 28th - November 1st.

School reopens on November 4th.

Pumpkin and Bounce: Sunday October 27th 1-4pm

Parent Teacher Meetings- November 11th & 12th 2024

Wishing all our families a safe and fun Halloween and Diwali.



Student Council Elections

Congratulations to the students who were elected to the school's student council for 2024/25. We hope you will be very happy in your new role and will learn a lot about democracy and leadership.

Student Council Members:

1st: Sonia

2nd: Lea

3rd: Mustafa

4th: Katie

5th: Guillem

6th: Joana

Cycle Right Programme

We will run a 6 week Cycle Right programme with 5th class students after midterm. Our grant application has just been approved. More information to follow.

Fundraising support

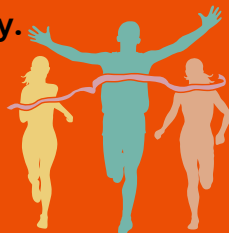
Later this year we will ask for your support and generosity to fundraise for another astro area in the first half of the school garden. Children need as much outdoor space to play safely in and we would like to develop this area further to give the children another play zone at yard times. We hope to have sponsored walks and singathons in the coming months, so your support will be greatly appreciated.

Safe Routes for Schools

The school will be working with Fingal County Council as part of the Safe Routes for Schools campaign. You may have seen this in other schools in Balbriggan & Rush & Lusk. We will be in touch soon needing help with parental surveys.

Marathon Kids Programme

Stuart and Richie's classes are participating in the Marathon Kids programme where the students are training daily for 8 weeks. Students will perform four running sessions each week inching them closer to completing their first marathon as well as learning about the benefits of physical activity. The students will run on November 12th in Morton Stadium Santry.



Farewell to Angela

Today we say goodbye to Angela Hughes our wonderful bus escort. Angela has been a valued part of the school team, accompanying children on the bus each day for the past number of years. We are so grateful for the care she has taken of the children and wish her the very best of luck for the future. Our new escort Catherine joins the school on November 4th.

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Peace Proms 2025

Following on from the success in February 2023, the students in 5th class will participate in this year's Peace Proms. More information will follow in the coming weeks. Huge thanks to Stuart for organising the event and in supporting the teachers prepare the children.



General Election Notice

As we approach another general election, it is important we seize the opportunity to raise key issues affecting our children's education with canvassers and candidates. Education is the cornerstone of our society and right now our schools are facing significant challenges that must be addressed by the next government. Education was not an election issue in the previous election, only parents can ensure it is one this time.

We ask you to keep the following issues in mind when speaking with canvassers in the coming weeks and to raise these critical questions:

What are your party's top priorities in education if elected?

How does your party plan to address the enormous shortfalls in school funding?

Ireland has the largest class sizes in the EU. What will your party do to reduce class sizes and ensure children get more individual attention from teachers?

The current government set a target of having 400 multi-denominational schools by 2030, but the progress has been very slow with approximately 150 to date. What will your party do differently?

How will your party ensure that students with additional needs receive the necessary resources and supports in mainstream and special schools? Funding for the fourth autism class extension in our school has been reduced from €590,000 to €380,000. Spending for children attending the summer programme for students with additional needs had reduced from €60 per child per week in 2022, to €45 per student per week in 2023 to €30 per child per week in 2024.

Teacher recruitment and retention is a major issue, particularly in urban areas with high housing costs. How will your party make teaching an attractive profession and address housing concerns for teachers so that children have a qualified teacher teaching them?

Your help and advocacy is important!

NEW STAFF MEMBER

WE SAID GOODBYE TO TEACHER MICHAEL DAVITT LAST MONTH, HAVING WORKED IN THE SCHOOL FOR TEN YEARS. WE WELCOME NEW TEACHER LUKE LENNON TO HOLYWELL ETNS. LUKE HAS BEEN A TEACHER FOR 15 YEARS AND IS RELOCATING TO SWORDS HAVING TAUGHT IN GREYSTONES ETNS. LUKE WILL START IN HOLYWELL ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 11TH.

WE HOPE EVERYONE WILL WELCOME LUKE & MAKE HIM FEEL VERY WELCOME.

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Eddie's Class News

Our classes have been learning about the importance of brushing our teeth, and the effect sugar can have on our teeth.



Alison's Class News

It has been a very busy few weeks in Alison's Rang a 3!

We have been learning about **GETTING ALONG**. We loved learning about **EMPATHY** and **COMPASSION** in particular.

Our pet monitors took really good care of some special guests who visited our class this month! Our three budgies Leo, Zig and Zag as well as Sadie's beautiful bunny Nico felt very nurtured by us. Thanks to our pet monitors for taking such good care of them.

We also learned about **INCLUSION**. Each week we had new buddies who supported each other. Sarah made her buddy Sheign a lovely cake!

Thank you Sarah. We also did some buddy art which was great fun!

We made some rice crispy cakes and celebrated our July, August and September birthdays. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to all those special people!

This week we made some chocolate apples. We can't wait to eat them!

A BIG THANK YOU to all members of Rang a 3 for their efforts this month, all monitors have been very **ORGANISED** and **RESPONSIBLE**!

What a great class.



Bíodh briseadh iontach agaibh!



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Keira's Class in room 2

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We have had a great start to our school journey in Room 2. We have made so many new friends and we all love playing and learning together. We have been working hard on our listening skills, taking turns, using our froggy fingers to write, singing songs and we have even started learning to read, we know 6 sounds now! In September, we learned all about ourselves and our family and this month we have been learning about The Farm and Autumn. We went for a nature walk and spotted many signs of Autumn, including the wheat we planted. We have loved the start of our school year and we are so excited for what is yet to come!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENTS IN RICHIE'S CLASS FOR THEIR WONDERFUL WEEKLY PODCASTS. THE STUDENTS ARE SO IMPRESSIVE IN HOW THEY ARRANGE GUESTS, INTERVIEWS AND THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF THE PRODUCTIONS. PLEASE LISTEN IN EACH WEEK.



ERASMUS PARTNERSHIP

HOLYWELL ETNS HAS COMPLETED SOME ERASMUS PARTNERSHIP MOBILITY PROGRAMMES. PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE PADLET ON SOME OF THE PROJECTS COMPLETED IN OUR SCHOOL AND OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

THE HOLYWELL ETNS & ERASMUS + PADLET WILL FEATURE ON THE NEW WEBSITE SOON.

FIONA L.'S CLASS VISITED CORBALLIS RIDING SCHOOL FOR 6 WEEKS THIS TERM. THEY HAD A GREAT TIME AND THEIR CONFIDENCE IS BUILDING EACH WEEK. THIS WEEK EDDIE'S CLASS START THEIR 6 WEEK BLOCK OF VISITS TO CORBALLIS. HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A GREAT TIME.

An Gaelbhratach

Our school is continuing with it's application for the Gaelbhratach. We are trying to motivate children to use as much Irish as they can in everyday school life. Alexine and the Irish Committee (Coiste Gaeilge) have introduced a siopa glas for children in 3rd-6th classes next week.

Pupils will be encouraged to use cúpla focail such as 'ba maith liom/ le do thoil/go raibh maith agat'

New School Website

After midterm we will launch our brand new website, We are very excited to share it with you & we hope you like it. Thanks also to all our Instagram followers who joined us this month.

