



ENNIS EDUCATE TOGETHER NS

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October Birthdays:

Happiest of Birthdays to Michael, Itan, Natalie, Naomi, Dahlia, Tomas, Kyle, Leah, Louise, Ijeoma, Charlotte and Winita.



We hope you all had a wonderful celebration!!

New pupils:

We'd like to offer a céad míle fáilte to Claudio, Gabriela, Vanessa and Alejandra who have joined our school community recently. We hope you are making loads of new friends and are settling well into life in EETNS!!

Halloween:



We had a spooktacular day to mark the start of our Halloween break. Children and staff celebrated by getting dressed up in costumes ranging from witches, to goblins, to doctors, princesses, clowns to superheroes. Special thanks to the Parents Association for organising! We hope all our children and their families have a lovely break together. We look forward to seeing you all after the Halloween break on Monday the 3rd of November.

HSCL:

Our parent classes are now up and running, and we have partnered with Ennis Community College to offer cooking classes as part of our 'Healthy Eating Initiative'. Last year, we began distributing healthy food packs from Tesco, and this year we are supporting parents in learning how to cook nutritious meals. Thanks to the Collaboration and Innovation Fund, we were able to purchase air fryers, which help parents build their digital literacy skills by following online recipes, sourcing ingredients, and learning about nutritional values. So far, we have made soup, bread, pancakes, and chicken dishes. Parents from different countries work with our tutor, Gráinne, to recreate traditional dishes from their cultures and engage in discussions about local food traditions. In addition to cooking, parents are also exploring their creativity through mosaic classes, where they design and create images using coloured tiles in a hands-on craft workshop.

These classes have been a great way for parents to build relationships in the community. Thanks to all parents who have attended and to CLDC for their continued support. There will be opportunities to take part throughout the year so keep an eye out for upcoming classes as we would be delighted for new parents to get on board. Enjoy the Midterm break!



The Incredible Years ® - 2026:



Some Senior Infants have commenced The Incredible Years ® Small Group Dina Program. They are learning tools and strategies to be successful in school. Some of the themes include: Problem solving and finding solutions, communication skills, learning to apologise and to give compliments, and managing their behaviour more effectively in school. Program helpers Wally & Molly are pictured here.

Cherry Blossom Class:

Teamwork has been our focus in the Nurture Room during the month of October. Pupils got the opportunity to read and discuss the book 'Splatter', by Diane Alber which helped pupils to learn what it means to work as part of a team. Following reading/discussion on the above book, pupils reviewed the colour wheel and then got the choice to work together in teams to create Splatter inspired Art using acrylic paint, paper and a salad spinner. It was fantastic to see pupils really enjoying the process of creating their artwork and also developing their teamwork skills. I think you'll agree the end product was amazing!



Holly Class:

Holly Class have had a very exciting October. We have been looking at the theme of Autumn! We got a chance to go on an Autumn hunt where we collected leaves, conkers, twigs and nuts. We used our leaves to do leaf rubbings and made some Autumn potions. We looked at all the animals who hibernate and got a chance to make our own hedgehogs out of playdough and some masks for our role play area in Aistear. We read the book 'The Leaf Thief' and put the story back in order after it got all mixed up. For the last week we have been learning all about Halloween! We have had a chance to dress up and make potions in our dress up corner. We made slime and we also got a chance to make our very own skeleton in art!



Eire-Óg Visit:



A big thank you and congratulations to all at Eire-Óg GAA for visiting our school. You have inspired the next generation of players with your success and kindness!

Elm Class:

Elm class have had a lovely month. We have been learning all about Autumn. We have been learning lots of new words associated with Autumn like pumpkins, conkers, pine cones and hedgehogs. We have been doing fantastic Autumn art which we have proudly hung on the noticeboard in the corridor. We have also been learning about Halloween and have been listening to lovely stories. We made some lovely Halloween art. We have been learning about animals that hibernate for the winter. We have also been doing lots of sensory play with sand, foam and water. We have also had trips to the playground, Barneys Play Centre, nature walks and Elm Café.



Ash Class:

October has been another busy and exciting month in Ash Class! Our themes this month were *Autumn* and *Halloween*, which have inspired plenty of hands-on learning and creativity throughout the classroom. We were very fortunate to welcome a guest speaker, Sinead Keane, who taught us all about biodiversity and native trees. The children loved exploring the plants and wildlife around our school environment and learning how we can help to protect nature. In SESE, we have been investigating all the signs of autumn, from falling leaves and changing colours to the migration and hibernation of animals. We also learned about the anatomy and characteristics of some fascinating creatures - the owl, bat, and spider - which tied in perfectly with our Halloween theme!

Another highlight of the month has been our *Geography deep dive into the country of India*. The pupils were captivated by India's rich culture, traditions, and colourful festivals. To celebrate *Diwali*, the Festival of Light, the children created their own vibrant paper *diyas*, which they dyed and embellished with sparkling gems and intricate patterns. They turned out beautifully and brought a wonderful splash of colour to our classroom! As we head towards the mid-term break, excitement is building for our upcoming *Halloween festivities*. Costumes, crafts, and spooky stories are all on the way - a fantastic way to finish off a fun-filled first half term together!

Oak Class:

Oak Class have really enjoyed taking part in the 'Wellbeing Project' with all the other classes. We've especially loved our Maths stations this term, focusing on pie charts and pictographs. A big well done to everyone who gave speeches for the Student Council - you all spoke brilliantly! It was wonderful seeing your friends cheer you on. It has been a very enjoyable 1st term. Happy Halloween everyone and enjoy the break! 🎃



Rowan Class:

This month in Rowan, our wonderful 3rd and 4th class students continued their fantastic work and enthusiasm for learning.

In English, the children have been developing their reading fluency and comprehension through guided reading. We explored new vocabulary, predicted story content, and discussed characters and settings.

In Gaeilge, our theme was 'Sa Bhaile'. The children learned new vocabulary for rooms and objects in the house. They also enjoyed reading poems like 'Ag Glanadh an Tí' with great enthusiasm.

In Maths, our focus was on multiplication. The children explored patterns in counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s, made arrays using blocks, and practiced multiplication as repeated addition. We also learned about data and chance. In SESE, we learned all about Martin Luther King Jr., exploring his life and famous quotes, and even created timelines of key events.

In PE, we focused on running and athletics. The children practiced sprinting. We finished the month with a fantastic Football Blitz in the Fair Green, where everyone showed brilliant teamwork and sportsmanship. We were also delighted to take part in the Biodiversity Workshop with David McGrath, a marine biologist, who taught us all about different kinds of birds. The children absolutely loved it and asked fantastic questions throughout.

To finish off the month, we began learning how to play chess, which has been a huge hit in the classroom! The children are quickly picking up strategies and enjoying the challenge. Well done to all our Rowan learners for another wonderful month of learning!



Willow Class:

October has been a very busy month in Willow Class. We went to the County Library to listen to author Michael Smith speak about a new book he wrote about called 'Tom Crean'. In SPHE, we continued to explore the topic of 'self-identity' and did some artwork that asked the children to compliment themselves and list things they like and love about themselves. We learned that everyone is unique, talented and full of potential and that it's so important to always be kind to ourselves. We finally finished building and painting our Norman Castles. We hosted a History Exhibit and invited every class in the school to visit and look at our finished projects. Everyone in our class spoke about the history of Norman Castles and we really enjoyed the experience! In Science, we learned about forces and built our very own catapults. We participated in the 'Catapult Games' where we split into teams and completed target challenges. It was a lot of fun! This month, we also continued our 'buddy reading' with Ash Class. We were able to show children in 1st Class how to read stories as well as design new artwork to go with each book. Finally in sport, we supported Natasha in cheering on her parish team 'Clooney-Quin' in the County Hurling Final. We decorated our classroom in banners and posters to wish the players good luck. Although the result wasn't in our favour we learned a valuable lesson: 'be gracious in defeat'.



Beech Class:

October has gone by in a whirlwind of activity in Beech Class!

We began the month with a visit from botanist Sinead, who gave us a fabulous workshop on biodiversity and native Irish trees. We learned how to use a key to figure out what trees various leaves were from, completed a scavenger hunt on the school grounds, and made detailed drawings of oak, ash, hazel, alder and sycamore leaves. We learned so much!

We have been busy working on our STEAM project with Rachel, based on the book 'The Crayon Man - The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons'. We were given the brief to build our own crayons, which had to be strong and durable, and then come up with a new crayon colour. Each group worked hard and the results were impressive - colours such as sky, bubble-gum, lazy lizard, and sand were invented!

October is Black History Month, so we read the story of civil rights activist Rosa Parks, 'If a Bus Could Talk'. This sparked a lively discussion about how people can help others who are suffering by standing up for what is right. We then identified people in Ireland from other countries who inspire us, and wrote about them.

Our 10 week BLAST (Bringing Live Arts to Students and Teachers) initiative with artist Leigh O' Connell began this month too. We are exploring the theme of identity through mosaic, and will be working on a wonderful creation for our school garden.

Of course it wouldn't be October without Halloween- we learned about the history of Halloween, looked at scary turnip carvings, and made the cutest ghosts from egg cartons.

Happy Halloween from Beech Class!



Hazel Class:

Hazel Class have had a wonderfully busy month this October. We went on several nature walks where we discovered beautifully coloured leaves and used them to create our own leaf people. We have really enjoyed learning all about Autumn.

The lovely weather this month has given us plenty of opportunities for outings. We visited the park, Elm Café, Clare Haven Charity Shops, Lidl, and Kidz Klub all of which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Hazel Class were also delighted to receive new Chromebooks for our classroom, and we have been exploring a variety of games and educational programmes on them. We have been very fortunate to receive licences from Clare Library to access the *Touch-type Read and Spell* (TTRS) programme.

On behalf of all the children and staff in Elm and Hazel Classes, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Rachel Dinnen for organising the GoFundMe campaign which enabled us to obtain our own assistive technology for the classrooms.



Dates for the Diary:

3rd November: School re-opens after midterm

5th November: School closure due to staff training

19th/20th November: Parent-teacher meetings