



Winter Newsletter 2025

Newtownwhite Educate Together National School



*Wishing Our Wonderful
School Community A
Very Happy Holidays!*

Welcome Leon

We are thrilled to welcome Leon to our school as our new SET Job-share Teacher for the 2025 - 2026 school year. He is a wonderful edition to our school community. We welcome Ashleigh back as an SNA in our school.

Welcome Alanagh

A warm welcome to Alanagh Ruane who will be our Junior Room Teacher for the rest of the year.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will continue when we return to school from 08:15am every morning. You can contact the school to book a place on 096 32728. It runs daily and children can drop in as required

After-school

Contact the school office on 09632728 for any afterschool related queries / bookings.

January 2025

We are due to welcome children back on Monday 5th January 2026 at 08:50am

Enrolments Now Open

We are still accepting enrolments for 25/26. You can contact the school for more information.



Board of Management

We would like to welcome Cathal Duffy (father of Jordan in Senior Infants) and Noreen Petrie (mother of Sophie Petrie in 4th class) as the new parent nominees on our school Board of Management. Patricia Quinn is welcomed back as our new community nominee – a change from her previous role! Catherine Carson has stepped into the community nominee role since her time as a parent of the school has come to an end. We thank Mark Benaicha for all his input over the past 2 years. Massive thank you to Stephen Geddes who worked & continues to work so diligently to fundraise for our school.

Music Generation

We are so lucky to have Jessica Bagnall from Music Generation coming to Newtownwhite ETNS every Wednesday to teach all of our pupils music. They are learning new songs, rhythm and beats, and many of the older children are learning the Ukulele. We definitely have some superstars in the making! Many thanks to Jessica and Denis for their support with our Winter Concert too.



FIRE DRILL

Fire Drill - Friday 10th October 2025

To everyone's surprise the fire alarm went off in school on Friday 10th October at 1pm!! All the children calmly listened to their teachers instructions. They safely exited the school building and gathered outside at our fire assembly point. It was exciting and amusing for many but most of all it was so important that the children knew how to listen to the instructions of the teachers in the event of a possible emergency. Well done to all!

Sponsored Spooky Walk

Thank you to each and every one of you for taking part and supporting our Sponsored Spooky Walk on Friday 24th October 2025. A total of €1,690.12 was raised and we are very grateful. The money raised was used for the day to day running of our school.



Health and Wellbeing

Wellbeing Week

Thanks to Siobhán & Leon for all their hard work in organising
Wellbeing Week in Newtownwhite ETNS!

It took place from 6th - 10th October 2025. It included activities that are good for the mind, body and soul! Not forgetting about the importance of friendship and kindness.

- Monday 6th - Mindful Monday
- Tuesday 7th - Terrific Tuesday (Half Day)
- Wednesday 8th - WOW Wednesday
- Thursday 9th - Total Fitness Thursday
- Friday 10th - Campfire Friday (Smores) & Pyjamas Day



Water Safety Talk

During Wellbeing Week, we were thrilled to welcome Rosie O Regan to Newtownwhite ETNS. Rosie is the educational officer with Water Safety Ireland. She gave classroom presentations and a practical skills lesson to all the pupils in our school teaching them the importance of Water Safety and awareness. All children received a well earned certificate of completion the following week.

Gymnastics

Children have completed & enjoyed five weeks of gymnastic lessons in Nadia Gym Ballina. We are grateful to Theresa and all the team there for their coaching and encouragement.



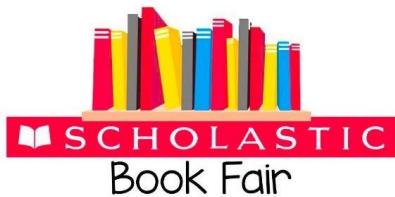
Swimming Lessons

First to Sixth Class children will have the opportunity to complete six weeks of swimming lessons in the Ballina Swimming Pool in March & April 2026. This is such an important life skill for them all to learn and we are sure they will enjoy the lessons, especially those for whom it will be their first formal swimming experience!

Hot Lunches

Our hot meals are being provided by Martina's Homemade Foods. A gentle reminder for all children to please bring a tupperware box into school daily to bring their uneaten lunch home in. Children who are not eating their lunch regularly should have them cancelled to avoid food waste.





Scholastic Book Fair

Every year around the last week of November we have a visit from Scholastic Book Fair. This book fair is a great benefit to our school because every book sold means we earn money to buy books for our school library. This year €724.70 worth of books were purchased at our School Book Fair and this resulted in the purchase of €290 worth of books for our School Library.

Re-Turn Bins:

Just a reminder that our re-turn bin helps us help the environment



Clothes Bank:

We have received many. Thank you to everyone who continues to recycle old, new and damaged clothing in our clothes bank. Since the start of 2025 we have raised €442 from this fundraiser.

Student Council

Congratulations to our newly elected student council members:

Anna & Sebastian from 6th Class, Brody from 5th Class, Sophie & Cara from 4th Class, Saoirse A from 3rd Class and Saoirse B from 2nd Class.



School Garden / Grow At School Programme

Our school has been selected to participate in the GIY Grow At School programme. Through garden-based learning and hands-on growing experiences, its aim is to help students develop a deeper understanding of where healthy, sustainable food comes from. It also encourages children to appreciate the importance of healthy food and understand the process it goes through before reaching their plates. As part of this new funding initiative, our school received items for working on our School Garden. A massive thank you to all the parents that helped to design and create our new School Garden. We are growing potatoes, turnips, carrots and much more. We are looking forward to sampling all in 2026.



Parents Association

A Parents Association AGM was held in Newtownwhite ETNS on 19th Nov 2025 & a new committee was formed. The newly elected committee members are Elaine Ormsby (Chairperson), Andrea Petrie (Treasurer) & LeAnne Kelly (Secretary). The Parents Association, along with the Board of Management staff & children of Newtownwhite ETNS, would like to thank the outgoing members: Catherine Carson, Emma Hughes, Emma Gillespie, Lisa Quinn & Miriam Petersen for all their hard work and dedication to Newtownwhite ETNS over the past number of years. If any parent wishes to join our Parents Association, please speak to a committee member or email newtownwhiteparentsassoc@gmail.com

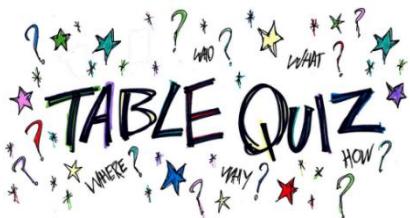


Table Quiz

Our annual Newtownwhite ETNS Fundraising Table Quiz took place on Friday 24th November in The Cot and Cobble. A special word of thanks to Mary Moyles for her hospitality, to Terry McCole the Quiz Master and also a big thank you to all those who donated raffle prizes for the raffle that night. A total of €796.63 was raising by this fundraising event. We hope everyone had a great night!

Bingo Loco

For the first time ever, Newtownwhite ETNS held a Bingo Loco Fundraiser. This was held in The Twin Trees Hotel Ballina on Friday 21st November and well done to Paul Bourke who did such a wonderful job as MC on the night. Thank you to our fundraising committee for their dedication to organising such a successful & unique fundraising event. We raised €1,012.48 & all funds raised will go towards the day to day running of our school. A special thank you to The Twin Trees Hotel for their extremely generous support – for providing the venue, covering the cost of the MC & for also giving a generous donation towards our fundraiser. We are very grateful for their generosity.



Winter Greeting Cards

Our pupils took part in the “Greeting Cards for Schools” Programme. This is an important fund-raising event for the school so we would like to thank all of the families who purchased packs of cards this year. We raised a total of €369 for our school through this programme.

Killala Christmas Market

Thank you to the Parents Association for running a stall at the Killala Christmas Market on Saturday 29th November. A special word of thanks to those who donated items for the PA to sell on the stall. We are delighted to say a total of €723.00 was raised at this event for Newtownwhite ETNS.



Newtownwhite ETNS Winter Concert & Winter Raffle



This year there was great excitement as we decided to hold our Winter Concert in Killala Community Centre. A speical word of thanks to our School Bus driver, Robert, for his co-operation and to Martinas Homemade Foods for delivery the lunches to the Community Centre that day. Well done to all the pupils for their wonderful efforts in making our Winter Concert thouroughly enjoyable and such a wonderful success.

During the interval at our Winter Concert, our Parent Association held their winter raffle which we ran online this year through iDonate. We are so grateful to families and businesses for all the generous donations. A total of €2,545 was raised from our Winter Raffle and this money will be used to help with the day to day running of our school.



Our 6th Class Pupils Visiting Local Secondary Schools

The first term is always a very busy term for our 6th class pupils as they get the opportunity to visit the local Secondary Schools to see what each school has to offer. This year, all of our pupils choose to attend the Open Day in St. Patrick's College, Lacken Cross. One of our 6th class pupils suggested that they should all wear a Newtownwhite ETNS GAA Jersey to this event (to show off our very modern & really cool school jerseys)! Siobhán took this fabulous photo of our 6th class pupils before they headed off for the day. It's such a lovely photo we just had to share it in our Winter Newsletter!

Congratulation to Ada!

On Monday 17th November we were greeted with the presence of a fabulous cup & a beautiful trophy in the Middle Room! It was such a joy for us all to hear the incredible news that Ada had won 2nd place in the Connacht Irish Dancing Championship Under 8 Category over the weekend. She is an incredible dancer just like her big sister Anna. We are so proud of you & keep up the good work!



The Most Important Notice Of All In Our Newsletter!



Best wishes to Caroline as she heads off on her Maternity Leave. We are all counting down the days until Baby Erraught arrives.

Best of luck also to Tracey who will be running the show until Caroline returns later in the year. We have no doubt that Tracey will be a wonderful Acting Principal.

We will miss you Caroline!



Reminders:

- School Re-opens on Monday 5th January at 8:50am.
- Please check your child's pencil case over the Winter Break to ensure they have all the stationery that they need for school upon their return.

That's a wrap!

We would once again like to thank our wonderful school community for the support you have shown this year. We really appreciate you. We wish you a safe and happy break and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

*Best Wishes to you all.
From all the staff in Newtownwhite ETNS!*

