

RATHFARNHAM



EDUCATE TOGETHER
NATIONAL SCHOOL

Weekly Update

18th June 2021

Outdoor Learning Project – Update on Fundraising

Our fundraising total this week is €10,282! We are 68% towards our goal of €15,000, and this is fantastic news. A huge thank you to all who have donated, shared our iDonate page, and liked and shared our social media pages.

With only 2 weeks left of term, we really want to focus on keeping the fundraising momentum up and reaching our target.

An Aladdin notification will be issued tomorrow. Please excuse us if you receive a notification having already donated. Unfortunately, our Aladdin set-up has some features which are difficult to overwrite.

We ask you to please share our iDonate page with your friends and family. Our social media accounts and iDonate pages are linked below. Visit www.retns.ie to see some of our 1st class children updating the banner thermometer this morning, there was great excitement!

Many thanks for your continued support.

<https://www.idonate.ie/RETNSOutdoorLearningProject>

www.facebook.com/retns.outdoorlearningproject

<https://instagram.com/retns.rathfarnham>

Missing Books

A number of books were not returned to school after the first lockdown (March – June 2020). To help us prepare for the next school year, we would be grateful if all families could check their homes for missing school books.

RETNS Values

Our value for this month is 'community, which ties in very well with the great fundraising efforts of our parents and guardians for our Outdoor Learning Project and also with the many school events to come over the next couple of weeks.

Sports Day – Thursday, 24 June

Our Sports Day will take place next Thursday morning on the school grounds with a possible trip by senior classes to Loreto Park in the afternoon. As in previous years, the children will be divided into teams and will be asked to wear a T-shirt of blue, yellow, black, green, red or white. Class teachers will contact you about this before the weekend.

Lost Property

Every day next week, Lost Property will be located outside the school at the end of the school day.

School Reports and Standardised Test Results

School reports and Drumcondra test results will be released on Aladdin Connect via two separate notifications over the next few days. COVID-19 and school closures since March 2020 impacted children in various ways and it is important to keep this in mind when considering your child's standardised test results and school report. If teachers were in any way concerned about the results, they will have contacted you before the reports are issued. Further information on standardised testing in this school year has been issued by the NCCA – see [NCCA English Standardised Testing 2020/2021](#).

This Week in RETNS

Our Annual School Walk was a great success on Monday. The infant classes loved their walk to Loreto Park and enjoyed waving the senior classes on to St. Enda's Park. They also enjoyed the chance to play on the Senior Yard before the other classes returned to school. Thank you to our RETNS children who donated their own money for the Outdoor Learning Project. Thanks also go to the parents and guardians who accompanied the children on their walk and who transported equipment to St. Enda's Park.

All Junior Infants received their vaccines this morning – well done to all concerned!

Both infant classes have been observing the life cycle of the butterfly over the last few weeks. There was great excitement this week when butterflies emerged in both classes. They will be released into our No Mow Meadow tomorrow.

RETNS Talent Show – and dressing for PRIDE

This has certainly been a year to find new ways to continue old traditions. Tomorrow we look forward to our Talent Show in aid of the Red Cross. Members of the Student Council have worked very hard to produce a compilation of the 47 videos submitted. The suggested donation is €2.00 and the children will enjoy popcorn during the performance.

The Student Council have also asked that children dress in rainbow colours to celebrate **PRIDE**.

6th Class Bake Sale

The annual 6th Class bake sale cannot go ahead this year, but the Student Council has come up with a great way to get children baking and sharing their kitchen skills virtually!

They are inviting children and their families to bake at home and upload a picture of their creation along with their name and class, using the Padlet link below. The Padlet page will fill up with delicious images for us all to admire, and every child who posts a picture will have their name entered into a draw.

On Friday, June 25th the Student Council will hold a raffle with all of the entrants' names, and one lucky baker will win a baking hamper! It is free to enter and children may send in as many photos as they like. However, each child's name will only be entered into the raffle once!

To upload an image to our Padlet page, please follow this link:

<https://padlet.com/katiedoyle/vcor2xb2mffl10c0>

Different Families, Same Love Competition

Congratulation to Alice in 6th class who came second in the senior category of the Different Families, Same Love Competition organised by the INTO.

Le dea-ghuí

Maeve

DODDER ACTION MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

DODDER ACTION DAY IS BACK!

Our all-river clean-up - well, sort of - is finally back on June 26th! We cancelled it last year and this year it didn't run in the spring as it usually does.

No need to explain to you all why this happened. We need to acknowledge that huge numbers of individual volunteers and small local groups have been out cleaning day in, day out, and there are new bins in some areas and more frequent pick-ups by Council teams in some areas too.

The pandemic has provoked a real reckoning with littering on the river. We were all out enjoying the river more than ever and yet the litter, particularly bottles and cans and take-away wrappers, was far worse than usual because of the closure of bars and restaurants.

DA has been instrumental in campaigning for measures to address the source of some of this litter: we support the element of the Waste Reduction Plan which bans single use plastic in take-aways and brings in deposits on drinks bottles and cans. It seems this may become law before the end of next year. We will be watching but not waiting - we will be campaigning instead!

These measures are long, long overdue and should form part of a war on litter which includes realistic bin provision and a better solution for dog waste than putting it in a plastic bag and then in a bin for archaeologists to mull over in centuries to come (why did they wrap up their dog doings?)

DODDER ACTION DAY MEET UP POINTS

Here are the provisional meeting points for Saturday June 26th, 2021. A final email will go out before the day:

Donnybrook (Iron Bridge at Brookvale Road, Donnybrook Tidy Towns) 10 am

Milltown (carpark opposite Wilde and Green) 10 am

Orwell (outside the Kiosk at Orwell Bridge) 10 am

Rathfarnham (footbridge to Bushy Park off Dodder View Road, 10 am)

Firhouse (Balrothery Weir, meet at Morton's Pub car park, 10 am)

Firhouse Lower (meet in car park opposite Speaker Connolly, 10 am)

Sean Walsh Park (Roundabout at Old Bawn Community School, 10 am tbc)

Killinarden (meet outside Croi Ro Naofa GAA Club 11.30 am NOTE DIFFERENT TIME)

Please come out with your own gloves, if you have them, though we will provide some if necessary. We have pickers.

We will of course practice social distancing, take contact tracing information and split groups if we get more than 15 people at a location.