



Weekly Update

25th June 2021

Outdoor Learning Project – Update on Fundraising



Our current total raised is €12,186.75, including €305.00 raised by the children on our annual School Walk. Donations will continue to be welcomed throughout the summer. However, with the holidays fast approaching, we would be delighted to receive donations this week from those in a position to do so.

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 retns.ie to see some of 2nd class children updating the banner thermometer this morning!

Many thanks for your continued support.

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

www.facebook.com/retns.outdoorlearningproject

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

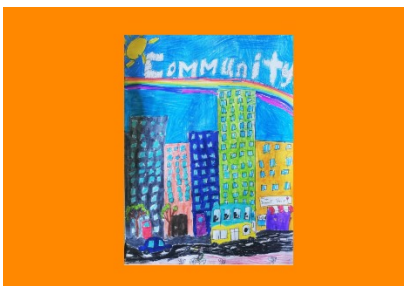
Lost Property Reminder

There is a lot of lost property which has yet to be claimed. It can be found outside the school at the end of each school day. Any unclaimed property will be donated to charity next Wednesday.

Covid-19 response plan – September 2021

It is expected that schools will continue to operate with the current infection prevention and control measures in place when they reopen in September. Our school will therefore, when reopening in September, continue to operate in line with our current Covid-19 response plan with some minor tweaks. Any changes will be communicated well in advance of the return to school.

RETNS Values



Our value of the month is Community, a value we have seen in action throughout this month. Well done to Cayla and Juno in 2nd class who produced the attached poster.

RETNS Talent Show

Thank you, once again, to the children who sent in videos for the Talent Show. The Student Council did a fantastic job organising this event and €300.00 was raised for the Red Cross.

This Week in RETNS

Today we held our annual Sports Day. Our arrangements had to be changed in accordance with our COVID protocols but our children had a great day.

Harvesting of vegetables has begun. Junior Infants cooked chips from their first crop of potatoes – truly delicious! 5th class have also harvested their broccoli. Meanwhile, some children from 3rd class did some Trojan work on the wormery, turning and aerating the different sections and making sure all the worms will be happy over the summer break. Come September there will be a section ready for harvesting with some beautiful compost.

Rugby and dance classes have come to an end for this year and I have had great feedback from children and staff alike. Jonathan, our rugby coach, was very impressed with the skill level of the children and suggested that some might be interested in joining a rugby club.

This week 2nd class turned into Legoland. They used different shapes and sizes of Lego to build or create whatever they wanted! They made castles, homes, cars, football pitches and many, many more things! (Photos can be seen on the RETNS website). The Green Team from 5th class have been busy teaching mini-lessons on plastic waste and marine life.

Some Ideas for Summer Learning




It is important to remember that summer holidays are not intended as curriculum teaching time. However, for primary school children, learning outcomes and experiences can be integrated across a wide range of activities often involving play, experimentation, collaboration and co-operation with others in their class. Where possible parents should seek to ensure that children simply enjoy the summer, play and have fun. Their physical and mental wellbeing is every bit as important, if not more important, than academic results.

Play is how children grow, learn and discover. After a tough year, play will be how children reconnect with their family, friends and their communities and recover from the impact of the pandemic. We need to ensure that children get outside, play and have fun.

The summer should provide children, parents and families with an opportunity to rest, recuperate and recharge after a gruelling year.

There are limitless possibilities for parents and pupils to engage in Fun Activities that are intrinsically educational. These are just some suggestions:

SESE (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education – this includes History, Geography and Science)

-  Visiting Heritage sites: Admission Charges to all fee-paying open OPW heritage sites are being waived until the end of the year. Many such heritage sites also have free admission – find out what's in your area for day trips
-  Interact with nature, explore your local area, 'walks' and 'play in the park'
-  Bird song apps, to identify birds singing, are available for smart phones – feeding, observing, recording and sketching birds visiting the garden and in the locality

- ✚ In Ireland we are fortunate in that many of our National museums have free entry. Collins Barracks, the National Museum and the Natural History Museum in Dublin are all free
- ✚ Towns and villages across the country often have local historical societies and folk-lore related to local landmarks – simple searches on google can throw up a treasure trove of information

Language & Literacy:

- Listen to your child. Encourage them to tell, describe, explain
- Encourage reading – read to young children, audio books, visiting the library, access the mobile library
- Audio books can be downloaded from your local library by using:
<https://www.librariesireland.ie/elibrary/eaudiobooks>
- Young children often love to write and draw - access to pens, markers, paper and crayons
- For very young children – working with playdough helps develop the muscles necessary for fine motor development, as does threading, using pegs, chunky crayons etc.
- Keeping a diary or journaling might be of interest. Writing cards to family or friends

Numeracy:

- We live in a mathematical world - money, counting, numbers, shape and space are all important mathematical concepts and we are surrounded by opportunities to explore them
- For younger children simply counting, sorting, playing shop, pricing, going to the shop can all develop key mathematical skills. Finding and talking about shapes. 2 D (Rectangles, Squares, Circles) 3-D (cubes, cylinders, spheres) etc.

Physical Education:

- Running, cycling, swimming, dancing - games of all sorts
- Balance, throwing, catching
- Access local clubs – Cúl Camps, summer camps, sports clubs
- Walking – hills / mountains / parks and lakes

Drama, Art and Music:

Energy goes where attention flows - encourage, listen, watch and comment

Access to paint, pencils, crayons & paper

Play dates – make believe

Hugh Lane and National Art Galleries in Dublin have free admission. They also have materials available to allow your children create their own art. Galleries, exhibitions or street art in towns and villages.

Take time to stop, look and listen – street performers, buskers, street artists

What is happening in your local area?

The Let's Play Ireland website on gov.ie has been updated and is packed with new resources for children and families to enjoy. <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/lets-play-ireland/>

Our Support Team have developed some other ideas which I have attached

[Summer Ideas from the Support Team](#)

The Transition from Primary school to Secondary School: A parenting talk organised by Ballyroan Library on Tuesday 29th June 7pm via Zoom

The move from primary to secondary school can result in both anxiety and excitement, and that is just for the parents! This is one of the most significant transitions our young teens face. The changes are social, emotional, and academic, as they move from being the 'seniors' in their primary school to the 'juniors' in this new educational environment. In this talk Dr Mary O'Kane outlines some of the challenges faced during this transition, and offers very practical advice on how we can support students on this new educational journey.

Dr Mary O'Kane is a Lecturer in Psychology, Early Childhood Studies and Education. Her research interests include childhood transitions; self-esteem and wellbeing, and the value of play. She runs a monthly Parenting Slot on Ireland AM discussing a broad range of parenting and childhood issues while also responding to viewers' parenting queries. She is also a regular contributor to the Alison Curtis Show on Today FM. She gives public talks on a range of topics related to child wellbeing, parenting, and education, and is well known for her humorous down to earth approach. Her first book, Perfectly Imperfect Parenting: Connection not Perfection, is due for publication in February 2021.

Emerald Soccer Camp – see [Emerald Soccer-Summer 2021](#)

Le dea-ghuí,

Maeve