

Thornleigh Educate Together National School
Newsletter Number 1



Welcome one and all to our very first Newsletter! It's been two months now since we opened our doors to all of you and boy has it been a busy time for all involved. Let myself - Paula Príomhoide, and my staff tell you a little about this wonderful and exciting for the school community.

On Friday the 29th August at 8pm I received the keys of the school from the Department of Education and Science. Present at this 'handing over' were Mark Heffernan and Frances Mc Hugh from the Start-Up group and Paul Rowe (CEO), Jarlath Munnely, and Gerry McKeivitt representing "Educate Together". Pictures of this momentous moment can be seen displayed on the yard door.

The keys received, now the fun starts! The school had to be equipped and organized in order to receive your child on Monday 1st September. All hands set to work in order to achieve this goal. I would like to thank here

those who so willingly offered to help out - Esther Chaney, Frances McHugh, Rachel Adams, my sister and my daughter. Heartfelt thanks to you all.

The school opened with the minimum of fuss on the day and there was great excitement on both the faces of parents and children alike, a few tears too and they were from the Parents! Pictures of the opening day are displayed both in the school halls and on the website. You are all very welcome to come into the school to view these. Pictures were also taken by the local Newspaper - The Fingal Independent- and I understand that copies can be received from their office.

Children

The children are both happy and contented in their lovely new school. Evidence of this can be seen both on their faces and in the work they have both learned and produced and displayed over the last two months. Junior and Senior Infants are comparable to sponges in that they soak up each new piece of learning and are always hungry for more. Learning and laughter can be heard echoing throughout the corridors of *Thornleigh*. We now have twenty eight children, 15 boys and 13 girls.

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Staff

On the 1st of September the staff consisted of just Rachel and I. Cead míle fáilte - to you Rachel and thank you for the support over the past two months. Rachel is an excellent teacher and evidence of this can be seen both in the children's learning's and her classroom. Thank You Rachel. From there the staff has grown to five. These include, David O'Neill our language support teacher, Laura McCann - general allocation and Áine McCormack - School Secretary. Welcome to all of you. All of the above staff have worked together to support your child's educational journey and have been doing a tremendous job. Thank You.

Now here are a few lines on the Staff's Thoughts as we come to the end of mid-term:

Rachel

'Dear Parents, It is hard to believe that we are now coming to the end of our first school term here in TETNS. We have had a very busy and rewarding few months with fun and laughter in abundance - just as it should be! Junior Infants have been especially busy learning their letter sounds while many of our Senior Infants are reading words independently! We are very proud of all that the children are achieving and we know even greater things are to come. On another note, it is a great privilege and honour for me to have been successfully appointed to Thornleigh Educate Together and in particular, to work with a Principal of Paula's calibre. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that the school is not only a welcoming and homely place for all the children but also for the staff and parents. I would like to use this opportunity to thank Paula for her wonderful work and convey the utmost appreciation from her colleagues here in Thornleigh.'

David

'Having been a part of Thornleigh Educate Together for five weeks now the main thing I have noticed is the tremendous support the staff receives from the parent body on a daily basis either through the voluntary cleaning of the school or simply the welcoming

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hello every morning. A strong and supportive parent body is so important to any school, especially a start up school, so I would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome and I hope that this support continues so that we can make T.E.T.N.S. a wonderful environment for your children.'

Laura

'It's hard to believe we're midway through our first term, but as the old saying goes "Time flies when your having fun" The first few months at Thornleigh have been a whirlwind of fun, laughter and learning.

My experience of Thornleigh E.T.N.S. thus far has been one of mutual respect, shared responsibility, cohesive learning and enthusiasm for learning which is driven fundamentally by the children and families involved in the school. It is an absolute pleasure to be working and learning and part of a strong, supportive community.'

Áine

'The first thing that struck me on arrival at Thornleigh Educate Together on September 1st was the warmth of the colours of the outside of the building, and inside was so bright with plenty of light and so much space I said to a colleague "this building would put you in good humour". The sense of space, warmth and colour right through the building is amazing. It has been a

pleasure to watch the children decorate the walls with their colourful work each day and the staff enhance the building with signs, posters, educational information, art work etc. The building fast became a school with plenty of activity on a daily basis. The smile on the children's faces in the mornings and the sound of laughter in a warm atmosphere, make working at Thornleigh a pleasure., Joining a new school like Thornleigh is challenging and can only enhance our growth, awareness and educational development. I look forward to being part of the team for years to come.'

Board of Management

We have held elections for the Parents Representatives and Prince Anandarajah and Frances were the successful candidates. The board also consists of myself, Rachel as teacher's rep, Mark Heffernan and Esther Chaney. At time of print posts have not been allocated to individual and our community representatives will be elected shortly. The Board meets approximately once a month and the Professional Organisation and Management of the school is the main business of the Board.

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Donations



Our school could not have opened successfully without the kind donations of many individuals and groups. These people and groups kindly donated resources to me over the summer months when we didn't even have our building complete!! For fear of leaving anyone person or group out I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and gratitude to all of you.

Fundraising

In recent times we have set up a semi-permanent fundraising committee which consists of Áine and Paul Kavanagh one of our Parents. As you can see a raffle has been organized by our committee in which you must guess the name of the dog for €5. I have also organized a 'dress up' on Friday to once again raise much needed funds. The funds raised will go towards IT

equipment for the school. If any of you would like to help in our fund raising efforts please contact either of the above. Also if any of your places of employment or companies would like to contribute to school, any donation would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You

I would like to on behalf of all the staff thank Esther Chaney, Paul Kavanagh, Jane Kavanagh, Frances Mc Hugh, Natalie Dooris, Olena and Anatoliy for the voluntary help in cleaning and caretaking of the school. Your work was very much appreciated.

Learn Together

As part of our Ethical and Moral programme we have covered the following festivals and key belief systems over the past two months. We have introduced the pupils to the following in keeping with the Educate Together *Learn Together* curriculum, The Harvest Festival, Ramadan, The Celtic Festival of Samhana. We have also covered the moral and ethical strand in class when we discussed feelings, actions and consequences. The classroom rules are also part of this strand. You can download this

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programme from the National Educate Together website or you can view them in the school hall.

In November we plan to look at Noah's Ark, and in December of this year we will celebrate the festival of Christmas. If you have any toy animals you would like to 'lend' the school for the Noah's Ark table for November they would be appreciated. Our table inside the main door displays our Learn Together Theme for the month.

In relation to enrolment policy Educate Together offer a first come first served policy. There is no sibling policy. It is therefore advisable to fill out pre-enrolment forms asap.

As a Teaching-Principal there are be days which have been sanctioned by the Department of Education and Science, in which I will be either in my Office carry our many of the Administration duties involved in the running of a new school or away on Professional Leadership Development Lecture days(block of 2/3 days). In my absence my class will be either taught by David or Laura.

Once again thank you to all who have contributed in any way, shape or form to the opening of *Thornleigh Educate*

Together. Looking forward to many more happy terms and years together.

Paula
Príomhoide.

