



Aston Village Educate Together, Dunlin Street, Aston Village, Drogheda, Co Louth
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September Newsletter

Welcome back to Aston Village E.T.N.S.!

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Date for the diary
Upcoming events in the school.

- **Friday 13th of September** - Junior Infants last day finishing at 12.00. They will finish at 1.30 from Monday 16th. Hot lunches will be provided for Junior Infants from Monday 16th of September too.
- **Friday 13th of September** - PTA Welcome Coffee morning
- **Tuesday 17th of September** - Swimming begins for 6 weeks for **5th** class.
- **Friday 20th of September** - 6th class Bake Sale in aid of 6th class hoodies and their chosen charity (to be decided by the classes)
- **Thursday 24th of October** - Fancy dress disco
- **28th of October - 1st of November** - Mid Term break (School closed)
- **Monday 3rd March 2025** - **The school will be closed for a Maths training day**

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Staffing update **Welcome to our new teachers**

Sinéad Crilly joins as a support teacher from Tyrellstown E.T.N.S. Susan Sweeney who previously worked in the school as a substitute teacher joins us from Oldtown N.S. We also welcome Karen Mulroy from Whitecross N.S. who is job sharing with Síle in 5th class. Welcome back to teacher Áine Murphy. We are in the very fortunate position of having filled all of our teaching positions despite the teacher shortage.

The Goodman Foundation
Donation secured for outdoor classroom and playground

We are delighted to announce that we have secured €50,000 from the Goodman Foundation towards our outdoor classroom and playground project. This is in addition to funds secured from the Department of Education for drainage and a new wetpour surface in the playground area of the school. We will be consulting with pupils, parents and staff, in conjunction with an architect, to come up with a design worthy of our wonderful pupils.

We are very excited to see this project come to fruition.

New School Mural
Oh we do like to be beside the seaside!



A huge thanks to teacher Liz for her work on the new mural in the swing room. It is a lovely addition to the school.

Say Yes to Languages **Spanish Classes**

Once again we have secured funding to continue providing Spanish classes for 5th and 6th classes. These classes are a wonderful way for the pupils to start to learn a new language.

Parent Teacher Association **Buddy Benches**

Thanks to the P.T.A. for providing the funds for 2 new buddy benches. These benches made from recycled plastic will stand the test of time. Our wooden benches had degraded over time and were no longer fit for purpose.



Volunteers

Volunteering opportunities for parents and the school community

We are always looking for volunteers to help out in the school. We have created a form for members of the school community to express their interest in volunteering. Opportunities include reading with pupils, helping in the school garden and helping at school events. Please click [here](#) to express your interest or go to www.tinyurl.com/avetnsvolunteering

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Parking

Please be respectful of our neighbours.

We have had a number of messages from the residents of Dunlin Street requesting that the school community obey the rules of the road when dropping and picking up children. Families are encouraged to use active modes of transport to school such as walking and cycling. Please dismount from bikes and scooters at the school gates. We have been informed that there will be a visit from the traffic engineer from Louth County Council. Cars should use the drop and go system in the school car park. If you need to park at collection time you are encouraged to park at the Aston Village centre and walk over to collect your children.

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Healthy Eating policy

Sweet treats.

Please do not send in cakes, party bags or other birthday treats, as it will not be possible for teachers to distribute them in line with our policy. The teachers will still mark birthdays in their classrooms as appropriate. We appreciate your cooperation and support in this matter.

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Voluntary Contribution

Thank you!

A big thank you to the families who have made a voluntary contribution to the school. This money is a huge help in covering the cost of running the school and providing the best facilities we can for the children.

Contributions can be made in installments through Aladdin throughout the year,

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PTA Coffee Morning

The Parent Teacher Association will hold their monthly coffee morning on Friday 13th of September from 9.00 am in the school kitchen. All are welcome to come along.

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Coats and hats

Please make sure that children come to school dressed in weather appropriate clothes. We will try to get outside as much as possible so children need to be dressed for the weather.

Please label all your child's clothes so we can return them if they are lost.

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Attendance

We are writing this to outline the school's obligations when it comes to reporting attendance figures.

Attendance is recorded daily by the class teacher on our online roll books via Aladdin. If later than 8:50, the time of arrival is also recorded here (this is calculated by Aladdin into learning time missed at the end of the year).

School Attendance Reports

Attendance is reported to TUSLA, the child and family agency, twice a year. The reporting periods in the year are, September to December and January to June.

On this form we are required to list any pupils, over the age of 6, who have missed 20 school days for any reason. It is rare that these reports lead to any follow up, unless it was significantly more days missed, but it is possible. If it is followed up the Education Welfare Officer will ask if the absences were explained. Explained absences, due to illness etc, are not a cause for concern and shouldn't cause any worry at all. A Doctor's note should be provided to the school if your child is missing many days due to illness. A large number of unexplained absences may lead to further involvement from the Education Welfare Officer.

The reports are not something to be concerned about and if you get a letter saying your child has been included in the report, please don't be concerned. While attendance is hugely important and good attendance correlates strongly with improved outcomes, there are also very valid reasons for children to miss school and this is understood. The role of the Education Welfare Officer is primarily to offer support to families to improve attendance

Key things to note:

- The aim of attendance and punctuality procedures are to ensure the child gets the best experience of education and maximises learning time. We are available to support as needed.
- There is no need for concern if you get a letter saying your child has been included on the attendance report. Explained absences are recorded as such.
- Be sure to enter your absence reason on Aladdin each time your child is absent, to keep that on record. Doctor's note should be provided for illnesses longer than a few days.
- Aim to have your child in school for 8.50am each day. We understand this isn't always possible, and understanding is always there for extenuating circumstances. Chat to your child's class teacher if it's an ongoing challenge and a note can be made of it, and possibly we can seek to support you and your child in this regard.

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