

# Gorey Educate Together National School

*Scoil Náisiúnta Foghlaim le Chéile, Guaire*

Principal's Newsletter 14th April 2015

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**School Photographs:** Order forms were distributed last month, (spares available from the school office.) Copies of class photographs can be previewed at the school, (see noticeboard by Infant classrooms.) Parents will receive a text when photos are ready for collection. (This may take several weeks.) There is no obligation to purchase any photograph. The school receives a % of all sales. **Return envelope + exact payment to the school office by Wednesday 15th April.** Thereafter, order directly from the photographer.

**July programme for children with autism:** Full details of the 2015 programme are yet to be announced by the Department of Education.

**School-based programme (for schools with special classes)** At present, the school is offering places to the children enrolled in our special classes. Thereafter, vacant places (if any) will be offered to children in our mainstream classes, (younger children first.)

*All families will be informed by Tuesday 28th April as to whether or not they have secured a place on our school-based programme.*

**Home-based programme** (for children with autism diagnoses and attending mainstream classes, who cannot access a school-based programme) Parents should now visit the July Programme section on [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie) to register their interest.

**Tuesday 14th April:** 'Heritage in Schools' art workshops with Mary Wallace for senior infants and Daire's 2nd class. (5 Tuesdays) [Remaining Heritage in Schools science workshops rescheduled for May 18th—21st, as facilitator was ill.] All Heritage in Schools workshops are funded by our Parent Teacher Association — Thanks!

**Wednesday 15th April:** Soccer coaching with Mikael Allain continues on Wednesday mornings. Current classes: **1st Class** and our **Special Classes**. Suitable footwear must be worn. Next week: Senior Infants, (for 4 Wednesdays.)

**Thursday 16th April:** Swimming for Patrick/Jacinta/Maeve's classes begins. Parents: please check with class teacher for your child's dates. Send swim gear, towel and swim hat to school!

**Milk:** This year's School Milk Scheme ended on Friday 27th March.



## School Calendar 2015-2016

### Term 1

School reopens to pupils at 8.50am, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015

School closes Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and reopens Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

End of Term, school closes Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

### Term 2

School reopens to pupils at 8.50am, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016

School closed Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

End of term, school closes Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March\*

### Term 3

School reopens to pupils at 8.50am, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016

School closes Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April and reopens Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May

School closed Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June

End of term, school closes Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June

\* See school website for full 2015 and 2016 calendars.

## New event date: May 1st.

April is Autism Awareness Month. To play our part in raising awareness, the school will again run a '**Blow Bubbles 4 Autism**' event.

We again hope to raise funds for a local Autism charity. Children in 5th class will run a 'bubbles shop' at the school. The shop will open from 10.20-10.30 every day 27th April — 1st May. Bubbles cost €2. (The children would store their bubbles in the classrooms until the event on the 1st of May.)

As a local supermarket is sponsoring 413 bottles of bubbles (this was organised for us by a parent volunteer - thanks!) **all** money raised in our 'bubbles shop' will go to a local Autism charity.

Any available parents are invited to join us on the 1st. (We won't have spare bubbles for parents or younger siblings - bring a bottle, if desired.) Donations on the day are also very welcome!

### 'Blow Bubbles 4 Autism'

**1.15pm sharp**

**Friday May 1st**

**Gorey Educate Together NS**





Coming Soon: Online survey for parents & guardians on this school's **Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)** work.

Your response will help shape the school's approach to this curriculum area over the coming years, (as was the case in previous surveys/consultations: Code of Behaviour, Relationships & Sexuality Education policy, Educate Together ethos review, etc.)

**SPHE** includes lessons and activities for the children in areas such as:

- |                    |                     |                    |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| self-confidence    | making decisions    | health & wellbeing |
| bullying           | feelings & emotions | personal safety    |
| relating to others | conflict resolution | new life           |

The survey is currently being piloted amongst a sample group of parents and will be made available to all families during the coming weeks.

Details to follow...



### Dressing for School

- Is that bikini top suitable for school activities?*
- How about the off-the-shoulder top, or maybe the crop top?*
- Are those low-cut jeans OK? Her underwear is showing - will that distract her classmates?*
- Will the slogan on his T-Shirt offend anyone in school?*
- Is it safe to wear football boots on tarmac?*
- I wore 'short shorts' when I was in 2nd class. Are they OK in 6th class?*
- Those wedges are a bit tricky, maybe I can do PE in my bare feet?*



There is no uniform at Gorey Educate Together — when choosing clothes that are *suitable for everyday school activities* families can also incorporate individual preferences, if they so wish.

The number of potential questions about what to wear (or what *not* to wear) to school is perhaps endless.

As a general rule, when dressing for school we all have a part to play in helping to keep Gorey Educate Together as **accident free** and **child-friendly** as possible.

Again, all clothing needs to be **suitable for school activities**.

**Clothing should never detract from pupils' learning**, or any other positive school experience.

We seldom encounter unsuitable clothing or footwear at the school - let's keep it that way!

*Raymond Swan*

*Principal*

From our Guide for Parents & Guardians

**Clothing:** 'The children wear comfortable, casual clothing that they can manage on their own...'

'Long, dangling **earrings** are not suitable for school. They present a significant risk of injury if snagged while running on the playground, etc. **Chains** and **necklaces** (worn outside clothing) present the same risk.'

'The children should not wear (or carry) **make-up** to school. It could become a major distraction in the classrooms.'

**Footwear:** 'The children wear runners/trainers or non-slip shoes to school. Wearing unsuitable boots, sandals, heels, etc. would mean that the child couldn't participate in a range of daily activities (PE, dance, playground games, etc.) Heelies/wheelies, high heels and steel-capped boots are not permitted.'



**NO FLIP FLOPS**

