

# Gorey Educate Together National School

*Scoil Náisiúnta Foghlaim le Chéile, Guaire*



Principal's Newsletter 17th November 2015 Tel: 053 94 89662

info@goreyeducatetogether.ie www.goreyeducatetogether.ie Twitter: @GoreyEducate

**Tuesday 17th November:** Tag rugby coaching for the senior classes via Leinster Rugby, (6 Tuesdays.)

**Thursday 19th November:** GETNS teams participate again in *Leinster League* chess competition.

**Friday 20th November,** 

**7.30pm:** Sing Out Loud event at Wexford Opera House. Louise, Deirdre, Laura and Brendan's classes will participate. A few tickets for sale via the school office. Otherwise, book directly from the Opera House.

**Friday 20th and Saturday 21st November:** Educate Together (National) Ethos Conference, Dublin 1. See [www.educatetogether.ie](http://www.educatetogether.ie) Two GETNS teachers will represent the school.

**Week of Monday 23rd November:** Parent Teacher Meetings. Appointment letters will issue this Thursday. Check the school bags...

**Friday 27th November:** Presentation of National Flag to the school by members of the Defence Forces as part of the *Ireland 2016 State Commemorative Programme*.

### **Parent-Teacher Meetings**

Free-of-charge minding service (for the duration of your meetings only) available in the school PE hall 2.30-3.30 on Tuesday 24th & 2.30-4.30pm on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th Nov, (the busiest afternoons.)

Otherwise, the children should stay in or near the classroom during their parents' meeting — they remain under the care of their parents or guardians during these times. Pupils: No unsupervised wandering around the school (activity room, multi-sensory room, playgrounds, etc.)

**Election of Parent Nominees to the Board of Management:** Following last week's meeting, the following parents will be nominated to the Patron (Educate Together National Office) for appointment to the school's new Board of Management: Allen Holman and Olive Doherty.

*I know where I'll be on **Sunday 6th Dec!**  
I'll see you there too because it's...*

### **Our Winter Fair!**

*Set your reminders & mark your calendar!  
Get ready for a Fun Time!  
See you at 2pm.'*

**Gorey Educate Together N.S. Winter Fair, 2pm-5pm,  
Sunday 6th December.**

*Now that all the crafts are well underway,  
we are looking for donations of  
**baked goods** for the Crafty Café!  
Please leave any baked goods in the PTA room on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
(or you could bring them with you on  
Sunday.)*

*All contributions are greatly appreciated. Kind regards,  
the Winter Fair Committee*

## **Winter Weather Visit [www.winterready.ie](http://www.winterready.ie)**

Parents are asked to plan for the following possibilities:

^Delayed school opening. Classes would begin one hour later than usual (at 9.50am) and end at the usual times. (If necessary, all infants can be supervised until 2.30pm.)

^Full school closure.

Any decision to delay opening or to close the school would be communicated as follows. (Please be aware that one or more methods could fail.)

1. Text message via *Text-a-Parent*.
2. Notice on school website.
3. Notice on local radio - *South East Radio*.
4. Voice message on school telephone.

Parents should not 'phone the school mobile, as this will be used to contact bus operators, staff, Gardaí, etc.

*Even if the school can open as normal, any decision to travel (or to use school buses) during severe weather rests with individual families.*

**2015-2016:** 'BUS EIREANN WILL NOT OPERATE SCHOOL BUSES IN AN AREA AFFECTED BY A **STATUS RED WEATHER WARNING**.' Therefore, given our large catchment area and the high number of our pupils who use bus services, GETNS is likely to remain closed during any **status red weather warning for Co. Wexford**.

## **BE WINTER-READY**



[www.winterready.ie](http://www.winterready.ie)

## BEHAVIOUR REMINDERS

### What are the orange cards for?

Our staff are working hard to give credit for the behaviours that are most dear to us at Gorey Educate Together: kindness and inclusion. They also present orange cards to the children who help to keep our break times secure by playing safely, lining up well and using 'SALT' (see below.) Orange cards go towards 'Class of the Week.' (A trophy and a treat are presented during Friday assembly.)

### What is S.A.L.T.?

S.A.L.T. stands for *Stop, Ask, Listen and Talk*. The SALT programme is designed to help children in primary school learn good *conflict resolution skills*. We've introduced the programme into all of our classrooms as part of our Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Learn Together curriculums. Parents can find out more about S.A.L.T. by visiting [www.otb.ie](http://www.otb.ie)

### Blue cards

We're also using 'blue cards' to track certain misbehaviours: unsafe play, name-calling, not following directions and not lining up. (Whereas orange cards are displayed around the school, blue cards are not.)

**Reflection Room**, 12.30-12.50pm (i.e. during part of one of the playground breaks.) Our Code of Behaviour makes provision for strategies and sanctions to be used when a child's behaviour does not meet the agreed expectations, (non-verbal signals, reasoning, reprimand, timeout, loss of privileges, etc.) In tandem with our 'SALT' work, a reflection room is also available as a possible strategy/sanction. This room operates very similarly to 'timeout,' but any referred pupil also completes a SALT-based reflection sheet to help them reflect on behaviour and misbehaviour. Parents are asked to sign any such reflection sheets.

### Compliance Statement: Implementation of 'Croke Park Agreement'

The staff of this school implement all aspects of Department of Education Circular 0008/2011 regarding the 'Croke Park Agreement.' Since February 2011 more policy development work and whole-school planning takes place after the pupils go home. Thus, the number of half-days for pupils (to facilitate staff meetings and courses) was reduced from 8-9 per year prior to February 2011, to 1-2 per year at present.

*Raymond Swan, principal*



'Make education important in your home.... Don't let your child miss out on a good start in life! It is not okay to miss school.... Help your child to be proud of a good attendance record.'

*National Educational Welfare Board*



### Reminders

The children can only be marked present if they are in attendance when each morning roll is called.

Parents should always write to the teacher explaining the reason for a child's absence.

Please remember to write a note, even if you have spoken to a teacher about the absence. The reason for your child's absence will be filed. (Parents can also email the note to [info@goreyeducatetogether.ie](mailto:info@goreyeducatetogether.ie) Include the child's full name and class.)

High levels of non-attendance are reported automatically to the National Educational Welfare Board, 16-22 Green Street, Dublin 7.

See also [www.newb.ie](http://www.newb.ie) for information in various languages.



### Photos:

Craft work in preparation for our Winter Fair on Sunday 6th December.



**PTA Committee Meeting this evening, Tuesday 17th November, 7pm at the school. Additional committee members are needed. All parents and staff are welcome to join the committee. (The committee meets one evening per month.)**