



# Newsletter September 2019

## Welcome

We are delighted to welcome all our pupils back to Griffeen Valley ETNS this autumn. September has been a busy month at school, and everyone has been getting used to the school day routines again. We also welcomed some new members of staff this term and we hope that they will be very happy working here at GVETNS.

## Learn Together Curriculum

As Griffeen Valley ETNS is an Educate Together School we follow the Learn Together Curriculum. Students in all age groups spend half an hour per day learning through the four key strands of Ethics and the Environment, Justice and Equality, Moral and Spiritual and Belief Systems. This curriculum is taught in place of religious instruction in Educate Together schools. Parents and guardians can find out more about the Learn Together Curriculum by following this link: <https://www.educatetogether.ie/about/ethical-education/primary/>

## Building Update

As you will be aware, building work has been ongoing at GVET since November 2018. From January to June 2019 a large amount of internal fire safety updating work has been undertaken by companies contracted by the DES. This work has taken place outside of school hours, at weekends and during holidays. New and improved emergency lighting has been installed, some fire exit doors have been upgraded, leaks in the roof of the old building have been repaired, damaged flooring replaced in the hall and investigative works have also been undertaken. In June a meeting took place in Marlborough Street which was attended by members of the BOM and representatives of the DES. At this meeting plans for summer works were outlined. This summer extensive work took place and temporary precautionary measures have been put in place in the old building. Scaffolding to the exterior of the building will remain for the foreseeable future. All safety certification is in place. DES representatives have indicated that a further meeting with members of the BOM will take place later this term to outline the plans for future works. A date for this meeting

has yet to be confirmed. Further information, in the form of press releases from the DES, is also available on our website.

### **Fire Drills**

We have practiced our fire drills this month and will continue to do so throughout the year. Children at GVET followed the fire drill rules brilliantly and everyone exited the building in a very safe and timely manner. The fire alarm is sounded during these drills to ensure that children and staff are familiar with the alarm and follow the correct procedures. Our school alarm system is tested regularly.

### **Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment**

Each school is required to have a Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment in place. These should be reviewed by the BOM on an annual basis. Our most recent statement and risk assessment is available for parents to view on our website and is displayed at the entrance to the main school office. The Designated Liaison Person for GVETNS is Andrea and the Deputy Designated Liaison Person is John Paul.

**European School Sport Day - 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2019** Children, staff and parents had great fun joining in the morning "warm up" sessions. Our pupils showed off some fantastic dance moves. Throughout the day we took the opportunity to "Go Noodle", dance, exercise and move more. It was fantastic to see so many parents and guardians joining in this morning!

### **Pupil Accident Cover (PAC)**

Thank you to the PTA for organising the collection of PAC forms and money. If haven't signed up yet and would like to do so forms and money can be dropped to the office on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

### **Dates for your diary - reminders!**

Green School and Student Union elections - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October

Mid- term break - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of November inclusive

School Closure for teacher training - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> of November

Book Fair - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of November: volunteers needed ☺

*Mise le meas,*

*Andrea.*