

Griffeen Valley ETNS Newsletter 25th of June 2020

6th Class Graduation

Congratulations to all our 6th class graduates of 2020! The school hosted its first virtual graduation at 7pm on Tuesday 23rd of June. It was filled with lovely videos and messages from pupils and teachers. Thank you to the PTA for the time and effort that was given to organise "Goody Bags", t-shirts and graduation balloons for our 6th class pupils. Thanks also to Niamh, Ciara and Joyce for the long hours of preparation for the virtual graduation. They were also well supported by the "back room team" of many teachers and SNA's - well done and thank you!

We will miss our wonderful 6th class pupils and wish them all the best on their new adventures.



New Junior Infant Webinar

A webinar took place on Monday 22nd of June at 6.30pm for parents of all pupils who will join us in Junior Infants on 31st of August. A letter was sent to all parents of enrolled Junior Infants 2020 in late May advising that a webinar would take place. An email with invitation to the Zoom webinar was then sent to all parents of enrolled Junior Infants 2020 on 15th of June. Thank you to everyone who joined us. We look forward to welcoming you later this year and will send a video of classrooms and the school to help prepare children for school in late August. The slideshow presentation from the evening will be available on the school website.

Building Webinar

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the school buildings webinar which took place at 7pm on 17th of June. The slideshow from the evening and the letter from the DES will be available on the school website

Amber Flag Award

Great news! Our school has been awarded the Amber Flag. We are very proud of all of the work that the teachers Amber Flag Committee and Student working group put into achieving this award over the past year. Thanks, in particular to Peter and Jacqui K for your efforts with this project. Children's certificates will be sent out during the summer break. Below is a message from Pieta House.

Dear Amber Flag Committee in Griffeen Valley Educate Together National School,

We, at Pieta, are delighted to inform you that your school has been awarded with the Amber Flag! 😊

We would like to thank the Amber Flag Committee for their commitment and dedication to promoting Positive Mental Health in your school this year. As you know in order to receive a Pieta Amber Flag you have to set and achieve goals throughout the year and our team found your application to be an outstanding initiative promoting positive mental health. We are truly overwhelmed with the amazing initiatives being run in schools this year. You are all a credit to your school.

We know how difficult the last few months have been and we are so thankful that you were able to achieve your goals either in person or "virtually". We understand it's been a trying time for the Amber Flag Committee but we hope that you can look back on your achievements throughout the year and be grateful of the time you spent together and the goals you've accomplished! Don't underestimate the positive impact that your work has had this year. We, here at Pieta, certainly don't.

Attached are certificates for the Amber Flag Committee that you can edit the names and forward them to everyone, if you wish. There is also a certificate for your school that we hope you will display to show your great achievements. We are hoping to send the physical flags once we get back from working remotely, hopefully this will be in September so thank you for your understanding.

Again, well done to all of you. Pieta's Amber Flag Team hope that you are proud of all your accomplishments this year, especially in spite of the current situation. We certainly are!

*Kindest regards,
The Pieta Amber Flag Team*



Book lists for September

This year due to COVID 19 restrictions and restricted access to the school construction site we will be unable to organise the delivery and packing of books in school as we normally would. We are planning with a local supplier for purchase of book packs and stationery packs. This arrangement will be finalised in the next few days.

If stationery items are purchased online a 10% discount will apply. You will have the option of purchasing the full pack or separate items online. The book pack for your child's year group will also be available for purchase online so you will not need to add items individually to your basket. You can arrange for delivery or collection of all items with the supplier.

We will be in touch with full details and links to the supplier's website in the next few days. This information will be shared via Aladdin, e-mail and on the school website.

Anyone who has lodged money with the School-Book Saving Scheme for this year will receive a refund in cheque form in the coming week. Unfortunately, we are unable to make a bank transfer from our account. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

The resource fee, Educate Together Membership fee and book rental for each class will be payable in August via the schools Aladdin system. You will receive a payment notification via the app. The total for these items will be sent to you along with the booklist.

All rental books can be kept safely at home for the duration of the summer and returned to school at the beginning of next term. If you are moving on from GVET please return all rental books to school tomorrow between 9am and 12.30pm.

School Self Evaluation

Earlier this year we asked parents to complete surveys regarding Handwriting and the Democratic Process. Work on the initial phases of school self-evaluation have been completed and plans have been drawn up based on this information. These have been approved by the Board of Management and will be shared on the school website and via Aladdin.

Chromebooks

Thank you to everyone who returned borrowed Chromebooks to school yesterday and today. If you still have a Chromebook belonging to school, please return it to us by 12.30pm tomorrow.

Class teachers

As previously advised, I will send the list of classes and their teachers to all parents following interviews which take place next week. We say goodbye to Robert who is heading off West to new adventures. We wish him all the best for the future. We also wish Ruth all the best as she heads off on maternity leave and look forward to hearing happy news in the Autumn!

Calendar

The school calendar was sent out in an Aladdin app message last week. It has been attached to this message again and will be available on our website in the coming days.

Themed weeks on the website

We have prepared a virtual art gallery of pupils' work and a video of highlights from our themed weeks. You can access these on the school website from tomorrow. Password was provided in a previous Aladdin app message. We hope the children enjoy them.

Finally,

Schools are still awaiting guidance from the Department of Education and Skills so do keep an eye on your Aladdin app messages, email and school website for updates that may issue during the summer. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year especially during the challenging times that COVID 19 have brought. We wish you and your families all the best for the summer and look forward to returning to school at the end of August.

Slán go fóill,

Andrea and the staff at GVETNS.

