



**Shellybanks** Educate Together National School

# Welcome Booklet

Roll Number: 204415

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## **Welcome to Shellybanks Educate Together National School (ETNS).**

Here at Shellybanks ETNS we aim to ensure that all children receive a balanced education which will allow them to reach their potential in a positive, learning environment. We see the children as individuals, with each student progressing at a level appropriate to their needs within the school community. Our school ethos promotes inclusiveness and celebrates diversity. Children explore all cultures as is relevant to modern Ireland today.

On behalf of the school community I would like to welcome you to our school. We hope to get to know you, our parents, as well as we get to know your children. We as a staff intend to work very closely with you. Together, we hope to develop a warm, friendly and inclusive atmosphere and a vibrant school community with the aim of providing the best possible education for all the children in the school.

Kind regards,

Johanne O'Sullivan

School Principal

## Contents

Topic	Page Numbers
Shellybanks ETNS	1-6
Day-to-day school information	7-1
Communicating with the school	17 - 18
Your child's learning	19 - 23
Parents/guardians involvement	23 - 25
Home issues	26
How can I help my child?	27 - 29
Further information	30 - 31
Local clubs and leisure activities	32 - 38



## Shellybanks ETNS

### What is an Educate Together School?

Educate Together is a national organisation of the Educate Together multi-denominational schools in the Republic of Ireland. There are now over 81 Educate Together schools in the country and this figure is growing. The schools are fully recognised by the Department of Education and Science. They are non-fee-paying and they operate under the same rules applying to all national schools.

The name 'Educate Together' was carefully chosen by the national organisation to reflect the coming together of children and families of different faiths and beliefs, from different social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

### Developing our School Ethos

School ethos is an atmosphere that emerges from the interaction of different aspects of school life, including:

- our teaching and learning,
- Educate Together as the patron body,
- management and leadership,
- rituals and practices, and
- Goals and expectations.

Shellybanks Educate Together was founded by active parents who wanted a choice in their children's education and they contribute greatly to this.

These first years of our school's life will be very special ones, and will be hugely important in developing our ethos. This school will be truly **child centred** offering activities for all interests. We will try to make the children **critical thinkers** and encourage them to activate their views. This is your school, so become involved and let's create an atmosphere and an ethos we can be proud of.



### **New School Building**

In October of 2016 it was confirmed that the site for our new school location would be Roslyn Park in Sandymount. We are liaising with The Department of Education and Skills about our new school. At present in the Sandymount building our classrooms are full but the Department will place prefabs on the site until we move. We will keep you updated with any new information.

### **Board of Management (BOM)**

The Board of Management manages the school. The **Principal** is employed for the day to day running and management of the school. The Principal is responsible for teaching and learning decisions with input from teaching staff. Any decisions that a Principal makes are always answerable to our Board of Management.

As a new school we have a very active Board and Chairperson. Duties include employment of staff, overseeing any decisions made and ensuring that the school is running effectively. We make all decisions taking into account all the children in the school. Examples of what a Board deals with include changes in policies, school finance, parental involvement, challenges to teaching and learning, recruitment and our new school location.

At all Board meetings the Principal, the Treasurer and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) give reports. All members have different roles and are very effective in these roles.

The current Board members are (2015 - 2019):

- Jessica Ryan - Chairperson, Patron Nominee
- Johanne O'Sullivan - Principal, Secretary
- Liam Duggan - Treasurer, Patron Nominee
- Anne Marie Lillis - Teacher Nominee, Minutes Secretary
- Dania El Hossamy - Parent Nominee
- Michael O'Brien - Parent Nominee
- Olivia Freeman - Community Representative
- Annette McDermott - Community Representative, Health and Safety

The Board meet roughly once a month. If parents wish to bring any matters up with the Board, please do so in writing to the Chairperson. However the class teacher or the Principal should be the first port of call in most instances.

### **In-School Management (ISM)**

In schools there are teachers who hold posts of responsibility. They have been interviewed and the Board view them to have good leadership and management skills in the development of Shellybanks ETNS. The ISM meet as a group regularly to plan and manage the school. Policies and issues relating to children, staffing and families are supported through the ISM.

At present the ISM consists of the Principal (Johanne), Deputy Principal (Anne Marie), Special Duty Post Holder (Maura).

## Day-to-day school information



### School day

The pedestrian gate will open at 8.35 am. All children must line up in the school yard and be supervised by a parent or guardian in the school yard until the teacher takes the class inside.

School begins at **8.45 am** and finishes at **1.25 pm** for Junior and Senior Infants and **2.25** for Senior Classes. Please ensure that your child is on time. Children are often upset if they are late or collected late in the afternoon. Children line up in the yard in the morning and the teacher collects them at 8.45 am. We ask that parents do not accompany children into the school building, as this can be upsetting for other children.

The **school lunch breaks** are in the morning from 10.20 - 10.30 and from 11.55 - 12.25 (30 minutes). Each break is split between yard and class time for eating.

On Fridays we have an **assembly** in library about the Learn Together Curriculum and the children input into this. This gives us time to get together as a group and also to sing some of our songs. We also announce Student of the Week.

At **home time** the class teacher will bring their classes to line up outside. Each child needs to be handed over directly to the parent/guardian. If someone new is collecting your child or if your child is going home with another parent, you must inform the class teacher or the school. Otherwise we will not hand over your child until you make contact with us.



## Uniform

Children in Shellybanks ETNS **do not wear a school uniform.**

We ask that you dress your child comfortably and appropriately. For Infants in particular we ask that you teach your child to take off/on their coat and how to open and close zips, buttons, buckles and laces. Zips/Velcro are preferable to buttons and elasticated clothing is ideal. We would ask that your child wear lace-less shoes. We also advise that Junior Infants should have a spare set of clothes in the event of accidents. Please bring in a spare set of clothing in September and we will store them here.

Children are not allowed to wear heeled shoes for health and safety reasons. We suggest your child wears suitable shoes everyday as they are running and jumping in the yard.

Please write your child's name on their school coat and all items such as pencils, lunch boxes, drink containers, bags and so on. This is because children often have similar coats/belongings.



## Books

Your child's books, copies and portfolios are kept in the school until the end of the year. At times books may be sent home for homework. Parents will be invited into the class during the school year to see their child's progress.

You pay a **book fee** at the beginning of the school year and this covers these books, along with photocopying and art materials for the year.

All schools choose different books. We use many books that are not on your child's book list and purchase these to support learning at different levels such as graded reading schemes.



### Healthy eating

The school day is short and we want your child to receive the best education that they can. Diet plays a big part in your child's behaviour. We promote a healthy eating culture in our school. An example of a healthy lunch is:

- sandwiches, wraps, bagels
- yoghurt, fruit
- rice/pasta dishes
- water, juices, milk
- salad, tomatoes, vegetable sticks

If your child brings in yoghurts, please make sure they are set ones and pack a spoon.

Nuts are **not allowed** due to allergies

Don't give your child too big a lunch as they only have a short time to eat. If your child does

not finish their lunch, we will leave it in their lunch box so you know how much they are eating.

**Treats** are not given in school time. Children are really good at following our guidance and also telling us if someone is not following it! At times such as end of term children may be allowed to bring in a treat but this is at the discretion of the parent/guardian. Teacher may have days where children can bring in treats. If so we will inform you.

We are working towards a **Green flag** for our school and as part of this programme we ask that children bring home all rubbish and waste from their lunches, including fruit peels and yoghurt cartons. We also ask that your child brings in their drink in a reusable bottle.



### **Birthday parties**

Teachers do not distribute invitations to birthday parties. Distributing invitations can upset other children and cause conflict and hurt in the class. We ask that parents and children do not hand out birthday party invitations in the class lines in the morning and evenings.

In each class parents can ring the secretary and get the class list with phone numbers if you wish to make contact about playdates/parties. If you do not want your number to be given out, please let the office know. Only the name and number is given, not any other information.

We understand that birthday parties can be an expensive and stressful time for parents, and the guest list can become overwhelmingly long very quickly. There is also the expense of buying birthday presents for all the parties that your child may be invited to. We have talked to some parents who requested that we endorse

Fiver Parties at Shellybanks ETNS and we believe that this is a great idea. It means that in lieu of presents, children are asked to put €5 in a card and bring it along to the party. Then the birthday child can take his/her money and select a gift of their own choosing later. Obviously this is entirely up to you and your child. Simply write Fiver Birthday on the invite. If you'd prefer presents then leave it off the invite and people will know that you'd prefer traditional gift giving



### Allergies and giving medication

The Board of Management has a duty to safeguard the health and safety of students. However, teachers do not personally undertake the administration of medication, for example inhalers, injections, application of creams/sun creams and ointments (Health & Safety Child Protection Issue). We ask that parents put sun cream on children before coming to school on warm days.

The Board of Management asks parents to tell staff members in writing of any medical conditions that your child has. This information should be provided at enrolment or when any medical condition develops.

Where children are suffering from **life threatening conditions or allergies**, parents should outline clearly in writing, what should and what should not be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child. Please see the school's

Administration of Medicine's Policy and the relevant form that must be filled in by parents.

**Head Lice** is unfortunately common in all primary schools. Where possible tie your child's hair back. Check your child's hair weekly. If infected, inform the school and treat your child. Children cannot return to school unless their hair has been treated. Please do not panic. Lice are not fussy where they nest and contrary to belief they do like clean hair!



## Recycling

We will be encouraging your child to have an understanding of and to engage in recycling. This is part of the strands in our Ethics Programme and the **Green School's** Programme. We would ask that lunches are placed in lunchboxes and also that you will promote recycling in your home. Any food waste and packaging brought in by students will be brought home to recycle.

## Class

### groupings



Before the children start in Junior Infants, classes are grouped by Principal and staff according to the information provided by parents/guardians at enrolment. Information that we consider includes gender balance, social, emotional, behavioural and educational needs.

Classes generally stay in the same group throughout their time in school. However, if a class grouping is not working the classes may be reshuffled to make them work more effectively. Reasons for a reshuffle are multiple but generally relate to differences in the emotional, academic and social needs of the class. A reshuffle may also occur if the numbers in particular classes are not even. Multi-grade classes (for example, 1st and 2nd) taught in the same room are quite common in developing schools. If a reshuffle occurs the children are supported and prepared for this transition. Class teachers and the Principal only are involved in regrouping the classes.



## **Behaviour**

We believe that all children are equal and deserve to be respected. We expect that all children will follow the code of behaviour. All staff and visitors must also follow this code of behaviour. We are very fortunate through our ethos that the children respect each other.

**Bullying** is not acceptable in our school. Bullying is repeated behaviour that is planned.

If you have **concerns** regarding any issues within school please speak directly to the class teacher through appointment. Please do not discuss other children with parents as this is unfair. You can make an appointments through the office - on 087 966 7892.

We give class rewards such as golden time, student of the week, table of the week and so on. The children have an input into class rules and follow the golden rules.

We use sanctions for misbehaviour. All children will misbehave at some stage during school life; this is part of growing up so do not be upset! Our aim is that children can reflect on the misbehaviour and learn not to repeat this. However, if there is an ongoing issue about behaviour, parents will be informed and we will work together to help support your child.

We believe that **mutual respect** is something that we as adults should model. Therefore we expect all staff, parents and visitors to speak to each other in a respectful manner. Parents and teachers should always communicate orally, in letter, by email or on phone in a respectful manner. We must always remember that children model what they see around them.



## Assembly

Each Friday all the children meet together for assembly in the library. At assembly we discuss different topics and the children also sing songs together.

We discuss areas such as:

- Ethics strands
- SPHE (social personal and health education)
- SESE (social, environmental and scientific education)

The Principal makes any announcements and we award Student of the Week.

Parents and local agencies are often invited to give input at assemblies. For example:

- parents share belief systems at times such as Ramadan, Easter/Lent and Chinese New Year
- parents talk about their work such as a fireman, doctor, builder and so on
- the ISPCC - Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC)
- the local Dentist
- Gardaí
- Santa even dropped in last year!

We are hoping that once we have a more suitable venue and a portable microphone system that parents will be able to attend these assemblies.



### **Student of the Week**

Student of the week is awarded to one child from each class at assembly each week. Children are told at the beginning of the week what goal they are working towards. These are usually based on the *Golden Rules*. These may include good listening, being kind and so on. Student of the week is not used to praise academic work. It is used to highlight an extra effort made by students who are living the school ethos.



### **Attendance**

If your child is sick please contact the school office by phone or email. On your child's return please send a note to the class teacher explaining their absence and/or a sick cert issued by your GP if applicable.

The School is required by law to report children who miss 20 or more days or children who have regular absences without valid explanation to the local Educational and Welfare Officer. We ask that parents do not take children out for holiday. The school calendar is available online so parents can plan holidays well in advance.

We of course do not want you to send your child in if they are sick. However please note if a child misses 5 days from school, they have missed a whole topic in Maths that will not be returned to. The Infant curriculum is so important in the development of literacy and numeracy skills as so much of the work is carried out through hands on games where the children do not realise they are learning!

## Being late

We ask you to make sure your child is in line on time at 8.45 am when the teacher comes to collect them. Children hate being late and it also interrupts the rest of the class.

For Health and Safety reasons, if your child is late, you must first come to the School Office. The Secretary will bring your child to class. Do not go directly to the class.



## Enrolment and sibling policy

Our enrolment policy is based on a first come first served basis. There is also a sibling policy in place as well as catchment area. Please refer to the enrolment policy which is available on our website for further details.



## Second Level Educate Together School

Educate Together was awarded patronage of a second-level school in Dublin South City to cater for Dublin 2, 4, 6 and 8. This is due to open in 2018. The Department of Education and Skills has not confirmed the location of the second-level school yet.

<https://www.educatetogether.ie/media/national-news/educate-together-open-four-new-second-level-schools-dublin-and-limerick>

# Communication with the School

## Contact numbers and mobile phones

It is very important that you keep us up to date with your contact numbers in case of an emergency. Remember to let us know, if you change your mobile or landline number or email address.

While we understand there might be a need for mobile phones, if your child has a phone in school, it must be turned off in the child's bag until your child leaves the school building. We take no responsibility for lost phones. Please see our Mobile Phone Policy on our website.

## Bringing in toys or games

Children are not allowed to bring in toys or games from home unless the teacher asks them to do so. They can be a cause of conflict in the class and they are not insured on the premises in the event of being lost!

## School Notes

As we are a green school, we try to reduce waste as much as possible. The majority of school notes are sent by email. The weekly email bulletin is usually sent on Mondays. We encourage you to check your emails and the website regularly for up to date information about school life.

## Parent Teacher Meetings

Teachers will meet with parents during the first term as a group and then during the second term on an individual basis (before mid-term). Parents and teachers will obviously meet on an informal basis daily.

However, if you have concerns or questions, please make an appointment and we can meet to discuss these at an appropriate time that suits both parties and does not interfere with classroom teaching. You can make an appointment by email or by putting a note in your

child's folder or homework diary. Parents will also receive an End-of-year report from their child's teacher.

For more detailed information, please see our Communication Policy on our website.



## Your Child's learning

### Subjects

All students will be taught the following subjects:

English	Science	Music	SPHE (social personal and health education)
Gaelige	Drama	History	Visual arts
Maths	Geography		Physical education

The Ethics and Learn Together Curriculum will also be taught to all children. For more information on the National School Curriculum check the NCCA website [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

### Learn Together Curriculum

Educate Together schools are all inclusive. In Shellybanks ETNS we celebrate all cultures and belief systems. Children learn about all main festivals and celebrations, for example, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Ramadan and so on. While teachers are sensitive to all belief systems, we cannot facilitate children not attending during ethics.

As a school we celebrate all celebrations. As part of the belief strand many of our celebrations are based on the Learn Together Programme for example International Week, Diwali, Christmas, Fairtrade, Children's Week, Healthy Eating Week, Diabetes Day, International Human Rights Day and so on.

However, the belief systems are only a small part of our programme. Other strands include moral and spiritual, equality and justice, ethics and the environment. While Learn Together is timetabled, the ethos of our ethics Programme and the real life use of what we learn in ethics underpins the whole day in school, from the manner in which we address and relate to each other, to the songs we sing outside and the art you see on the corridors.

As part of the moral and spiritual strand we aim to develop the children's understanding of good decision making, personal wellbeing, being respectful and so on. We help to develop the children's sense of worth and give them skills to help enrich their own spirituality. Strategies we have introduced the children to include yoga, mindfulness and quiet time.

We teach our children to respect other children's beliefs and to acknowledge and celebrate difference. We do not allow children to exempt themselves from Learn Together lessons.

### **Gaeilge**

The Irish language and culture plays an important role in the everyday life of Shellybanks ETNS. We encourage staff and children to speak Irish informally during the day. If you have any basic Irish please use it as much as possible informally at home. We also celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge in March.

### **Aistear**

Aistear is the new early childhood curriculum framework for children from birth to six years in Ireland. It describes the types of learning that are important for babies,

toddlers and young children, with a focus on play based learning where children engage in a range of activities based on particular themes. Aistear was introduced to the infant classes and has been very successful. More on Aistear on the NCCA website [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

### **Language Acquisition**

If English is not your child's first language, we encourage children to speak only English at school. This is because research shows that total immersion helps support the development of the second language. However we also aim to encourage respect for other languages and support this by providing reading materials in our class libraries in a variety of languages to represent the diversity in our school.

We encourage parents to use their native language at home. This helps with the acquisition of languages by the child.

### **Standardised Testing**

Children while in Shellybanks ETNS will be involved in standardised testing at different class levels. These tests help us to measure your child's achievement compared to the national average. The following tests will occur:

- Junior Infants - Belfield Assessment - for children who teachers feel are having some challenges
- Senior Infants - all children: MIST (Middle Infant Screening Test)
- First and Sixth class - all children: Maths and English Drumcondra Tests

For more information on standardised testing, check out the NCCA website on [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

The results are given to parents in school reports - from 1st class on. If there are concerns, we will contact parents, otherwise results will be written in school reports at the end of the year.

Teachers assess continuously. We use teacher designed tests to ensure that children are meeting the curriculum objectives. We also use portfolios to show continuous assessments. At

parent teacher meetings we will use assessments to tell you how your child is progressing. It is very important that reading/words/spellings/tables and so on are supported at home. This method of rote learning also supports the development of memory skills.

### **Special Educational Needs**

We welcome all children into our school. However, when you enrol a child with special needs, we ask for a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological **report**. If you do not have a report, we request that the child be assessed immediately.

The purpose of the assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child relevant to their special needs or disability and to profile the support services required. Following receipt of the assessment report, the Board assesses how the school might meet the needs specified.

When accepting children with needs the Board of Management (BOM) must take into account how the school can meet these needs, the number of children already in the class with needs, the allocation of support teachers and SNA's and also the profile of the class including all the children's needs in that particular class.

We have children of all abilities and needs in our school. We believe that we support these children to the best of our ability and within the resources and supports that are allocated to us from the Department of Education and Skills. We believe our ethos is very supportive of all children and achieving success at individual levels.

### **Learning support and resource teaching**

Resource hours are allocated to children who have been assessed and require specific support. Children with resource hours may include: children who have been assessed as having hearing difficulties, speech and language difficulties, dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD and so on. The resource teacher will work in and out of class with the child.

In Shellybanks Educate Together, the area of learning support is seen as a positive. It is given to all students in the form of in class support. A reduced student-teacher ratio has positive effects on the child's learning. We also provide additional support in the form of withdrawal. We also work with children who have English as an additional language. This can take the form of in-class support or withdrawal in small groups. Currently, we have one full time Learning Support teacher and one part-time Resource teacher.

### **What to do if you have concerns about your child?**

If you notice that your child is struggling with any aspect of schooling, let us know. Likewise we will inform you if we have any concerns regarding your child's educational, physical or emotional development. If this happens, we know it is difficult but try not to panic and become upset. It is better to find out about concerns at an early stage so we can provide support.

Firstly speak to the class teacher. Once we have identified the issue, the class teachers have strategies to help your child where they feel a child is struggling academically or/and emotionally. The teacher puts a differentiated programme in place and then re-evaluates whether the child has progressed. In many cases with younger children immaturity or just a settling in period can be the cause. If a child is often late/misses a lot of school, it is difficult as they may miss out on concepts/topics that will not be covered again in school. In some cases a child may simply need some more support/work at a different work rate. In these cases it is vital that home and school work closely together.

If there are still concerns we will meet with you and we may suggest that you send your child for an assessment or check-up. This may be with an occupational therapist (OT), for a hearing test, eye test, to a speech therapist or for a team assessment.

Please note as teachers while we may notice certain characteristics that your child may be experiencing, we are not psychologists and cannot diagnose your child. We will only ask you

to take this path if we feel that the school has differentiated adequately and that your child is still experiencing some challenges.

The assessment process does not involve the school and parents liaise directly with the relevant professionals. The school will provide details about the child's challenges but you liaise directly with the professionals.

If your child receives a diagnosis, we can then target the areas that most need support and work with you to help your child. In some cases resource hours are allocated and your child will receive more individualised support. It is very important that we work together as a team to support your child.

Please remember that early intervention is the key to your child achieving success in school. It is far more difficult at a later stage. However we respect that as parents it is your decision to undertake any assessments that are suggested by the school.

## Parents/guardians involvement

We believe that parents/guardians, the school and the community working together enhance the education of our students. Educational research shows that where parents and the school work together there is a direct link to how successful a child performs socially and academically in school. We welcome parents/guardians involvement in forming policy, fundraising, ideas that the Board may suggest and inputting on events in the school.

If you would like to get involved in school life, you should let your class teacher know and they will suggest ways, for example through the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Sometimes they may need help in the classroom themselves.

We understand that many parents work but hopefully you will still have the opportunity to support us during the year. We want to make sure the children have access to as many

experiences as possible. Examples of events that occur during the year where you can become involved are:

Sports Blitz	Sports Day	Science Day
Seachtain na Gaeilge	Maths Week	Science Competitions
International Week	Open Day	Book Fair
Winter Fun Day	Class Inputs on Beliefs/Job/Hobby	

There are a number of different committees in the school such as Intercultural Committee, Holistic Committee, and Fundraising Committee.

If you would like to become involved in any of these committees, please contact the school office for more information on [info@shellybanksetns.ie](mailto:info@shellybanksetns.ie)

### **The Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**

The PTA is made up of all the parents/guardians who have children in Shellybanks ETNS. They have an Annual General Meeting early each year where a new Committee is elected. The PTA encourages parents from across the school to get involved and give a broader input into school life.

The Committee of the PTA works with the staff and Board of Management to build active partnership between the home and school. The Committee meet approximately once a month and work on supporting the school and parents through fundraising, giving input on policies, organising events and sharing ideas on how best to support the school. New faces and ideas are always welcome. If you would like to contact the PTA, email [pta@shellybanksetns.ie](mailto:pta@shellybanksetns.ie)

### **Class representatives (rep)**

As part of a PTA initiative, a class rep system has been introduced for each class. The role of the rep is to be a point of contact for any parents in a particular class. They will pass on any information they receive from the school, PTA and teachers to their parents either via email or text. This has worked extremely well in the past and is an invaluable

link to both parents and teachers.

Your class reps will send you an email to introduce themselves.

### **How can I help the school?**

As you have chosen Educate Together you want to be involved in your child's education.

There are many ways for you to get involved, for example:

- The PTA always need support - at meetings or simply support for events where you can help organise, set up and run them
- Parents who have trades have helped us on Open Days, events and with general work around the school
- Information technology (IT) - one of our Mum's helped us with the development of our website and the purchase of IT equipment
- Becoming members of the school committees
- Yoga - a Mum has come in and worked with the children and staff
- Support and help for the Open Day such as setting up, refreshments
- Board of Management - parents have two reps on the Board
- Art - parents help out on art days in the school
- Helping at Cake Sales
- Helping on Science Days
- Becoming a PTA Member
- Attending meetings
- Helping on numerous Parent and Child Activity Days
- Attending Social Events.... the list goes on and on!!!!

## Home Issues

Modern families have many different structures and the children celebrate their own unique family in school.

If there are issues at home such as separation or family bereavement, it can be helpful to both the child and the teacher to be aware of the situation. The issue will not be discussed with all staff unless there is a need to share it and we act sensitivity around a particular situation.

Parental separation or family bereavement can be challenging. Our role in the school is to support any changes, help your child develop confidence and feel secure in school and in themselves. Celebrating difference is part of our ethos from family structure, the country we are from, our individual talents. We want all the children to celebrate their uniqueness.

Once we are aware of any issues then this ensures sensitivity when dealing with family issues during social personal health education (SPHE) lessons. 'My Family' is a theme that runs through the Curriculum.

Shellybanks ETNS have a policy regarding separated parents. We do not get involved in organising parental issues. We can only accept court orders to confirm arrangements. We cannot accept solicitor's letters or phone calls. Please note it is not up to the school to organise issues about parent's attendance at individual events. We will send the same information to all parents.

## How can I help my child?

Starting school is a big deal for children. Don't make too big a deal about it as this can make children anxious.

Here are some tips to help you **prepare your child** coming up to the **first day**:

- Let your child choose their clothes for the first day, schoolbag, and pencil case.
- Practise putting on coats, fastening jackets, opening and closing zips.
- Discuss what they will bring for lunch and using lunch boxes.
- **Make sure your child can tie laces/Velcro.**
- Put your child's name on all items of clothing.

### Tip for the first week

- Don't hang around after your child goes into the school. It only makes it harder for you and your child. Remember it is a valuable part of your parenting skills that you have developed your child to be independent enough to go to school. Give your child a hug and let them go into the school. If there are any concerns we will contact you.
- Tea/Coffee will be available the first few days in the Parent room where you can wait and meet other new parents.

### Tips for home

- **Read** regularly with your child and bring them to the local library. We strongly encourage a love of books and stories.
- **Count** with your child, for example when walking up steps, when baking.
- Encourage your child to **talk**. Ask them about their day and friends. Don't be surprised if they say they did nothing in school as often they don't realise that they are learning! Early oral language development has a strong impact on a child's reading ability.

- **Colouring and scribbling** are very important in the development of handwriting and motor skills.
- **Play** helps a child develop motor skills, oral language skills, visual discrimination skills and vocabulary. Play also encourages children's social skills, helping to establish friendships.
- **Limit** the amount of time that your child spends watching **television** and using screens. Try to ensure that your child does not watch television in the morning if possible before coming to school.
- Ensure that your child goes to **bed early**. Children should get around 10 - 12 hours' sleep so should be in bed by/before eight o'clock on school nights. Tired children cannot concentrate. Even though your child has probably been in crèche / playschool, they will find primary school very tiring so may need a nap the first while.

### **General tips**

- Try **not to compare** your child to other children. Some children take time settling into new environments and when they do they thrive. Also your child is unique and will shine in different areas compared to others. Also some children take longer to settle into academic work and after a while do fine.
- Don't compare boys to girls if you have both as they tend to learn differently - for example many boys dislike colouring but will prefer lessons with concrete materials, although this is not the same for all. Children should play games and be involved in drama in Infant classes. We do not have 'boy' games or 'girl' games and we encourage children to play all games at this level.
- Speak to other parents. We are so lucky in Shellybanks ETNS with the fantastic, positive, supportive parents we have. We don't know what we would do without their

support for lots of our initiatives. Become involved in school life!

- Finally remember, schools are happy and fun places! We all love working here in Shellybanks ETNS and want to create a happy and fun experience for your child, ourselves and parents. Your child will have fun, be safe and enjoy school. Children learn long term social skills at school that will impact on their adult life.



## Further Information

The Board of Management regularly update our **policies and procedures** with input from parents, staff and children. See our school website [www.shellybanksetns.ie](http://www.shellybanksetns.ie) for further information on policies.

### Useful Contact Information

Principal, Johanne O'Sullivan	<a href="mailto:Johanne@shellybanksetns.ie">Johanne@shellybanksetns.ie</a>
Shellybanks ETNS School	<a href="mailto:info@shellybanksetns.ie">info@shellybanksetns.ie</a> 087 966 7892
Educate Together Head Office	<a href="http://www.educatetogether.ie">www.educatetogether.ie</a>
Curriculum Information	<a href="http://www.ncca.ie">www.ncca.ie</a>
Parent Line	1890 927 277
Donnybrook Garda Station	01 666 9200
GP Out of Hours Service- Dub Doc	01 454 5607
Dublin South East Local Health Office, Vergemount Hall, Clonskeagh, Dublin 6	01 268 0300
Duty Social Worker	01 663 7300
St Andrews Family Resource Centre,	01 677 1930

114 - 116 Pearse Street, Dublin 2	
HSE National Counselling Service	1800 234 111
Pembroke Library, Anglesea Road, Dublin 4	01 668 9675
Barnardos Counselling Service	01 453 0355 <a href="https://barnardos.ie/">https://barnardos.ie/</a>
Samaritans	1850 609 090
Irish Cancer Society	1800 200 700
Dublin City Council	01 877 1625
National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA)	<a href="http://www.nala.ie">www.nala.ie</a>
Help My Kid Learn - website for parents packed full of ideas to help your child learn every day	<a href="http://www.helpmykidlearn.ie">www.helpmykidlearn.ie</a>
Duolingo - Website and Language App to help you learn a new language - including Irish :-)	<a href="http://www.duolingo.com">www.duolingo.com</a>
Information regarding attendance, child protection and welfare- TUSLA	<a href="http://www.tusla.ie">www.tusla.ie</a>

## Local clubs and leisure activities

### Dance, drama and music

<p><b>Ballet</b> Nachstern Ballet School</p> <p><a href="http://www.nachsternballetschool.com">www.nachsternballetschool.com</a></p> <p>Christchurch Hall</p> <p>Newgrove Avenue, Sandymount</p> <p>Ages 4+</p>	<p><b>Ballroom and Latin Dancing</b></p> <p>Karen &amp; Wojtek School of Dance</p> <p>Oakcourt Avenue, Palmerstown, Dublin 20</p> <p><a href="http://www.Karenwojtekdance.com">www.Karenwojtekdance.com</a></p> <p>Tel: Karen 087 1761582 or Wojtek 085 8755367</p> <p>Friday beginner kid's classes</p> <p>Karen Byrne and Julia from Dancing with the Stars is one of the teachers!</p>
<p><b>Music Lessons</b></p> <p>Piano and Guitar Lessons available from Jack Hurley based in Sandymount</p> <p>Telephone: 085 145 3639</p>	<p><b>National Performing Arts School (NPAS)</b></p> <p>35a Barrow Street, Grand Canal Dock Dublin 4</p> <p><a href="http://www.npas.ie">www.npas.ie</a> Telephone: 894 4660</p> <p>Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Drama, Singing, Film and Screenwriting</p> <p>Junior School Classes in St Matthew's School, Sandymount</p>

## Language classes

### La Jolie Ronde

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

Spanish and French lessons available

Venues: Christ Church Sandymount (depending on demand) and Ringsend and Irishtown Community Centre

Contact Laura Madrigal 085 126 4949

## Sport

### Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA Club

Sean Moore Road

Mixed junior training for ages 4-6 Saturday mornings at 9:30 (2011) and 10:30 (2010)

Juvenile section covers all age groups from 7 to 18, both hurling and football for boys and camogie and football for girls

Times for training and games vary across all the various age groups

Games Development Officer: Clare Ryan, email [Claireryan.gpo@gmail.com](mailto:Claireryan.gpo@gmail.com) and 086 8764426

### Crusaders Athletics Club

[www.crusadersac.org](http://www.crusadersac.org)

Sports and Fitness Facility

Irishtown Running Track (Olympic standard)

Children must turn 8 the year they join the club

Cross country, track and field

Training:

Saturday 10:15 - 11:30

Tuesday 18:15 - 19:15

<p><b>Gymnastics</b></p> <p>Muckross Park Gym Club for girls 3-18 Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings also preschool gymnastics classes for 45 min /week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons</p> <p>Venue 1: St. Killian's German School Roebuck Road, Clonskeagh</p> <p>Venue 2: Sports Co, South Lotts Road, Ringsend</p> <p>Telephone: 085 283 9159</p> <p>Wendy <a href="mailto:admin@mpgc.ie">admin@mpgc.ie</a> or Sam <a href="mailto:comp@mpgc.ie">comp@mpgc.ie</a></p>	<p><b>Gymnastics</b></p> <p>Newpark Sports Centre, Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock</p> <p><a href="mailto:info@newparksportscentre.ie">info@newparksportscentre.ie</a></p> <p>Telephone: 288 3720</p> <p>Boys and Girls 3 and up</p> <p>Saturday morning and afternoons and Wednesday afternoons</p>
<p><b>Tennis Coaching</b></p> <p>Monday to Thursday from age 4 and up</p> <p>3:30 for 4-8 year olds</p> <p>4:30 for 9-10 year olds</p> <p>5:30 for 11+</p> <p>Saturday afternoon coaching also available</p> <p><a href="http://www.tenniscoach.com">www.tenniscoach.com</a></p> <p>Coach Will Telephone: 0876658883</p>	<p><b>Yoga</b></p> <p>Yoga for Kids at The Hive - Herbert Park</p> <p><a href="http://www.susita.ie">www.susita.ie</a> Telephone: 087 7676599</p> <p>Yoga &amp; mindfulness classes for kids, free of charge regularly in Blackrock &amp; Dun Laoghaire Libraries:</p> <p><a href="http://www.yo-yoyoga.ie/">http://www.yo-yoyoga.ie/</a></p>

<b>Rugby</b>	
<p><b>Wanderers Rugby Club</b></p> <p>65A Merrion Road, Dublin 4</p> <p><a href="http://www.wanderers.ie">www.wanderers.ie</a></p> <p>Boys and girls play mini and youth rugby</p> <p>Sunday mornings from September through to April/May</p> <p>Under 6 - under 18</p>	<p><b>Lansdowne Rugby Club</b></p> <p>Lansdowne Road</p> <p><a href="http://www.lansdownerugby.com">www.lansdownerugby.com</a></p> <p>Sunday training 9:30 - 10:30</p>
<b>Soccer - Football club (FC)</b>	
<p><b>Railway Union FC</b></p> <p>Park Avenue Sandymount</p> <p>Ages 4 upwards boys and girls</p> <p>Wednesday evenings 5pm Ages 4-7</p> <p>Coach David Grouse Email: <a href="mailto:grouse@tcd.ie">grouse@tcd.ie</a></p> <p>Soccer Secretary: <a href="mailto:rufcsecretary@gmail.com">rufcsecretary@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Cambridge Boys FC</b></p> <p>Ringsend park, Irishtown</p> <p><a href="http://www.soccer-ireland.com">www.soccer-ireland.com</a></p> <p>Secretary Eileen Lawless</p> <p>Telephone: 01 6684542</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:admin@cambridgeboysfc.com">admin@cambridgeboysfc.com</a></p>
<p><b>Belmont FC</b></p> <p>Herbert Park, Donnybrook</p> <p><a href="http://www.belmontfc.com">www.belmontfc.com</a></p> <p>For boys and girls</p> <p>Herbert Park, Saturday mornings</p>	<p><b>Beechwood FC</b></p> <p>Ranelagh, Dublin 6</p> <p>Secretary David Thompson</p> <p>Telephone: 087 9475523</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:beechwoodfcsec@gmail.com">beechwoodfcsec@gmail.com</a></p>

<b>Swimming</b>	
<p><b>Sports Co</b></p> <p>South Lotts Road, Ringsend</p> <p><a href="http://sportsco.ie">http://sportsco.ie</a></p> <p>Telephone: 01 668 7022</p>	<p><b>Marian Pool</b></p> <p>Lansdowne Road, Ballsbridge</p> <p><a href="http://www.marianswimmingpool.com">www.marianswimmingpool.com</a></p> <p>Telephone: 01 668 9539</p>
<p><b>Swan Leisure</b></p> <p>Rathmines Square, Lower Rathmines Road</p> <p><a href="http://www.swanleisure.ie">www.swanleisure.ie</a></p> <p>Movable Floor, UV LIGHT Treated pool, no chlorine!</p> <p>Telephone: 01 496 7908</p>	<p><b>Newpark Sports Centre</b></p> <p>Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock</p> <p><a href="http://www.newparksportscentre.ie/swimming">www.newparksportscentre.ie/swimming</a></p> <p>Telephone: 01 283 3037</p>

## Sports Clubs

<p><b>Railway Union - Multi sports club</b></p> <p>Park Avenue, Sandymount</p> <p><a href="http://railwayunionsc.com">http://railwayunionsc.com</a></p> <p>Bowls, cricket, hockey, rugby, soccer and tennis are all played at the club and all ages are catered for.</p> <p>Floodlit astro soccer and hockey pitches</p> <p>6 grass and 5 floodlit all-weather tennis courts</p> <p>2 soccer pitches</p> <p>Cricket ground</p> <p>Full size rugby pitch</p> <p>Hockey: Ages 7 upwards boys and girls</p> <p>Rugby: The Local mini programme caters for boys and girls between 6 and 12</p> <p>Tag rugby ages 8 -16 runs in the summer</p> <p>Kenny Carrol Youth Officer: <a href="mailto:kencarroll20@hotmail.com">kencarroll20@hotmail.com</a></p> <p>Club house available to rent for functions and social events; contact Cian McCarthy Commercial Manager: <a href="mailto:railwayunionbarandvenue@gmail.com">railwayunionbarandvenue@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Sports Co</b></p> <p>South Lotts Road, Ringsend</p> <p><a href="http://sportsco.ie/">http://sportsco.ie/</a></p> <p>Activities include: Swimming, Rugby Tots, Kung FU, Tennis</p> <p>Kung Fu</p> <p>Thursdays 2:30 - 3:30 pm Ages 3 - 5</p> <p>Fridays 3:30 - 4:30 Ages 6 - 12</p> <p>Sports Co Master Yang 089 9614 658</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:jilindragon@gmail.com">jilindragon@gmail.com</a></p>
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## Scouts and Girls Brigade

<p><b>Scouts</b></p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> Dublin 4<sup>th</sup> Port Dodder Sea Scouts Group</p> <p>Rear Derrynane Gardens, Bath Avenue, Dublin 4</p> <p>Beavers; Cubs; Sea Scouts; Venture Scouts</p> <p>Telephone: 085 142 0242</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:gsmith@scouts.ie">gsmith@scouts.ie</a></p>	<p><b>Girl's Brigade</b></p> <p>Mount Tabor, Sandymount Green, Sandymount</p> <p>Age 3 and up</p> <p>Fun activities for girls</p> <p>Telephone: 01 668 9191</p> <p>Mondays</p> <p>Tiny tots (3-4) 16:45 - 18:00</p> <p>Explorers (5-8) 16:30 - 18:30</p>
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