

**Active Schools Week**

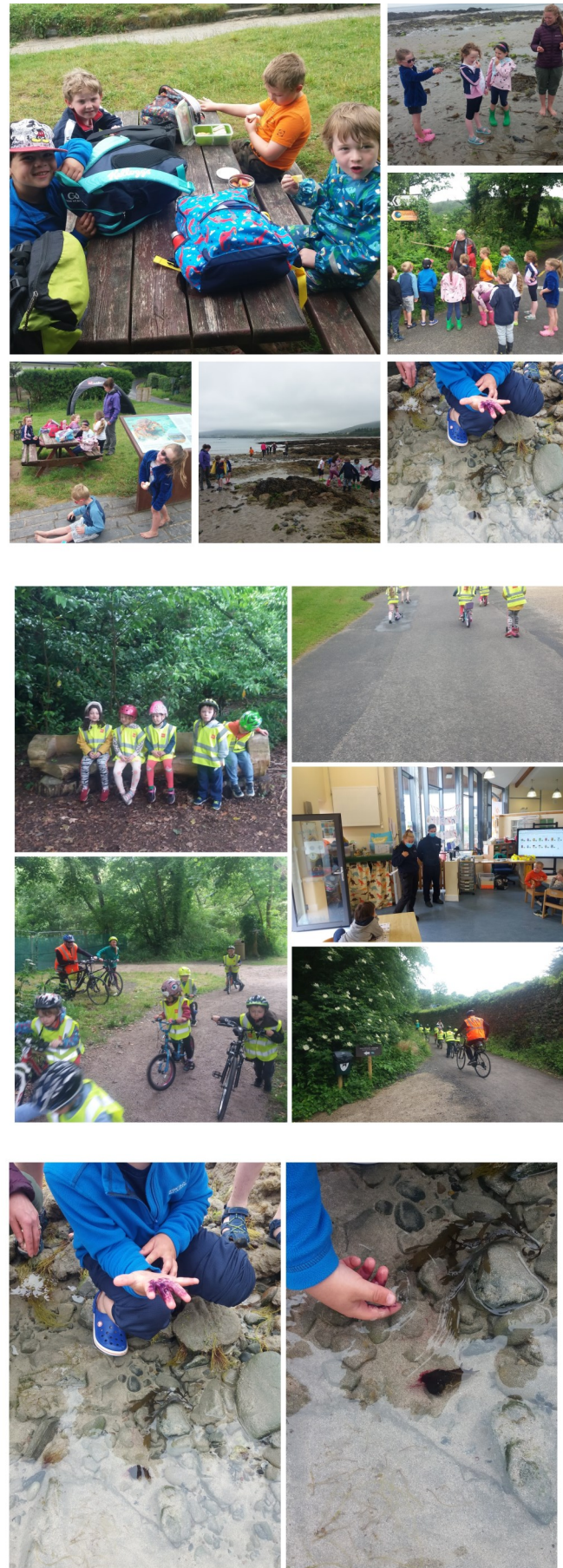
It was great to spend our final full week participating in Active Schools Week. It was action packed and lots of fun! There were so many highlights during the week and we have lots of pictures to prove it! Every day we ran a mile with a smile and practised yoga in the classroom, a perfect way to wind down at the end of a busy day! We also practised for our sports day, went on our bike/scoot trip to Westport House, and had our school tour at Old Head.

On Tuesday morning we met at the gates of Westport House to embark on our bike/scoot around the grounds. We are very lucky to have such an amenity on our doorstep. It was a fabulous morning full of excitement and laughter and we had a very special guest join us – Grace's father (Tom's grandfather), an avid cyclist, who was a great help, thanks Eamon. The biggest highlight for me on that trip was how amazing and safe all the children were on their modes of transport. They were all so patient and encouraging of one another which was beautiful to see.

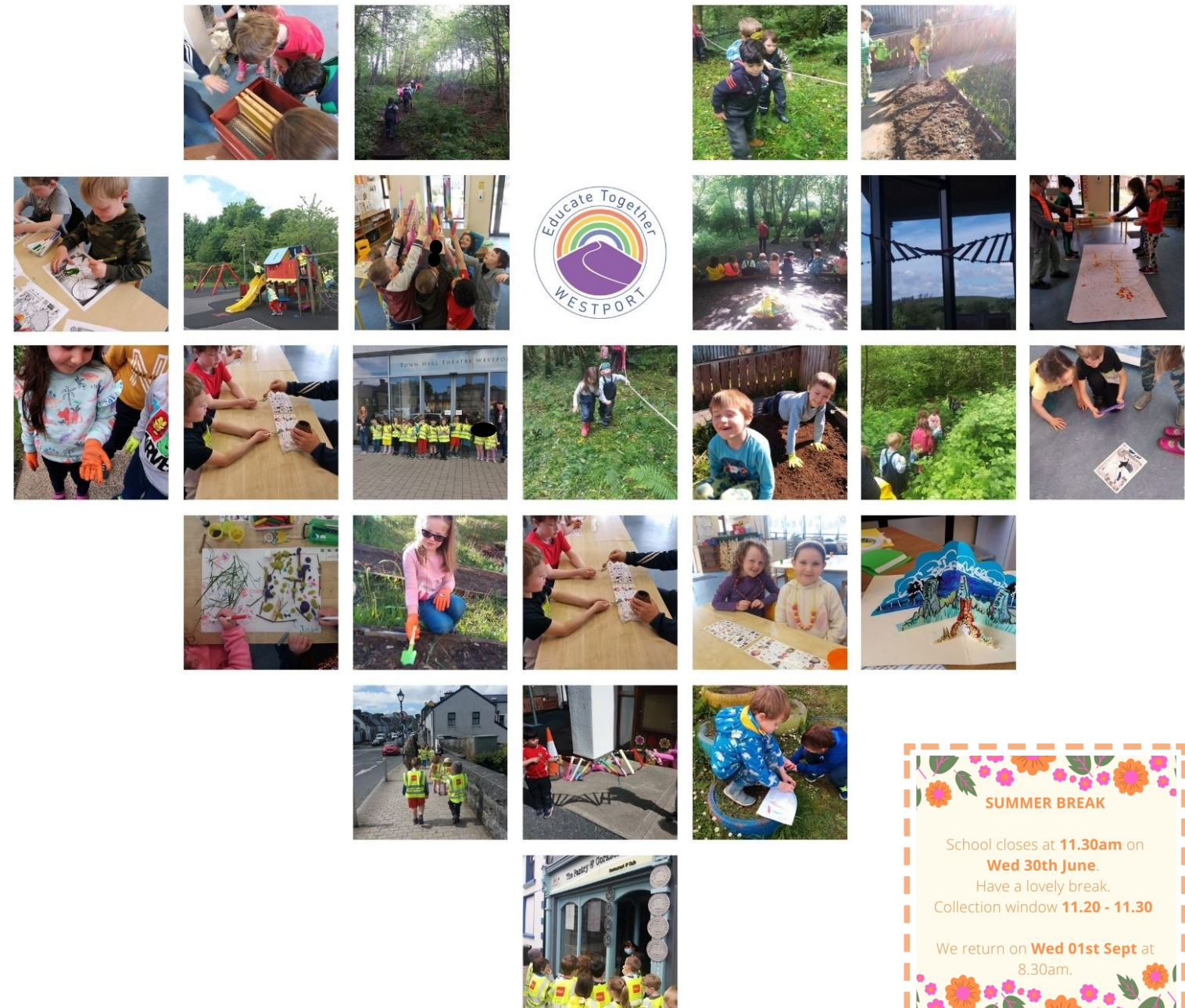
On Wednesday we headed off on the bus to Old Head – the children reached their new target of 1500 Dojo points so they had earned another adventure. There we met Will Williams on the beach who is a retired guide in plant and seaweed foraging. He showed us lots of interesting things and we had an almighty time exploring all the rockpools where we found anemones, shore crabs, hermit crabs and sea hares, amongst other things! It was very exciting when Aodán spotted the sea hare (which looks like a slug), as a snorkel guide in the area, I had only every seen one before so we were very lucky to see them, what a treat and well spotted Aodán!

We finished the week with a bang at sports day. There were lots of races – sack race, ubh agus spúnóg (egg & spoon), rás trí chos (three-legged), sprint, long distance, and an obstacle course – thanks to Niall for organising it all. It was a close call, but the orange team came in first place and the yellow team in second. Everyone did amazingly well and showed such great teamwork and sportsmanship – maith sibh!

Thanks,  
Kirsten

**Afterschool**

Thank you for returning the forms regarding afterschool options. This is something we are hoping to provide at some stage in 2022 if/when we move premises. \*\*Please note afterschool is not an option in Sharkey Hill as there is an existing community afterschool on site.

**WESTPORT ETNS CHRONICLE****NEWSLETTER****A Word from Niall ...**

As I write this note, I can hear the laughter, yells and yelps from the playground and one would think that it is just another typical day in school. But this year has been anything but typical. It feels like yesterday that we welcomed our Senior and Junior Infant boys and girls into a very different school set up in September 2020. Though restricted, I felt that our school was well placed to provide the best possible learning opportunities for our pupils and I'm happy to say that I think this was achieved. Due to emergency closures, our Junior Infants missed 40 school days. Our Senior Infants, missed another 61 days last year. That's 101 days out of 366 days in total! That is huge and no one is minimising the impact this must have. We could spend time speculating about where our children should be if it wasn't for the lockdowns etc. but let's meet them where they are. They are doing incredibly well in the face of such adversity and I have no doubt they will have developed resilience that previous generations did not have to develop! All of the children have worked hard this year so enjoy the long summer days and fill them with fun and laughter and rest (if you can!). We will see you all in September, bright and ready to learn for our new school year!



### Workbooks & Booklists

In the early part of this century, there had been a move away from more traditional forms as education such as textbooks, in favour of more active learning and bespoke teacher made resources. For example, in year 1 of our school the pupils used only one workbook. The guidelines for reopening schools and the possibility of remote learning led to a greater emphasis on workbooks/textbooks for our year 2. You will notice, when the books go home that not all the textbooks will be fully completed. This does not reflect that work was not done but that active learning was done instead! Usually at this time of year, we send the booklist for the upcoming year. However, we have decided to see if there are any updated guidelines from the department during the summer months which in turn may lead to changes to our booklist/materials etc. We will do our best to keep the cost for books/resources etc. to €100 approx. (there might be a few euro less or more depending on your child's class.)



### Accommodation Update

We will be reopening in Sharkey Hill Community Centre on September 1st 2021, unless we hear otherwise during the holidays! Please note that it is highly likely the school will move premises, at some stage, during the next school year (2021-22). Unfortunately, this is unavoidable in the current circumstances and though disappointing, it is part and parcel of life in new and developing schools. We will do everything possible to ensure that disruptions to your child's schooling are kept to a minimum.

### Staff

A special thanks must go to all our staff for helping to reopen and keep our schools open this year during very challenging circumstances. A huge thank you to Grace, our secretary (and all-round superstar) for her hard work and dedication to the school this year. When we were asked to reopen schools, as our only other permanent staff member, Grace was asked to complete tasks and take on responsibilities that were not in her job description. We thank her sincerely for her amazing and continued contribution to the school. Thanks also to Kirsten for her wonderful work with the pupils in the final term of this year. Though only here since Easter, Kirsten has built great connections with the children and wowed us all with her amazing educational ideas and wonderful can-do attitude. Thank you to Frank, the caretaker of Sharkey Hill. Though not a staff member, Frank showed wonderful flexibility and versatility to work with the school and follow department of education guidelines and protocols. We thank Frank sincerely.

### Classes- JI/SI/1st

September next will commence our 3rd academic school year at Westport Educate Together. We will have 1st class, Senior Infants and a new Junior Infant class. You will find that there will be a great deal of fluidity around the class arrangements. For example, at certain times of the day the classes will be together in one classroom for lessons such as Aistear. At other times, the classes will be split and taken with their class level only e.g. Maths/literacy. Factors such as staffing, school building, available space will be taken into account when these arrangements are made. These arrangements may also change when/if we move to our new temporary premises.



### Some of our highlights

### Genevieve McGing

It is with a heavy heart we say goodbye to a staff member, Genevieve, this year. Genevieve has worked in the school since we opened, in a part time capacity. Thank you, Genevieve, for all your hard work and dedication to the pupils of Westport Educate Together. In your time with us you went over and above the hours you were scheduled to work with us through your passion for teaching. Though we will miss you (and Minnie), we wish you the very best in your new position in Newport. They are very lucky to have you!

### Message from the board

Thank you to the staff for their hard work and dedication in difficult circumstances this year. A special thank you Genevieve McGing for her hard work and dedication to the school over the past 2 years. We wish her well in her new position in Newport NS. The board would like to acknowledge the amazing effort the children have made to ensure our school is a safe place to be. Well done everybody!



Genevieve and Minnie

BOOKLIST  
2021 22

APPROX €100  
DUE OCTOBER '21