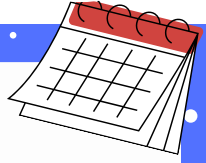


December Update

December 2025



happy holidays

The team at Westport Educate Together would like to thank you all for your support this term and we wish you all a safe, peaceful and restful Winter Holiday period.

See you all in 2026!



Important Dates

- ✓ **Winter Show:** Thursday, December 18th
Doors open @ 11:45. Show starts @ 12:00
 - ✓ **Winter Break:** Early Closing Friday **December 19th @ 11:30**
School reopens on Monday **January 5th @ 08:30**
 - ✓ **Long weekend:**
 - **Staff Training Day:** School closure **Friday January 30th**
 - **Bank Holiday:** School closure **Monday, February 2nd**
 - ✓ **Mid-term break:** 19th to 20th February
- Full school calendar on the website or on the Aladdin App.*



Winter Show - December 18th

Our Winter Show will take place next Thursday in the Westport Town Hall. Doors open @ 11:45 and the show will start @12:00.

Tickets for the **show & raffle** will be on sale at the door: €5 per person /€10 per family.

Pupils are free to go with parents/guardians after the show but please inform the class teacher. The school bus will leave from the Octagon. Those who are not collected will walk back to school.

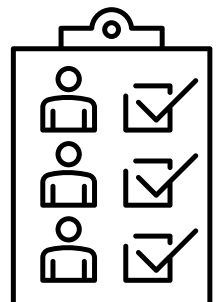


We hope to see you at what promises to be a spectacular show.

Attendance Drive

Westport Educate Together is kicking off the new year with a January Attendance Drive! We are encouraging all students to start 2026 with a bang by coming to school every day they can!

Throughout the month, classes will take part in fun challenges and celebrations to promote positive attendance and a great start to the term. Let's work together to build healthy habits, boost learning, and make January our best-attended month yet!



A word from Niall....

As we come to the end of our first term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a positive and productive start to the school year. Our students have shown enthusiasm, resilience, and a genuine commitment both on the sports field and to their learning in the classroom, and it has been a pleasure to watch them grow in confidence over these past weeks.

I'd like to acknowledge the dedication of our teachers and support staff, whose hard work ensures that every student feels supported and encouraged. Their professionalism and care make an enormous difference each day. I am equally grateful to our families for your ongoing partnership—your engagement and trust help create the strong, connected community we value so deeply.

As we head into a well-earned break, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy moments with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you all back refreshed and ready for an exciting and hopefully productive second term in January. Here's to 2026!

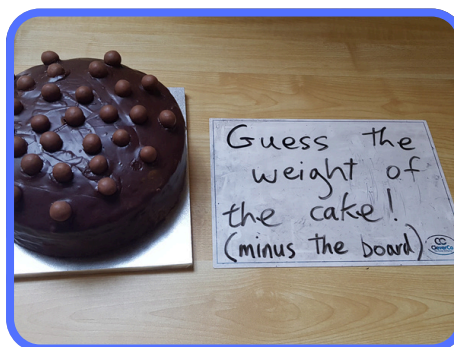
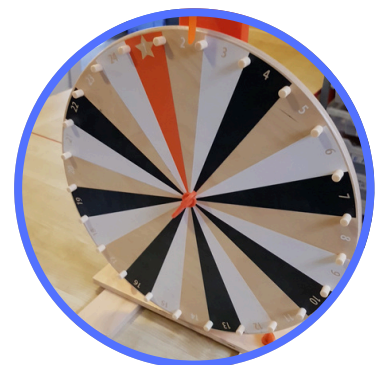
Thank you once again for your continued support.

Niall

Winter Fair – Fundraiser



On Saturday, December 6th we hosted our annual Winter Fair. Yet another fantastic fundraising event. Thanks to all those who helped arrange & collect raffle prizes, those who stood at the stalls, those who sold raffle tickets and of course the teachers & pupils for all their festive creations. These events are not possible without everyone's support and generosity. We were able to raise over €3700!



Parent Power / PGA



The PGA held its AGM during the November meeting, where the constitution was ratified and the following committee members were elected: **Cara Shields as Chair**, **Lindsay Munro as Secretary**, and **Kat Slater as Treasurer**. With this, the PGA is now formally established, and both the committee and members are looking forward to working closely with the school community in the year ahead.

A sincere thank you to **Niall, Stephanie and all the teachers** for making Saturday's Winter Fair such a wonderful success. It was fantastic to see the whole school and wider community come together and raise valuable funds to benefit all of our children.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to:

- All the parents who generously gave their time to set up rooms, arrange tables and manage stalls on the day.
- Everyone who sold their crafts, goods, books and pre-loved items.
- Those who contacted local businesses and secured excellent raffle prizes.
- The team who prepared the beautifully presented gift baskets.
- All the parents who baked and prepared the delicious food that kept everyone going.

A special word of thanks to the **children** – their beautiful arts and crafts were a highlight of the fair and sold extremely well. Well done to all our young creators!

Despite the wet weather, the turnout was fantastic, and the atmosphere throughout the school was warm, cheerful and full of community spirit.

Update from the Parent Power and Smartphones Subcommittee

Last month, Emmet from Parent Power joined us to share findings from their large-scale youth survey. His presentation sparked meaningful discussion among WETNS parents, particularly around the impact of smartphones and social media. We explored the growing evidence that unrestricted smartphone access can affect children's sleep, mental health and self-esteem.

Following the lead of other primary schools in the area, including The Quay School and Lankhill NS, we are developing our own version of a **Smartphone-Free Childhood Promise** for parents to voluntarily sign up to in the new year.

Here is a brief round-up of recent developments in this area:

- A recent [Irish Times article](#) highlights the growing *Smartphone-Free Childhood* movement in Ireland. You can sign their pledge and learn more about the movement [here](#).
- This month, Australia will be the first country to put in place a **social media ban** for under-16s. As well as forcing social media platforms to delete under-16 user accounts, they will now need find more effective ways to enforce age restrictions
- The [European parliament](#) has also called for a social media ban for under-16s
- In Ireland, a [new digital wallet](#) to verify the age and identity of [social media](#) users will be tested under a pilot scheme within the next four months.

The subcommittee will meet again in January. More information about Parent Power is available online, and if you would like to join the subcommittee, please email pga@westportetns.ie.

The PGA offers an opportunity for parents and guardians to support the school and its students, and everyone is warmly encouraged to get involved. Participation does not necessarily mean attending monthly meetings; parents can also contribute by joining a subgroup, project or event. Meetings are held in the **Westport Woods Hotel Lobby**, usually on the **first Friday of the month at 8:30am**, with one meeting each term moved to a Monday evening to allow for broader participation. Times and agendas will always be confirmed in advance.

There are currently three subgroups open to all parents outside the general meetings:

Communications, Smartphone Policy/Parent Power, and Fundraising.

Wishing you all a restful and happy winter break.

See you in January!