



27th January 2009

EBS INTO Children's Handwriting Competition 2009

Family is key in EBS/INTO 2009 Children's Handwriting Competition

EBS Building Society in conjunction with the Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) today launched the 2009 EBS/INTO Children's Handwriting Competition. The competition, now in its 17th year, is open to all national schools throughout the country and traditionally attracts entries from over 100,000 children all over Ireland each year. This year entrants are being asked to write a piece of prose or a poem about their own family or copy a piece connected to family in some way. Students are not being judged on content but instead on style, flair, neatness and layout of handwriting.

Speaking at the launch, Declan Kelleher, President of the INTO said: "We are delighted to announce the launch of the 2009 EBS/INTO Handwriting competition. The competition has been a huge success over the last sixteen years and it is a great achievement for all involved to be heading into the 17th year of the competition. I hope the number of entries will continue to rise this year and wish everyone the best of luck. Our aim is to celebrate the skill of handwriting among all children from infants to 6th class in all languages. As always style, flair, neatness and layout of handwriting are the criteria that judges use to assess the entries. I would like to thank EBS for their continued support of the competition."

Aidan Power, Head of Marketing, EBS said: "Family is at the heart of EBS. With the 'EBS family' growing to more than 430,000 members over the past 70 years, this year's handwriting competition will reflect the family theme. This means that entrants must write a piece of prose or poem about their own family or copy a piece connected to family in some way."

"EBS has a long-standing commitment to education and we believe it is important for children to continuously improve their writing skills. While computer competence is vital these days, the capacity to communicate in a variety of ways with confidence is still critical for any student and helps broaden their skill set. We've been involved with the competition for many years and strongly believe the EBS/INTO Handwriting Competition is a great way to encourage students to develop their handwriting. I look forward to seeing this year's entries and I wish all entrants the best of luck."

Entries are received in categories ranging from infants to 6th Class, with Special Education prizes also being awarded. The closing date for entries to the 2009 EBS/INTO National Handwriting Competition is 27th February. The National Prize-Giving Ceremony will take place on Saturday 25th April, EBS Head Office, 2 Burlington Road, Dublin 4.

For further details on the EBS/INTO Handwriting Competition visit www.into.ie.