



CETNS NEWSLETTER

November 2019 | Issue 27

A NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to our teacher Brenda who has recently welcomed a new baby son into her family. Dáithí Fallon has arrived safely and is enjoying spending time with his big brother Charlie. Best wishes from all in Castlebar ETNS to Brenda, James, Charlie and Dáithí.

BABY NEWS

We have even more good news to share with you all. Miriam is delighted to be joining the club of sleepless nights and will be having a baby in March. She will begin her maternity leave in January and will return in September 2020 all going well. I will arrange her maternity cover in the coming weeks and will email 2nd class parents with the details. It's great to be able to share such happy news and we wish Miriam well in the coming months of school.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHS (S.T.E.M.)

Our school is working with Triona Nic Fhinn (PDST Advisor – Professional Development Service for Teachers). She is helping us plan how we teach science and S.T.E.M. in our school. We will conduct a habitat and environmental audit to see what we can explore in our local environment – ponds, marshy areas, hedgerows, soil etc. We will draw up a science plan to ensure children are learning about a wide range of topics as children go up through the school. We will carry out an inventory and shopping list of S.T.E.M. equipment that we can buy for our school with her help. She will work with us throughout the school year and on November 29th she will spend the day in our school. We look forward to working with Triona.

SCHOOL BAG AND COPIES FOR GHANA

Noeline Haylette recently visited our school with hedgehogs. Not only does Noeline rescue animals, she also fundraises for water pumps and less fortunate children in Africa. We want to help her in any way we can. Noeline is sending a container directly to Africa so there is an opportunity to send school bags (old and new), copies, pencils, books etc. directly to children in need. We will collect the bags here and make sure Noeline gets them. It would be nice if the children could donate to this cause. I suggested at assembly that the children could forsake one of their presents and ask for a bag/copy/pencil for Noeline's cause instead. More information can be found on 3000 smiles face book page, Jennifer also has information in her office.

BOOK FAIR

Our book fair will be running next week, 11th to 15th November and 40% of the money earned is available to the school. This is a great opportunity for children to stock up on gifts for others, look at all the different book types (comics, fact books, quiz books etc.) and enjoy reading. If you are available to open the book fair between 1:20 and 1:45 or 2:20 and 2:45 let Jennifer know and she'll draw up a rota. If your child sees a book they like you can send in money and they can go to Jennifer during the day. Gift vouchers can be bought online before the book fair. You'll get an extra 20% for free when you buy online – that means you'll get a €6 voucher for only €5, a €12 voucher for only €10, a €30 voucher for only €25 and so on. The web address is www.bookfairs.scholastic.ie/gift-vouchers. We'll be having a few competitions during the week too, to encourage reading and the enjoyment of books.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

December 13th - Winter Show 7pm

December 20th - School Closes at 12pm for holidays

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS & RELUCTANT READERS

Thank you for attending your child's P.T. meeting. Thank you also to teachers for preparing and conduction these meetings. Some parents expressed interest in developing ways to support their reluctant readers. Here are some possible suggestions for parents helping reluctant readers at home.

1. Read Aloud Time child and parent or with older sibling
2. Setting up a "cosy reading nook" in your home
3. Use of a star chart or reward system. For every number of books or pages read they receive a sticker or build towards a prize such as screen time etc.
4. Keep a reading log/chart or visual representation of what books they've read and add to it
5. Use of audio books with text. Some available on YouTube
6. Try reading in funny voices
7. Use of graphic novels or comics
8. Joke books and humour - eg Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Captain Underpants, Dr. Zeus
9. Creating their own comic strip and writing their own story
10. Tell your child they are a good reader

PARENT NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Following consultation with the Home School Association and all parents in the school our out-going parent nominees have been re-elected. We thank Yvonne Coyne (Abbie & Ellie's mum in 1st class) and Noel Campbell (Luke in 1st class and Grace in junior Infants dad) for their time and commitment to our school. Jarlath Munnely will stay on as our patron nominee. We are looking for 2 community nominees if you know someone who would be interested and able to commit 4 hours per month (2 hours meeting & 2 hours follow up time). We meet on Mondays usually at around 2pm. Please let me know if there is someone you could suggest.

ATTENDANCE

Our record of attendance for October is 91.2%
Well done everyone!

ICT CLUSTER MEETING

Miriam and Sarah will attend an Information, Communication, Technology cluster meeting in Scoil Padraig, Westport on Friday November 15th. We will decide at our staff meeting on November 18th what type of devices we want to buy for our school (Chrome Books, iPads or refurbished equipment). Children continue to develop their computational thinking skills by coding Beebots, Lego WeDo kits and using other programming equipment. Each classroom is trying out different digital technologies as per our digital strategy plan. We want to make an informed decision before we spend our €3196 ICT grant given to us by the Department of Education & Skills.

CREATIVE SCHOOLS

As part of our creative schools, Midie Corcoran will again conduct some drama workshops. This will help us get ready for our winter show. We'll be exploring the creative art processes using the hedgehogs as a stimulus. Please follow our Facebook page to see your children's art work or come visit your child's class after school when you visit the book fair.

SHINING STARS WINNERS

We've had some interesting assemblies for September & October. We've spoken about what type of school we are creating and how we want everyone to feel happy and safe in our school. We have mainly focused on exploring moral development and cultivating spiritual growth. This spiritual growth encompasses developing a sense of compassion, wonder and care of all living things.

We will have another guest speaker, Carole Reynolds from Connemara National Park visit us on Friday the 22nd of November to talk about garden birds and how we can care for them over winter. If you know someone who would like to visit and talk at assembly, please let me know. Upcoming topics will be exploring human rights (Dec. 10th is Human Rights Day) and exploring the democratic process.

BE HONEST

Date	Room	Name
11/10/2019	Sarah's	Claudia
	Sarah's	Noah F
	Declan's	Bobby
	Declan's	Alanna
	Miriam's	Abbie
	Miriam's	Lukas

MATHEMATICIAN OF THE WEEK

Date	Room	Name
18/10/2019	Sarah's	Cleona
	Sarah's	Dorian
	Declan's	Aaron
	Declan's	Kaz
	Miriam's	David
	Miriam's	Joshua

BE RESPECTFUL

Date	Room	Name
24/10/2019	Sarah's	Makho
	Sarah's	Zimaal
	Declan's	Ula
	Declan's	Tiárnán
	Miriam's	Brooke
	Miriam's	Ruby

