



# CETNS NEWSLETTER

September 2018 | Issue 16

## **P.E. DAYS**

**Junior Infants:** Monday & Thursday

**Senior Infants:** Wednesday & Friday

**1<sup>st</sup> Class:** Wednesday & Friday

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for PE activities-  
running shoes and a tracksuit/comfortable clothing.

## **RAINY DAYS**

We go to the yard every day for fresh air and exercise. Please ensure your child wears a jacket with a hood as the Scandinavians say there is no such thing as bad weather just bad clothing! In the morning if it's raining please stand inside in reception. Teachers will be in their classrooms and preparing for the day ahead so children need to wait until 8.50am until they come into their classrooms.

## **WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL**

A huge Castlebar welcome is extended to Brenda Murphy –First Class Teacher, Linda Kilkenny-S.N.A. and Theresa McGuigan-Junior Infants Maternity Cover. Everyone has settled back into school life and it's wonderful to see our staff and pupil numbers grow. They are 55 children currently in our school and we are working with the DES on accommodation issues for next year. We emphasise again that all siblings should be pre-enrolled as 68 is the full capacity of Marsh House. We really hope we are not restricted to only enrolling 13 children next year but if this is the case parents need to ensure they have pre-enrolled siblings.

## **ABSENCE NOTES**

If your child is absent please fill in the note on school website

[www.castlebaretns.ie/attendance](http://www.castlebaretns.ie/attendance)

The password is CETNS\_access

## **BLIAIN NA GAELIGE**

Our school applied for funding from the Bliain na Gaeilge fund and are delighted to say we were awarded €500. We'll be spending this money on fun activities for the children to enjoy through the medium of Irish. For parents who wish to learn Irish/Gaeilge we recommend you check out [www.isfeidirlion.ie](http://www.isfeidirlion.ie)

## **AFTER SCHOOL SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

Any parents of first class children interested in First Holy Communion are asked to email [principal@castlebaretns.ie](mailto:principal@castlebaretns.ie) by the end of this month. I will put you in contact with other parents who are also interested and arrange for you all to meet with Fr Conal Eustace. Miriam and I have met with Fr Eustace already and once an interested group of parents come together they can set up an after school class. This class will be separate to teaching staff in the school. It is envisioned that an outside teacher will be employed to provide the class and this will be paid for by the parents. Communion preparation begins in 1<sup>st</sup> class and in 2<sup>nd</sup> class they are invited to receive their sacrament. I did say to Fr Eustace that some Senior Infant parents might be interested and he agrees that if they are happy to pay for a three year cycle then they can be accommodated-please email me your interest. The price of the class will be dependent on the numbers attending. Attendance from 1<sup>st</sup> class on however is all that is necessary for sacramental preparation.

## **SOME WORK PLACEMENTS IN THE SCHOOL**

TY Student Heather is on work placement from St. Joseph's each Friday (Heather is Sarah's niece). Emily Hopkins will be on Teaching Placement from Oct 8<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Nov in Miriam's Class

## **HEALTHY EATING AND RE-USEABLE DRINKS BOTTLES**

We remind everyone of our healthy eating policy which you received on enrolment. If you need a reminder it is on our website [www.castlebaretns.ie](http://www.castlebaretns.ie). Children are not allowed treats in school-just so you know anything with chocolate is seen as a treat by the other children and leads to consternation in class! We all use re-useable bottles-as part of our Ethics and the Environment strand. We are passionate about reducing our carbon footprint. Some children are bringing orange juice cartons, yops and other drinks to school. This can give rise to 183 pieces of rubbish per child unnecessarily. A re-useable bottle can be reused each day and ensures everyone is getting the necessary fluids for a busy day in school. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

## PLAY THERAPY

In 2016 Mary Griffiths volunteered in our school. She is now completing a qualification in Play Therapy and has offered her services to children in Castlebar ETNS. If you think your child would benefit from attending Play Therapy with Mary you can fill in a SDQ (Strengths and Difficulties) form and return it to Jennifer by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Mary together with her supervisor will review forms and she will be advised which child/children to work with. Email [secretary@castlebaretns.ie](mailto:secretary@castlebaretns.ie) if you'd like a form. Jennifer can email it to you or she will put a hard copy in your child's bag for you to fill in. More information on Play Therapy and suitable candidates can be found on our website [www.castlebaretns.ie/play-therapy](http://www.castlebaretns.ie/play-therapy)

## SHINING STARS WINNERS

### BE SAFE

| Date       | Class           | Name     |
|------------|-----------------|----------|
| 07/09/2018 | Jl              | Arya     |
|            | Sl              | Bobby    |
|            | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Fionn    |
| 14/09/2018 | Jl              | Ryan     |
|            | Sl              | Adam Lee |
|            | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Sarah S  |

### GOOD LISTENERS

| Date       | Class           | Name    |
|------------|-----------------|---------|
| 07/09/2018 | Jl              | Caitlin |
|            | Sl              | Niamh   |
|            | 1 <sup>st</sup> | Laila   |
| 14/09/2018 | Jl              | Dawid   |
|            | Sl              | Ula     |
|            | 1 <sup>st</sup> | James   |

## HOME/SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Welcome back everyone and a warm welcome to all our new families! CETNS Home/School Association are ready to jump back into another school year and we start off with some fantastic news. We were able to raise €204.80 at the car boot sale we did back at the end of August, which totally surpassed all our expectations. This was down to the kindness and generosity of all families and friends who donated items or their time so a huge thank you to you all. This money will go directly into the HSA treasury to aid in funding future events. We only sold around half of the donations so will be doing one last car boot sale on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> September in Castlebar. We won't be accepting further donations at this time but if you can volunteer your time for an hour on the day, please get in touch. If you're new to the school and for some reason have not joined our mailing list or our private Facebook group, please email [homeschoolassociation@castlebaretns.ie](mailto:homeschoolassociation@castlebaretns.ie) and we'll add you. This is the easiest way to keep up with all the goings on of Castlebar ETNS Home/School Association.

We will be holding our first HSA meeting of the year in the school on **Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> of September at 7:30 pm**. All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend as this will be our last meeting before our official AGM in October where the current committee will step down and a new committee will be elected. If you haven't previously been able to attend a meeting or you want to find out a bit more about our purpose within the school, please do come along. The agenda for this meeting will be sent out ahead of time. If you wish to have an item considered for the agenda, please email the above address and we'll get back to you.

Looking forward to seeing you all then,

**Nichole, Maria and Priscilla**  
CETNS Home/School Association Committee

## WEATHER WARNINGS

As we prepare for another winter please take note of the procedures for weather alerts.

**Red Weather Warnings** - School have no choice; we must close.

**Orange Weather Warning** -You will receive a text from school.

Most schools use Aladdin as a tool to send multiple texts. This led to delays last year when huge volumes of schools were using the service. If you are unsure and anxious then you can decide what is safe for your child. If your child needs to miss school because of your particular location/situation then this is justified and can simply be entered on their absence record. If you arrive late to school on these days because of ice/snow this can be recorded also so take your time and remain safe.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Our school calendar can be found on our website [www.castlebaretns.ie/calendar](http://www.castlebaretns.ie/calendar)

We will remain open for the presidential election on October 26th as our school is not being used for voting. We will have a further closure to take for staff planning on the new language curriculum. We are receiving support from the Professional Development Service for Teachers this month and we will notify you of the closure as soon as we have decided the best day to take it.

At the end of each term school we will close at **12.00** to allow staff to clean and get organised for the term ahead. These dates are December 21<sup>st</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup>.

## JENNIFER'S OFFICE HOURS

The Board of Management have allocated funds to ensure we have Jennifer in the office each day Monday-Thursday 8.50am-1.30pm. This is a lot more secretarial support than other schools of our size have. Jennifer cleans the school on Fridays so only emergency requests can be dealt with. Please try to sort any office issues you have when Jennifer is in the office.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

As always we encourage your involvement in your child's school life. If you have an hour to spare every Friday for 4 weeks for example or 10 mins each day let us know. You could help in class for Art, Reading or Maths Activities. We need help moving chairs so if you have a spare 10 mins at home-time come in. We also have some books you could cover at home if you'd like to do something but are restricted. Contact Jennifer and she can advise or pass on details of your free time to your child's class teacher.

## FUNDRAISING

We had a very successful sponsored walk last May, we raised a total of €1490. We also raised €145 from our Cash for Clobber campaign.

