



# CETNS NEWSLETTER

September 2020 | Issue 32

## WELCOME

Welcome back to school everyone. Special welcome to our new Junior Infants and their families. We also have some pupils who have joined other classes too and we extend to them a warm welcome also. Thank you everyone-Board of Management, Parents, Staff and Pupils for ensuring a safe return to school. Special word of appreciation for those who have stayed home when feeling unwell or when awaiting test results for close contacts. We miss seeing parents inside our school and we hope to welcome visitors again soon.

## PARK AND STRIDE

We continue to park and stride to school as per our agreement with An Bord Pleanála. Please advise anyone who is collecting your child of this arrangement. Our agreement is that parents do not pull up on the kerb or at the entrance of buildings to drop off or collect children. All it takes is one photo and our school is in breach of planning permission. Only school staff and those on school business can enter the school grounds. Please ensure you have explained all this to childminders, relatives etc

## COOKERY CLASSES

Children in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class enjoyed following Nora\_onfood's recipe for cookies this week and they learned about weight, capacity, time and procedural writing in a fun and yummy way. Unfortunately there wasn't even a crumb left for staff so I can't say how tasty they were. However the boys and girls seemed to enjoy them!

## CREATIVE SCHOOLS

Jojo will continue to work with our school until December. We have applied to join a creative cluster so we will elect a new Creative Schools Committee and a new Student Council in January. We are organising another workshop with Midie and Jojo hopes to finish the flags/bunting that parents helped to screen print last year. If you have some sewing skills or know someone who does let Jennifer know and you can link in with Jojo.

## WEDDING BELLS

Kirsten who is covering for Miriam until the Mid-Term Break is getting Married on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. She was supposed to get married in May and had to postpone and reduce the size of her wedding due to the pandemic restrictions. We wish Kirsten and Clem all the best for their future together and will be thinking of her on Friday.

## CLASS NUMBERS

This year we are in the privileged position of having very small class sizes. In Declan's room there are just 18 pupils and there are 25 pupils in both Miriam (Kirsten) and Brenda's rooms. This brings our total pupil number to 68 (as stipulated in our planning permission). Each year the Department of Education bring out a staffing schedule and according to this year's schedule we need 83 pupils to appoint our next teacher. This would mean we would have a new class of infants and a new teacher so the split classes would remain. 113 pupils are needed for a further additional teacher but this would still leave a split class somewhere along the way. We could have reached 83 this year and probably 113 if we had the space so I definitely expect our school to expand at this rate next year. Some local schools report having difficulty filling their Junior Infant classes this year. We have only enrolled 7 Junior Infants so it's worth noting that we have not caused this difficulty. We await more details from the Department of Education about our enrolment capacity for next year.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We won't be publishing our attendance each month in our newsletter as we appreciate you keeping your child at home if they are unwell and we encourage you to follow GP advice. There are many different scenarios which arise during the pandemic and restrictions. Your GP is best placed to advise you if your child should come to school or not. So if you've been in contact with someone who has contracted the virus or if you have symptoms and are wondering if you should send your child to school-the GP will make the call on this. Continue to arrive in school anytime from 8.50-9.00 am and socially distance at collection to model best practice to children.

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR STAFF

**Declan:** juniorinfants@castlebaretns.ie **Sarah:** principal@castlebaretns.ie  
**Kirsten:** firstclass@castlebaretns.ie **Miriam:** miriam@castlebaretns.ie  
**Brenda:** brenda@castlebaretns.ie **Linda:** linda@castlebaretns.ie  
**Liam:** liam@castlebaretns.ie **Jennifer:** secretary@castlebaretns.ie

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPORT

Our Board of Management met recently via Zoom and have ratified our Child Protection and Anti-Bullying Policies. The Board has been regularly updated regarding our Covid 19 Response Plan and they have provided much needed support and advice to the Principal and Staff in re-opening our school. Our Admissions Policy has received Patron approval and is on our school website. In the coming weeks our Board will be publishing our Admissions Notice. This will set out how many Junior Infant places we will have available and how these places will be offered. Through our Patron planning has begun on acquiring alternative accommodation for our future. Our Board of Management have generously written to our Patron and the Department of Education offering to manage the project and bring our new school to fruition. This type of project is called a devolved project. Devolved means that the board manages everything from the tendering process to having classrooms ready and all aspects of the budget. The Department of Education provides the BOM with a devolved grant and this is what funds such a project. The Board has made the decision to take this on in the interest of speeding up the process. We expect the Department to announce their plans in the coming weeks. The DES may decide they want to run the project themselves so we'll just have to wait and see. Just be aware that local media and local politicians may have this information before we do. When we opened in 2016 we did so with a devolved grant and when we moved into Marsh House in 2017 the project was run by the DES so we have some previous experience with both types of projects.

### ETHICAL EDUCATION

Recently staff met to decide on our themes for this coming year. Instead of our usual whole school assembly Sarah has talked to each class on zoom and children are awarded prizes in their classrooms. We will continue with this format for the foreseeable. Our Themes for September and October are:

- Be Safe-Hand Washing
- Be Good Listeners
- Be Good Friends in the Yard
- Be Hard Workers
- Yom Kippur-Judaism
- Sukkot-Judaism
- Mathematician of the Week
- Be Respectful

We had some guest speakers last year who told us more about their belief systems. We hope to continue with this by inviting guest speakers to zoom call and tell children about growing up as a Jew and another speaker will speak as a person with no faith. We will give more details when dates are fixed with guest speakers. As always this will be learning about other faiths and it will always be reinforced that parents will tell their own children what their particular belief system is.

## SHINING STARS WINNERS

We've had many shining stars in recent weeks. The children are:

### BE GOOD LISTENER

Date	Room	Name
11/09/2020	Declan's	Aoife
	Declan's	Poppy
	Kirsten's	Alba
	Kirsten's	Caitlin
	Brenda's	James
	Brenda's	Bobby

### BE GOOD FRIENDS IN THE YARD

Date	Room	Name
18/09/2020	Declan's	Sam
	Declan's	Noah F
	Kirsten's	Eóin
	Kirsten's	Tiarnán
	Brenda's	Mia
	Brenda's	Spencer

### CASH FOR CLOBBER

Our recent recycling drive has raised €310. We had intended to use this money to off-set some of the cost of our school tour for May last year. Hopefully we will be able to go on tour in May 2021 and use this money then. The cost of the tour will be approx. €28 per child so a saving scheme at home or a special money box for chores/kindness might be a good way to teach children about budgeting.

### BODHRÁN'S FOR WESTPORT E.T.N.S.

In 2016 Claregalway E.T.N.S. made a presentation of percussion instruments to our school. We have enjoyed this gift ever since. In the same way we are donating a set of Bodhráns to Westport E.T.N.S. and setting them off on their musical journey.

