

# Newsletter

November 2017 | Issue 08



CASTLEBAR EDUCATE TOGETHER  
NATIONAL SCHOOL

## Go Raibh Maith Agaibh (Guh ra mah ogiv) Thank You

We had a well-supported and enjoyable book fair before the midterm break. Thank you to all parents and relatives who supported it. Thank you also to the families who donated money to buy books and those who purchased books from our wish list. Our total book sales was €579 and because this is our first book fair we will receive 60% commission on this. Huge thanks also to people who helped out at our recent bag pack event. We raised an amazing €500.

## Reminder

We try to go out to the yard everyday so your child needs to wear a coat or jacket with a hood please.

## Ethical Education Conference

Educate Together are holding their annual Ethical Education conference in Malahide, Dublin on November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Sarah will attend and the theme of this year's conference is "Gender Matters".

## Generous Donations

We have received some donations in recent weeks and we are very grateful! A family in the school donated €100 to our bag pack fund. Apache Pizza heard (through a parent) that we needed a washing machine so they kindly supplied one. Robert came and fitted it for free so the goodwill continued! Super Yalu were approached by a parent to sponsor some footballs and soon after a man called Damian arrived with a present for our school. We posted on Facebook that we would love some multi-cultural toys to support diversity and a woman got in contact to say she would like to buy them for us. We now are a recognised charity so we'll continue to accept donations!

## Punctuality

Every minute in school counts so please try and ensure your child is in their line at 8.50am each morning. There can always be a day when you are running late but some children are consistently arriving to school after 9 o'clock. This is unsettling for the children and we ask that you as parents try to arrive on time with them.

## Nits/Head lice

Although we have received no reports of head lice in the school we remind parents to be vigilant and to check their child's hair regularly.

## Green Schools

One of the strands of our Learn Together Curriculum is Ethics and the Environment. As part of this we learn about environmental issues. This ties in nicely with the Green Flag Schools Programme which runs in schools. This year we will work towards our first green flag for recycling. In the coming weeks we will draw up a plan of how we can improve our current practice. We already do a great job using reusable drinks bottles and using as little packaging as possible on lunches. Sharon from Mayo County Council will visit and give us litter pickers so we can become involved in keeping our school grounds litter free. We will elect a green schools committee and any parent with a particular interest in this area can join.

## Literacy Lift-Off

Miriam and Sarah have prioritised Literacy as an area to develop in the school this year. Literacy encompasses reading, writing, comprehension and oral language. We are interested in enhancing how we teach your children to sound out words, to enjoy reading and to ensure they understand what they are reading. We will both attend professional development in this area on Monday evening 13<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 11am in Breafoy House Hotel. Liam will be teaching Miriam's Class and Kirsten will be in Sarah's class on this day.

## Parent Teacher Meetings

Each year we hold formal parent teacher meetings in November. This is a ten minute meeting to update you about your child's progress in school. We are of course available for more detailed meetings if necessary and these can be scheduled at any time through Jennifer in the office. Our official date for Parent Teacher Meetings this year is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. Sometimes with the infant classes 1.30pm suits a lot of parents so liaise with Jennifer to select a time/day that suits you.

## Enrolment for 2018

There were some changes to pupil/teacher ratios in the recent budget so a new staffing schedule will be released in February/March 2018. Last year's number for the appointment of a third class teacher was 55 pupils. We currently have 30 children in the school so we'll be enrolling new pupils for Junior/ Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> Class for 2018. There is a possibility that if we do not appoint a third teacher that we will have two classes with a split senior infants. We have 15 pupils who are interested in a place in junior Infants next year so far, some are siblings and some are new families. If you haven't already done so please register 2018 siblings through our website. We will keep you updated as things develop.