



CETNS NEWSLETTER

October 2020 | Issue 33

ART MATERIALS MONEY

We've collected €4,911 so far with €900 due to come in. Our projected expenditure for photocopying expenses for the year is €1,600. This includes rental, clicks and paper. We've spent €477 on whiteboards and A4 clear boards to cut down on paper use. These resources can no longer be shared among classrooms so we may need more. We've bought online subscriptions for some digital resources e.g. oral language programme etc. €280 with this money also. We have bought/will buy copies for class use and the usual art supplies with the remainder. Last year we used the materials money to subscribe to SESE Explorers, Dabbledoo Music and Twinkl. We received no reimbursement due to closing in March. We will have to subscribe to SeeSaw if we go into lockdown again. Thank you for getting the money in to us as we are busy spending it!

DIGITAL LEARNING

The Department of Education and Skills issued an Information Communication Technology (ICT) grant to schools to enable them to provide remote learning last May. We did not receive this grant as our school opened after 2016. I have asked the Educate Together office to advocate for us in attaining this grant like other schools. I have also brought this to the attention of our district inspector. We will be spending minor works money on purchasing laptops for teachers in the interim.

ACCOMMODATION FOR NEXT YEAR

Discussion and dialogue is ongoing regarding our accommodation needs for next year. Our planning permission for Marsh House runs out in November 2021. Of course it is the Department of Education and Skills who fund refurbishments and building projects so it is understandable that they are investigating all possibilities. We have no new news this week other than there are conversations and correspondence between our patron and the Department of Education which is positive. The Board of Management will update parents as soon as we hear more and there will be a monthly update in newsletters. As things in school are very busy with teaching, learning and new Covid measures Miriam/Sarah will be focusing on all things other than accommodation for the next few months. We have set up a separate email CETNSbuildingproject2021@gmail.com to allow parents communicate directly with the Board of Management if desired in relation to accommodation. The Board of Management wrote to the Department of Education last Friday pushing for a response.

EDUCATE TOGETHER MEMBERSHIP

The Department of Education and Skills grant €15,000 for opening a new school. This is inadequate and the average cost of opening a school is €62,000. Your €15 contribution to Educate Together allows Educate Together continue to develop the "Learn Together" curriculum, open new schools, advocate for equality in education so that no child will be an outsider and they provide school supports to existing schools.

This year so far for example the Educate Together office have sent lessons on talking to children about anxiety, they have approved our Admissions Policy and they are liaising with the Department of Education and Skills regarding our accommodation for next year. Thank you for your membership money.

COVID 19

If there is a positive test result

On Friday 25th September we received an update from the Department of Education and Skills and our patron. We have been asked to share this in our newsletter. "If your child is confirmed positive for Covid-19, the HSE will begin the process of contact tracing. This will most likely mean that the school will be contacted to assess the Public Health Risk. **From this point onwards, the process will be led by the Public Health HSE.**" It is the HSE and not the school Principal or Board of Management who decide if pod/class or school should close.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Midterm Break –26th Oct to 30th Oct 2020 – Reopens 2nd Nov 2020

Winter Break - 23rd Dec 2020 to 5th Jan 2021 – Reopens 6th Jan 2021

ENROLMENT FOR 2021

Enrolment is now open. Spread the word about the great things our school does. No matter what type of accommodation we have next year we'll still be striving for high standards of teaching and learning in a dynamic way. New junior infants can be registered on <https://www.castlebaretns.ie/junior-infants-2021-2022>

DRESS UP DAY

For a fun day in school children can dress up on Friday 23rd of October. This is just to have a break from the routine and give children a chance to be a bit silly. The theme is not Hallowe'en and we are not collecting money. Children can wear pyjamas, have a crazy hair day or dress in any way they chose – so long as they can go to yard and go about the school day as normal. As ever no swords, fake weapons or any accessories.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to Abbie, Brooke, Clodagh, Joshua, Ruby and Saoirse who received their first holy communion on Tuesday October 6th. The children will speak to their class and show their special clothes on Wednesday October 7th. Brenda will record their presentations and send them on to Kirsten's and Declan's class to watch. Children in first class who are interested will be contacted by the parish centre once their class is organised.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kirsten who got married on Friday 25th September. We wish her, Clem and Penny their dog all the best for the future. It has been wonderful having such a dedicated, hard-working and caring substitute teacher covering for Miriam. Thank you and best wishes Kirsten.

WELCOME BACK TO MIRIAM

A big welcome back to Miriam as she returns after the midterm break. Sarah and Miriam have met to ensure a smooth transition of admin duties and Kirsten and Miriam will ensure all class work and plans are transferred over. Miriam will be the acting principal until Sarah's return in May.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

As ever we invite parents to get in contact if they want to zoom their child's class. You could read a story from home, show us where you work and what your job involves or present on a certain topic. Email your class teacher to arrange and organise.

Declan: juniorinfants@castlebaretns.ie

Kirsten: firstclass@castlebaretns.ie

Miriam: miriam@castlebaretns.ie

Brenda: brenda@castlebaretns.ie

SHINING STARS WINNERS

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

BE HARD WORKER

| Date | Room | Name |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| 25/09/2020 | Declan's | PJ |
| | Declan's | Regó |
| | Kirsten's | Niamh |
| | Kirsten's | Arya |
| | Brenda's | Aaron |
| | Brenda's | Sarah S. |

YOM KIPPUR

| Date | Room | Name |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| 02/10/2020 | Declan's | Grace |
| | Declan's | Charlie |
| | Kirsten's | Lilly L. |
| | Kirsten's | Alex |
| | Brenda's | Luke |
| | Brenda's | Clodagh |

VISIT TO WESTPORT E.T.N.S

On Thursday 24th September Linda and Sarah visited Westport E.T.N.S. We brought with us a gift – 16 Bodhráns! In 2016 Claregalway E.T.N.S brought us a gift of percussion instruments and we wanted to replicate this kind gesture. After speaking with Niall (Principal Westport E.T.N.S.) it emerged that he was interested in the children learning to play the bodhrán. It just so happens that Linda is an accomplished bodhrán player and she gave a workshop demonstration while we were there. The children loved their bodhráns. Alison Laredo took some photos and we see this positive news story in the media. Thanks Alison.

HOME/SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

We would like to welcome everyone back for this new school year. We will not be having any Home School Association meetings this year, due to covid-19 restrictions. If you have any questions or concerns please contact is at homeschoolassociation@castlebaretns.ie.

