



CETNS NEWSLETTER

April/May 2021 | Issue 37

ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

Pat Howley from Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim Education and Training Board (MSLETB) is making the planning application on behalf of the Board of Management of Castlebar ETNS. A site notice will be put up outside the school in the coming days. There will also be a notice in the paper. We will have a decision on the planning application in July.

CETNS WELCOME VIDEO

Due to Covid 19 guidelines we are unable to give a tour of our building to our new pupils and their families at this time. This year we are making a welcome video for our new pupils and families. We hope they enjoy our video and learn all about our lovely school. Thank you to Priscilla (Adamlee's mum) and all the children for helping us with this.

SARAH'S RETURN

Sarah will be taking some extra leave. We look forward to welcoming her back on June 1st. Declan will remain teaching his class until the end of the school term.

TEACHING PRACTICE STUDENTS

Roisín and Christina will finish their placements on May 14th. We thank Roisín and Christina for all their hard work in CETNS and wish them all the best in their future studies.

CREATIVE SCHOOLS

As part of Creative Schools, we are making a book to celebrate creativity in Castlebar ETNS. Each child will decide what they want to put in the book. It can be a piece of art, creative writing, a poem, a photo of something they have made, the list is endless! The book will be published at the end of June and each child will bring home a copy. Thank you Ismael (Alba's dad) for helping us with this. The children made bunting with Jojo, our Creative Associate last year. Amy, Charlie's mum, did an amazing job putting the bunting together for us. We look forward to hanging up the bunting for school celebrations. Go raibh maith agat/thank you Amy!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The school is closed on **Friday the 4th** and **Monday the 7th** of June for the June Bank Holiday Weekend.

COVID 19 GUIDELINES

We are still working hard as a school staff to respond to the pressures of restrictions, and thank our families for your help and cooperation. As the weeks progress and the weather (hopefully) improves, there may be natural a temptation to relax our approach to school restrictions. We have been so fortunate to date, please continue to encourage your children to keep up their efforts, and remind them to adhere to all the safe practices we've been so successful with.

If you wish to speak with a member of staff at home time, you must wear a mask. Some small matters can be discussed at the school gate. Other questions and comments are best discussed by phone or email. We would appreciate your support on this matter.

Please do not send your child to school if they have shown any sign of illness (covid or otherwise) either that morning or the night before.

SPELLINGS FOR ME

Next year we will be using a new spelling programme for 1st-4th class. The *Spellings for Me* interactive programme is individualised for your child - essentially a tailor-made spelling programme. Your child's spellings will be solely based on the words that they do not know how to spell, based at their own level. No two children will have the same spellings, as no two children are the same. *Spellings for Me* incorporates meaningful, enjoyable activities for your child that are proven to improve children's spellings. *Spellings for Me* embraces continuous learning and continuous assessment throughout your child's whole spelling journey through primary school. You will be able to log onto your child's profile and see their spelling progress. We look forward to using this next year. If you want to learn more about *Spellings for Me*, you can visit their website www.spellingsforme.ie. There are an abundance of videos and information explaining the programme. We will send you more information about this in September.

ADMISSION TO OTHER CLASSES

Application for admission to senior infants, 1st class, 2nd class, 3rd class and 4th class for the academic year 2021/2022 is now open. You can apply for admission on our website <https://www.castlebaretns.ie/other-classes-2021-2022>. We will cease taking applications on the 24th of May 2021

2021/2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Our 2021/2022 academic calendar will be emailed to everyone in the coming week. It will also be available on our website.

NEWS FROM DECLAN'S CLASS

We've been so busy in the infant classroom over the last couple of weeks. The highlight was certainly a trip to the playground in Lough Lannagh which was a great success. We did some litter picking along the way and saw some beautiful bees and butterflies along the way. We were very responsible and safe on our outing and because of this we will be having another trip to the playground when we reach our next Big Dojo target. We celebrated Earth Day last Thursday and have been learning how we can protect and make planet Earth a nicer place to live. We made lovely, creative images of Earth with Linda using a marble painting technique and we planted Nasturtium seeds with Declan as part of our Aistear groups. AJ's, Cleona's and Ornagh's seeds have started to germinate already so we are just waiting on the others to sprout before bringing them home to mind ourselves.

Last week has been Active School week and we've had so much fun taking part in lots of energetic activities. We've been so lucky with the weather and we've made the most of it by being as active as we possibly can. Every day we've been doing the 10 @ 10 in our classroom, learning new games to play with our friends and have been working on our movement and co-operation skills which help our brains and bodies work together. All this in addition to our usual brain breaks and active transitions during lessons. Phew! After all that I think we need a rest :)

NEWS FROM MIRIAM'S CLASS

The boys and girls in first and second class have been working very hard and we are so proud of them. We are very lucky to have Roisín helping Miriam and Linda with teaching and learning. Roisín taught us all about bees and we created beautiful art inspired by buzzing bees. We are enjoying writing stories. We have learned about how narrative stories need a beginning a middle and an end. The children have fantastic imaginations and we love listening to each other's stories and ideas. We are a very creative bunch!

Liam has taught us lots of mental maths strategies and games and we love playing our maths games the yard. Active School Week was definitely one of our highlights of the year so far. The children loved being active throughout the week. We went for a walk to Lough Lannagh, played in the playground, completed obstacle courses, worked on skipping, games, orienteering and Olympic handball.

All classes are covering the Stay Safe lessons. In our class we have discussed feeling safe and unsafe and learned about what bullying is. If something happens that makes us feel unsafe, we say no, get away and tell. This is very important. Further information on Stay Safe can be found on <http://www.staysafe.ie/parents.htm>.

NEWS FROM BRENDA'S CLASS

At the start of 2021 it was hard to be home-schooling. It was tough not seeing our friends and family. But fortunately, we were doing our work on seesaw. Soon we were back at school and seeing our friends again. We do fun art work and P.E too. Isolation is tough for all of us and I am happy to be back.

James Bourke

In our school we do a lot of fun work. Like last week was Active Week. It was so great. We went outside every single day, and when it was raining we did dancing inside. In our school we are friends with everyone. Our school is like a friendship school. Once a year we have our school picture day. We had it last week. Everybody was so excited to get their photo taken. We also did a clean up for Earth Day. Without Jennifer, I don't know what would happen, because she cleans our school and designs our shining stars cards. She helps everyone all the time. It means Jennifer is a very hard worker!

We are lucky because in our school everyone is happy.

Leja Kosmakova

We have been very busy since we came back to school. A few weeks ago we started doing the Stay Safe programme again. We are really enjoying it. Last week was Active Schools Week so we did lots of exercise and on Monday we went to the playground. On the Friday of Active Week, the whole school gathered outside for assembly, a workout and some dancing. In my class we have been doing procedural writing and we wrote a recipe for making fruit pizzas. We even got to make them and eat them. We have been doing lovely art every week so our yellow room has been turned into an art gallery. Last week we had a handwriting competition. The week before we learned all about Ramadan, a Muslim celebration. In my class we are all trying to read more, so we all have books from the library on our desks. Every day we have five or ten minutes DEAR time, that stands for Drop Everything and Read! The Harry Potter books are very popular in my class. We have been working hard and doing lots of fun things in school since we came back and I have really enjoyed it.

Sarah Scott



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!

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/policies-1. Children are not allowed treats for lunch in school and we all use reusable bottles in line with our Ethical Education.

ABSENCE NOTES

If your child is absent please fill in the note on school website www.castlebaretns.ie/attendance. The password is CETNS_access.

STANDARDISED TESTING IN ENGLISH AND MATHS

The Department of Education has decided that these should proceed for the year ahead. This decision is somewhat at odds with the focus that we have put upon easing children back in to school life, particularly given that the tests used are standardised against a pupil population from 2019 – before the upheaval in school and home life that we've all coped with in the past two years. The standardised score that children receive this year cannot possibly be compared to that of two years ago, and will not be reflective of their effort, resilience, achievement and hard work this year more than any other. The outcome of the testing this year will provide a snapshot, a starting point, from which we will measure progress over the next year. We will conduct Standardised English and Maths tests in First- Third Class.

BOOK DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated books. The children were delighted to see new books in their class libraries. We love reading in CETNS!.

SHINING STARS WINNERS

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

POETRY WEEK

Date	Room	Name
26/03/2020	Declan's	Ornagh
	Declan's	Grace
	Miriam's	Liam
	Miriam's	Hugh
	Brenda's	Eiile
	Brenda's	Marek

RAMADAN & EID

Date	Room	Name
19/04/2021	Declan's	Sam
	Declan's	PJ
	Miriam's	Noah S
	Miriam's	Ula
	Brenda's	David
	Brenda's	Joshua

ACTIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

Date	Room	Name
26/04/2021	Declan's	Inaya
	Declan's	Benjamin
	Miriam's	Riley
	Miriam's	Dawid
	Brenda's	Mia
	Brenda's	James

BEALTAINE

Date	Room	Name
03/05/2021	Declan's	Oscar
	Declan's	Noah
	Miriam's	Lilly R
	Miriam's	larlaith
	Brenda's	Luke
	Brenda's	Fionn

