



CETNS NEWSLETTER

November 2020 | Issue 34

ACTING PRINCIPAL

Thank you for your kind wishes on my return to school. It is lovely to be back and to see how much the children have grown and to meet our new pupils. As we are keeping our social contacts to a minimum, I have not had the opportunity to say hello to our new parents personally but I look forward to meeting our new families in the coming months- Miriam

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

Miriam: miriam@castlebaretns.ie

Brenda: brenda@castlebaretns.ie

SLÁN ENDA

Enda Mulchrone has been on placement in Declan's class since October. He will finish his placement on November 20th. We would like to thank Enda for all his hard work in Castlebar ETNS and we wish him all the best in his future studies.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The staff would like to thank the Board of Management for the Health and Well-being lunch we had in October. The Board arranged sandwiches and scones for staff as a thank you for all their hard work getting ready to re-open and for all the measures they are ensuring are in place.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the many ways you are working with us to ensure we learn, adapt and meet the unique challenges of living and working through the Covid pandemic as safely as we can. Keep in contact with your child's teacher and Jennifer/Miriam if you have queries or concerns.

SARAH'S NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Sarah, Stephen and Máirtín on the birth of baby Saorla. We wish them every health and happiness. No doubt Máirtín is busy being a great big brother and helping his mammy and daddy with his new baby sister.

CREATIVE SCHOOLS

Jojo and Midie will have a zoom call with all classes over the coming weeks. This call will be fun and interactive and we look forward to talking about what creative project the children would like to work on this year. Like everything this year, a little more creativity is required to plan for creative schools but no better people than Jojo and Midie to help us with this. We look forward to starting a creative project in all classes in the coming weeks. We are also very lucky to have a grant of €1,100 to spend this year. Jojo hopes to finish the flags/bunting that parents helped to screen print last year. If you would like to help with this please let Jennifer know.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

The Department of Education has issued new guidelines for parent teacher meetings for this year. Schools have been advised to provide alternative means of conducting parent teacher meetings for the 2020-2021 school year. Parent teacher meetings are important to update parents on pupil progress, to share successes and concerns and to support parents in helping their children to learn. Schools may choose to schedule their regular parent-teacher meetings for later in the school year this year. As public health advice recommends reducing social contacts, parent teacher meetings by phone in place of the usual face-to-face meetings. We will continue to implement best practice and keep you informed on developments. We hope to hold our parent teacher meetings early in term 2.

The document "Supporting collaboration with parents in primary schools" is attached to the end of the newsletter on page 3.

ETHICAL EDUCATION THEMES

2 nd - 6 th Nov.	Be Responsible
9 th - 13 th Nov.	Be Helpful
16 th - 20 th Nov.	Believe in Yourself
23 rd - 27 th Nov.	Thanksgiving Week
1 st - 4 th Dec.	Yard Week
7 th - 11 th Dec.	Green Flag Week
14 th - 18 th Dec.	Winter Festivals

ENROLMENT

Junior Infant enrolment for 2021 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>

SHINING STARS WINNERS

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

SUKKOT

Date	Room	Name
09/10/2020	Declan's	Cleona
	Declan's	Ava
	Kirsten's	Packie
	Kirsten's	Kaz
	Brenda's	Ellie
	Brenda's	David

MATHEMATICIAN

Date	Room	Name
16/10/2020	Declan's	Kenzie
	Declan's	AJ
	Kirsten's	Ula
	Kirsten's	Joseph
	Brenda's	Fionn
	Brenda's	Sarah D.

BE RESPECTFUL

Date	Room	Name
23/10/2020	Declan's	Inaya
	Declan's	Benjamin
	Kirsten's	Liam
	Kirsten's	Lilly R.
	Brenda's	Sophia
	Brenda's	Marek

BE RESPONSIBLE

Date	Room	Name
06/11/2020	Declan's	Oscar
	Declan's	Claudia
	Miriam's	Orin
	Miriam's	Adam Lee
	Brenda's	Ellie
	Brenda's	Lukas

BE HELPFUL

Date	Room	Name
13/11/2020	Declan's	Ornagh
	Declan's	Amelia
	Miriam's	Hugh
	Miriam's	Riley
	Brenda's	Abbie Q.
	Brenda's	Ruby






November 2020


Supporting collaboration with parents in primary schools


Schools have always recognised the need for effective communication and collaboration with parents and, since March 2020, they have been very creative and adaptable in facilitating this. As the 2020/2021 school year progresses, it remains important that schools continue to work in partnership with parents. In particular, schools will need to be ready to provide alternative means of conducting parent-teacher meetings, including meetings with parents of children with special educational needs (SEN). They may also adapt their usual methods for open days and parental involvement in education. The details below provide some ideas for supporting schools in these endeavours and are based on practice that has already been developed in schools in the past six months.

Parent-teacher meetings, including support plan meetings for children with SEN


Yearly parent-teacher meetings are important to update parents on pupil progress, to share successes and concerns and to support parents in helping their children to learn. Regular meetings with parents about support plans for children with SEN will also continue to be important this year. Relevant information, including draft plans and samples of work, can be sent to parents in advance of meetings using email or the school's digital platform in order to facilitate discussion. Schools may choose to schedule their regular parent-teacher meetings for later in the school year this year. As public health advice recommends reducing social contacts, the following methods could be used in place of the usual face-to-face meetings:




 Video-conferencing facilities can be used in place of face-to-face meetings, where available.

 Parent-teacher meetings can be conducted by phone if video-conferencing facilities are not suitable.


 A written report in addition to the end-of-year report could be provided mid-year, with a follow-up call offered.


Open days


 Some schools provide open days during the school year. Instead of inviting parents into the school building, the following ideas could be used to give current and prospective parents an insight into school life:

-  Short videos celebrating the work of the school
-  Information booklets outlining various aspects of school life
-  The school website to showcase the work of the school

Facilitating parental involvement

 Schools can use digital platforms such as Seesaw, Google Classroom, emails to communicate with parents.

 Parents can be supported in helping their children to learn from home, with resources and guidance provided by the school.

 Parents can be invited to contribute to learning via video link, for example, show and tell, story time demonstrations.