



CETNS NEWSLETTER

November 2021 | Issue 42

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Brenda, Declan and Sarah are happy to do a combination of in-person or phone call parent teacher meeting. Jennifer will be in touch with dates and times available and we hope to have spoken or met all parents before the Winter Break. Our official week of Parent Teacher Meeting will be November 22nd-25th but we can accommodate outside of these times. If there has been a change at home and both parents need separate meetings, please let Jennifer know.

WELCOME PAUL AND CONGRATULATIONS DECLAN

We welcome Paul Gannon who is covering for Miriam during her absence. As you know Miriam is pregnant and due in 2022 but following her doctors advice she will not be returning to school before maternity leave. Fortunately, her condition is not extremely serious. We wish her all the best and hopefully things will get easier for her. Paul has previously taught in Pelletstown Educate Together NS and is from Castlebar. He met with Marie Barry (St Angela's Supply Panel) on Monday and is all set up in 1st and 2nd Class. Marie was covering for Miriam at the start of the year and had met with Miriam in August. A smooth transition all round it seems.

Good news for us, Declan was made permanent on November 1st. We now have a Principal and 4 Permanent Teachers in our school (P+4). We have 4 class teachers and an SET. In order to have a developing post next year for an additional classroom teacher we need approximately 118 pupils. We hope to intake a full class of Junior Infants and fill available spaces in classes Senior Infants to 5th Class. Please let everyone know that we are doing our best to have space for everyone who wants a place next year.

SUBSTITUTE SHORTAGE

Before the Mid-Term break we were unable to find a substitute teacher to cover a teacher's absence. Despite what is reported in the Media, we expect this shortage to increase over the Winter Months. Unlike last year we cannot bank days and when a substitute is available have additional support. This leads to children with Special Needs Education missing out as Special Education Teachers are asked to cover classes. It is just something we want to make you aware of. We use SubSearch, have lots of names on file and spend evenings, weekends and early mornings ringing around. Every effort is made but it seems there is a lack of registered teachers available.

COVID 19

As you are aware your children are no longer close contacts of positive cases in the school. We would like to let you know that there are positive cases within our school community and following the mid-term break we expect case numbers to rise. If your child tests positive please let the school know. Thank you.

ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

Having made enquiries weekly to our Patron regarding our accommodation, the DES response is "The report is being considered by senior management".

Our BOM have spoken to Senator Lisa Chambers and have asked her as public representative to speak to her party colleague Minister Norma Foley. An update will be given as soon as we receive a response from either the DES or Senator Chambers.

PE FACILITIES

During the summer the school raised concerns regarding the lack of PE facilities now available at our school. The DES advised that they would look at a request to rent an additional space. We have decided to prioritise the strand of Games (School Yard), Aquatics (1st Class-3rd Class), Gymnastics and Outdoor and adventure activities (Lough Lannagh, The Mall and The Area around Marsh House). Having considered the practicalities of renting an additional PE space and the physical education of the pupils we will be submitting a proposal to the DES in the coming days. We are asking the DES to rent Kids in Motion Gym, pay for swimming lessons and cover the cost of buses to and from each venue. This makes more practical sense than renting a hall/PE space as the children will receive expert tuition in a purpose-built venue. The Board of Management are also writing to Businesses in the area and asking them to partner with us to cover the cost of the buses to and from venues. As it's been a difficult two years for children this is an ideal way to give something back to them.

ANONYMOUS DONATION

The Board of Management would like to acknowledge a donation of €2,000 euro which we received and purchased iPads with. These iPads are using to administer the weekly spelling test and at individual reading stations. This local business person has been following our school's growth with interest and admires all we are trying to achieve. Go raibh mile maith agat for your support.

WINTER SHOW

This term the recommendations are not to proceed with school events such as an indoor winter show. Hopefully by the summer term restrictions on schools will have lifted or we could look at an outdoor event situation. We hope to pre-record children performing in their individual classes and make it available for families to watch. If you are interested in helping with this recording and editing, please get in touch with Jennifer.

IT'S COLD IN SCHOOL

Despite having heaters on we want to remind you that it is cold in school with all windows open. Children should be dressed warmly in vests and several layers. Please keep spare clothes in their bag if they should get wet on yard and they need a raincoat with a hood. School is not a nice place to be if they are feeling unwell, even if it's the typical running nose or head cold. Once upon a time we could sit them in a cosy spot and they would be fine but if they are any way unwell and feeling needy the best place for them is at home.

SCIENCE WEEK

November 8th-12th is Science Week. We are lucky to be one of the selected primary schools to participate with Mayo Science and Technology Festival 2021 in a range of events. The school will receive a Scientific Sue Science Kit and a Goodie bag for prizes. We have signed up for an online "Strong Women for Science by Circus 250" event also. All classes will be developing their observation and scientific skills during the week. Our shining star of Friday will be for Scientist of the Week.

ENROLLMENT 2022

Enrolment for 2022 will begin on the 8th of November 2021. If you know a parent who would like to enrol their child, please advise them to visit our website after the 15th for more information <https://www.castlebarretns.ie/annual-admissions-notice>.

GREEN FLAG COMMITTEE

We will be reviving our green schools committee and some new faces will lead the way in all things green this school year. The green advocated from each class are...

Sarah's Class – AJ, Paul's Class – P.J. & Kaz, Brenda's Class – Dawid, Niamh & Liam, Declan's Class – Saoirse & Lukas

As there is so much in the news about climate action, we hope they have some good ideas and great enthusiasm.

CHILDREN FIRST AWARENESS WEEK

Children First Awareness Week took place from 1st to 7th November 2021. Children First promotes the protection of children from abuse and neglect, by setting out what individuals and organisations need to do to keep children safe, and how to deal with concerns about a child's safety or welfare. Society has a duty of care towards children, and everyone should be alert to the possibility that children they are in contact with may be abused or at risk of abuse or neglect. If you are concerned about a child or young person, you should contact Tusla social work department. Organisations classed as providers of relevant services under the Children First Act 2015 are required to complete a risk assessment and must have a Child Safeguarding Statement in place. More information on keeping children safe in our communities is available at gov.ie/childrenfirst

SHINING STARS WINNERS

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

BE A HARD WORKER

Date	Room	Name
08/10/2021	Sarah's	Oscar
	Sarah's	Eli
	Paul's	Ryan
	Paul's	PJ
	Brenda's	Iarlaith
	Brenda's Declan's	Ula Spencer

BE HONEST

Date	Room	Name
15/10/2021	Sarah's	Matilda
	Sarah's	Olga
	Paul's	Inaya
	Paul's	Arya
	Brenda's	Sophia
	Brenda's Declan's	Noah S Fionn

BE CONFIDENT

Date	Room	Name
22/10/2021	Sarah's	Maja
	Sarah's	Nivaan
	Paul's	Amelia
	Paul's	Lilly
	Brenda's	Hugh
	Brenda's Declan's	Liam Sarah S

BE RESPECTFUL

Date	Room	Name
22/10/2021	Sarah's	Finn
	Sarah's	Alex
	Paul's	Alanna
	Paul's	Inaya
	Brenda's	Riley
	Brenda's Declan's	Ellie Marek

PLAYWORKS

The junior and senior infants are learning lots of games to play during yard time. Declan's Class will become playworks buddies on yard in time and assist the children with their games. The 4th class children will wear high vis vests in the yard so the children can spot them easily.

