



CETNS NEWSLETTER

November 2022 | Issue 49

REMINDER

Whole School Planning Day December 16th School Closed

HOUSE BAND FOR OUR WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Calling all musicians if you'd like to join the show for some music at our interval let someone know. You can email principal@castlebaretns.ie and we'll welcome you. Older siblings, family and friends are all welcome. Some festive tunes and upbeat rhythms very welcome.

IF SICK STAY AT HOME

As always, we remind parents to keep sick children at home. As we enter into the winter season, the usual respiratory infections become an important concern. We have recently had cases of Covid 19 in our school and there are many bugs and germs circulating. Please ensure we have an up-to-date phone number for you and even an emergency contact if we can't get you. We want to keep everyone healthy as it can be difficult to get replacement staff at short notice.

To notify the school of your child's absence can you use this form www.castlebaretns.ie/attendance. The password is CETNS_access.

SENSITIVE RSE LESSONS

We will be teaching sensitive Relationship and Sexuality Lessons in January. Parents have a right to request that their children be removed from such lessons if you would prefer to teach them yourself. "The talk" which is still used by some schools has been mostly phased out and the children learn about the sexual reproductive system over a series of lessons, delivered by a teacher in the school. This is making the big talk many small talks and allows children time to process this new information. We have booklets from the HSE which we will be available to parents during these lessons. Our recently ratified RSE policy is on our school website here <https://www.castlebaretns.ie/policies-1> and a sample letter which can be used to remove children from the lessons can be found within the policy. Parents of 5th class pupils may wish to review the content of sensitive lessons.

TIME TO READ PROGRAMME

We are working with Mayo County Library and the Time to Read coordinator Fania Ellison to establish a reading programme to support pupils. Time to Read is a reading support programme for children in 2nd class where company volunteers come into the school, once a week, for 16 weeks, and help the children with their reading. We are still figuring out if more than 2nd class can be involved and we will update classes shortly. Our thanks to Darina Molloy in Mayo County Library for putting us in touch.

WINTER FESTIVALS

As the festive season approaches, we will be learning about a range of festivals. Hopefully your children will be telling you about Thanksgiving, Kwanzaa, Hannukah, Christmas and Ómisoka. Learning about festivals is part of Belief Systems in our Learn Together Curriculum. Each year we draw up our learn together themes and ensure there is a balanced approach to teaching about Belief Systems. In 2019 for example the children learned that Christians believe that Jesus was born, in 2020 we had a guest speaker who talked to Senior Classes about growing up in the Jewish Faith and the celebration of Hannukah. In selecting our Learn Together themes each year we have focused on a belief system-Buddhism was the focus of last year. This year our focus in on changemakers and people who make a difference. The children will be learning about Frida Kahlo, Rachel Blackmore and others who have overcome difficulties. Stevie Wonder also features and he is Sarah's all-time favourite artist and like some of our pupils is blind/visually impaired.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

The date for official Parent Teacher meetings is November 22nd and we welcome you to speak to your child's class teacher about their progress in school. This meeting can be in person or by telephone call. Although frequent chats occur between home and school this meeting together with an end of year school report is an official communication of your child's progress. It is also an opportunity for you to thank your child's teacher for all they do.

MATERIALS MONEY

In the hustle and bustle of getting back to school some families have not yet paid their materials money. We will be sending our reminder texts to families so you should receive one in the coming days. Please pay this as soon as possible. Más é do thoil é (Please)

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to help us prepare for our winter show, please email miriam@castlebaretns.ie We are looking for help with face painting/makeup, costume design and some extra help on the night of the show. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help out already. It is greatly appreciated. We are really looking forward to the show!

WESTPORT EDUCATE TOGETHER

All pupils in Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class will be visiting Westport ETNS on Friday 25th November. We are very excited to develop our links with Niall and all the staff as they are our nearest ET neighbours. Normal drop off and collection times apply.

SHINING STARS WINNERS

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

BE RESPECTFUL

Date	Room	Name
21/10/2022	Deborah's	Cillain
	Patricia's	Poppy
	Declan's	Bobby
	Declan's	Alba
	Paul's	Ruby

BE RESPONSIBLE

Date	Room	Name
28/10/2022	Deborah's	Ava
	Patricia's	Tiárnán
	Declan's	Aoife
	Declan's	Dawid
	Paul's	Sarah D

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

Date	Room	Name
11/11/2022	Sarah's	Lila
	Sarah's	Ryszard
	Deborah's	Lev
	Patricia's	Ornagh
	Declan's	Riley
	Declan's	Eoin
	Paul's	Abbie

COMMUNICATION

Please ensure you contact your child's teacher regarding any issues or concerns you have. As the school grows it is impossible to reply promptly to the many emails and messages Sarah receives from parents. Some are simple questions and others are very important matters. Your first port of call needs to be your child's class teacher and then, if necessary, the Principal. A quick call or email to Jennifer is sometimes all that is needed to find out how much, when or what!

PERMANENT POSITION FOR PAUL

Congratulation to Paul Gannon our 5th class teacher who is now a permanent member of staff. Our enrolment numbers 116 on September 30th mean that we now have 6 permanent members of teaching staff- Sarah, Miriam, Liam, Brenda, Declan and Paul. We would need approximately 146 pupils enrolled for our next permanent post. Unfortunately, we have no physical space for additional pupils this year in Marsh House so our BOM are working to increase capacity for next year.

BOOK FAIR

Thanks to all who supported or volunteered at our recent book fair. The children enjoyed having this new range of books in our school and it has motivated them to continue to read. The love of reading is alive and well.

SCHOOL INSPECTOR

Our school inspector for this year is Martin Whyte-Divisional Inspector. Last year we had a curriculum evaluation in the teaching of English and this year we expect to have an incidental inspection or another curriculum evaluation in a different subject. All developing schools are given visits each year to monitor progress as they grow and develop.

IRISH PRIMARY PRINCIPAL'S NETWORK (IPPN)

The Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN) is the professional body for Irish primary school leaders. It was established in the year 2000 to address school leaders' professional and personal needs. Annually they hold a conference and Sarah will be attending this year from Wednesday 16th-Friday 18th November. Miriam is the acting designated liaison person for any child protection concerns in Sarah's absence.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

On Friday December 16th our whole school (both locations) will be coming together for a whole school assembly. We will be using the Linenhall Arts Centre to discuss all our achievements for the first term of school. This special assembly will give the children an opportunity to see everyone in the school together in one place. We will sing songs and do shining stars together on this day. We are looking forward to this great occasion.

SPELLINGS FOR ME SURVEY

As part of our school self-evaluation (SSE) we are focusing on the way we teach and the children learn spellings. Each child from 1st class has a personalised spelling list instead of the usual one size fits all lists of the past. We use a programme called spellings for me. Staff have spent time on professional development upskilling in this new way of teaching spellings and there has been a significant investment of time in testing pupils. We would like to survey parents to ascertain your views on the effectiveness of this programme. This will inform our teaching going forward. Please engage with the survey which will arrive in your inbox within the next month.

CODING

Classes 1st-5th attended a coding workshop in Castlebar Library on Monday November 14th. The workshop was run by Corrib Kids Coding for Science Week 2022. 1st to 4th used Scratch and 5th used Microsoft MakeCode Arcade to designed their own games.

A FEW REMINDERS FOR PUPILS...

- Every child needs to bring a coat with a hood to school
- We are a peanut free school
- Jewellery such as rings and necklaces should not be worn. (Health and Safety Policy)
- We have a healthy eating policy
- We encourage lunches to be waste free-no tinfoil/clingfilm
- We show respect at all times
- We are a Bully-Free Zone
- It's okay to be different
- Party invitation are not welcome in school

