



# CETNS NEWSLETTER

September 2021 | Issue 40

## WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to everyone and Fáilte Romhaibh to the new families joining our school. It has been a very busy few weeks so far and as always September is a month of adjustment and transition. As our school has grown to more than 82 pupils, we hope that our teacher Declan will be made permanent after September 30th. Our class sizes depend on teacher allocations and thankfully planning permission to increase the capacity of Marsh House allowed us to take in 20 new Junior Infant pupils. We have emailed Educate Together last week to ask for an update from DES and sent readings from our class CO2 monitors yesterday to emphasize the necessity of more accommodation. We have been told that our case is being reviewed by senior officials. We will continue to pursue this issue. A warm welcome to Brian our new SNA also. He's already settled in and it feels like he has always been here. The role of the SNA will be clarified-keep reading!

## SNA ACCESS

In July we were granted additional SNA support from the NCSE following an exceptional review carried out by John Culhane SENO. On the day Liam and Sarah discussed 12 children with John having received parental consent and furnishing him with all available reports. 10 of the 12 children had recommendations for SNA support from an outside health professional. John was clear that SNA support is for care needs only despite what is written in reports. Here is a link to see what exactly care needs are <https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/01>. They are toileting, feeding, administering medication etc. We have children in the school with communication, social and emotional and behaviour difficulties. The SENO was very clear that he is not granting an SNA for these needs. The school is now granted 1.83 SNAs. Children are no longer designated an SNA by the SENO. The school receives the allocation and must devise a timetable for SNAs to cater for care needs. It's of great benefit to all pupils to have additional adults in our school but Brian and Linda are specifically for care needs. We outlined concerns about children being flight risks. We were advised to lock our gates on yard and close external doors once children have started school. Overall, we found the review very practical and found the SENO direct and fair. Sarah asked why health professionals are recommending SNA access when it is something not available to schools. It seems this is an area which needs to be clarified. This is something we hope to bring to the attention of Health Professionals visiting us this year. All 12 children will have either an individual education plan or specific classroom support plan. This will be communicated to you by your class teacher or Liam in the coming weeks.

## COMMUNICATION

Please get in touch with your class teacher in the first instance reading any classroom, yard concerns or covid issues. Your class teacher can be reached by email or arrange a call through Jennifer in the office.

### Junior and Senior Infants

Class teacher Sarah: [principal@castlebaretns.ie](mailto:principal@castlebaretns.ie)

### First and Second Class

Class Teacher- Marie until end of September then Miriam:  
[firstclass@castlebaretns.ie](mailto:firstclass@castlebaretns.ie), [miriam@castlebaretns.ie](mailto:miriam@castlebaretns.ie)

### Second and Third Class

Teacher Brenda: [brenda@castlebaretns.ie](mailto:brenda@castlebaretns.ie)

### Fourth Class

Teacher Declan: [declan@castlebaretns.ie](mailto:declan@castlebaretns.ie)

Please email me, [principal@castlebaretns.ie](mailto:principal@castlebaretns.ie) if there are other issues you need to discuss. No need to have a number of parents who feel the same way as you to raise an issue you have. I prefer if you discuss with me first before getting opinions of others. Some parents have raised important/valid issues that I hadn't thought of and every day is a school day for not just the pupils! Ideas and suggestions welcome

## HALF DAY CLOSURE

There is a mandatory half day closure on **Friday 8th October. School will close at 12pm** for pupils and Staff will receive training in the new primary language curriculum. This is an inconvenience for parents we realise but all schools in the country must do this training and all will be closing for a half day at some stage. So please ensure you have arranged collection for **12pm** on this day. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

## TIE UP HAIR/ CHECK FOR HEAD LICE

This is just the annual reminder to keep hair tied up and regularly check your child's hair for headlice.

## DONATION FOR IPADS

We recently received €2,000 from a local business person to purchase additional iPads for the school. This person would like to remain anonymous but admires our school ethos and has been following our growth with interest. Go raibh mile maith agat. We have a charity number if any other businesses would like to get in touch.

## PILOT TRANSITION PROJECT

Mayo Education Centre in collaboration with the local county childcare manager, is running a pilot transition project in the new school year (Sept 2021 – June 2022) between preschools and primary schools. Sarah is very interested in joining this as good communication around transition is so important. As part of her masters in special needs education she carried out action research on the transition for SEN pupils between primary and post primary education. We hope to be included in this pilot.

## COVID UPDATES

In relation to covid symptoms and absences from school. Can you take advice from GP or HSE updates please. Email Jennifer or your class teacher if you are keeping your child out or if they are going for a test. If your child is positive, you can email their class teacher and Sarah. We will have to notify the HSE and then they advise regarding close contacts. Everyone in your child's class is in close contact given our classroom layout. We cannot notify the class but you can if you wish. I believe it's taking 48 hours for HSE to advise closing classes so if you want to keep your child at home this is your call until HSE get back to us.

## BOOKS

If you have books from the booklist to send in, please do. If you are unsure what books you are missing, drop an email to your class teacher.

## MAYO FOR SAM

School as normal on Monday. Have a great weekend.

## SHINING STARS WINNERS

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

### BE SAFE - HANDWASHING & COVID PROCEDURES

Date	Room	Name
03/09/2021	Marie's	Claudia
	Marie's	Alanna
	Declan's	Sarah D.

Date	Room	Name
10/09/2021	Marie's	Tiárnán
	Marie's	Aoife
	Brenda's	Alba
	Brenda's	Dawid
	Declan's	James

Sarah's class will start doing shining stars when the junior infants are on full days.

