

Clarecastle News



"I have come so they may have life and live it to the full"

June 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday June 18th
Active Schools Week begins and continues until Friday June 22nd

Wednesday June 20th
RSE talk in School Hall for 6th Class at 8:30pm

Wednesday June 20th
School Reports will be issued

Thursday June 21st
Hurling Blitz organised by Clarecastle GAA for 3rd and 4th Class at 11:30am

Friday June 22nd
Sports Day

Tuesday June 26th
Graduation Mass for 6th Class in School Hall at 7:30pm.

Thursday June 28th
School closes at 12noon

Thursday August 30th
Start of the 2018/2019 school year. The school will re-open to pupils at 9:00am

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

All personal information which schools hold is protected by the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003. On the 25th May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and corresponding legislation reinforces the existing position.



In light of the new legislation, new policies and procedures are being developed to ensure that Clarecastle National School continues to be compliant with Data Protection legislation.

SCHOOL REPORTS

School Reports will be e-mailed to parents on Wednesday, 20th June and will be accessible via the Parent Portal.



An information leaflet, **Understanding Your Child's School Report**, is available in the Parents section of the school website under 'Tips for Parents'.

PARENT PORTAL

The Parent Portal has been up and running for a year now. Junior classes have used it for viewing the homework for the week. Parents can use it to keep track of attendance and of monies paid in to the school and for viewing end of year school reports.

E PAYMENTS

The school is currently setting up a new e-payment system whereby parents will be able to pay all monies to the school electronically (e.g. School Maintenance Fund, school tours, swimming lessons etc). This will be up and running in September and we would encourage all parents to use this facility. It will hopefully make paying easier for parents and it will make accounting more straightforward for the school.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

There is huge credit due to the fantastic work and fundraising done by the Parents Association this year. Children will gain from the massive investment of over €16,000 and will have the opportunity to engage in coding, designing, problem solving and critical thinking activities with the purchase of 18 i-pads, 18 Lego WeDo 2.0 kits, 12 Sphero packs with mats, 12 Bee-bots and associated accessories. This

will be launched in September with the help of Wriggle (authorised Apple reseller). The Wriggle Roadcaster will be sent to our school on the 21st of September where the children will be able to board the bus to see robotics in action.

The Parents Association are also funding activities for Active Schools Week such as Yoga, Zumba and transport to and from the orienteering in Ballybeg Woods.



In addition, our fantastic library facility would not be so wonderful but for the continued support and funding provided by the Parents Association and the library volunteers who maintain this fantastic resource in our school. Sincere thanks to the parents who make all of this possible.

We know that we are very fortunate to have such an active and supportive Parents Association who constantly work to enhance the provision of education for all pupils in the school. In order for this to be sustained, new volunteers are always needed.



Drop your name in to the school office and a member of the Parents Association will be in contact with you, or you might like to come along to the monthly meetings to see for yourself the wonderful work that is done for the school.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Parents Association has kindly allocated a sizable sum of money towards the purchase of new books which we hope to have on the shelves in September 2018. The children are reading so much and it will be great to have new material for the new school year.

If any family is doing a clear out of their bookshelves at home and have books in good condition which are no longer needed, we would welcome any donations that you might have. It would help greatly if you could check beforehand if the books are on the Accelerated Reading system. This can be done on www.arbookfind.co.uk, click as parent and type the book title into the box.



**ALL SCHOOL LIBRARY
BOOKS MUST BE RETURNED
TO THE SCHOOL BY
TUESDAY 26TH JUNE
PLEASE?**

ACCELERATED READER

The Accelerated Reader Programme continues to prove itself as a powerful tool for motivating our students to read for pleasure and for monitoring and managing independent reading practice.

To date this year, pupils from First to Sixth Class have read in the region of 10,500 books which totals to approximately 120 million words!



CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL

Both boys and girls teams competed in the annual Cumann na mBunscol Hurling and Camogie Competitions.

The boys' team played against CBS Ennis, Ennis NS and Inagh NS and won each of these matches. These matches led to the semi-final against Cratloe where another great win was recorded.

The final was held in Cusack Park on Tuesday, June 12th. Our boys played very well but were unlucky on the day against Quin NS.



The girls played against Kilkishen NS, Quin NS, Gaelscoil Mhíchíl Cíosóg and CBS Ennis. While the team played very well, they didn't progress to the next round.

The continued support and assistance of Clarecastle GAA in this regard is very much appreciated.

HURLING SKILLS COMPETITION



Congratulations to Rhian Sheridan, Fionn Morgan and Michael Sweeney who represented the school in a Hurling Skills Competition which was held in the GAA grounds at Clareabbey. They competed against five other schools from Clare. Each child received a point for their team

on completion of the following skills: Long Puck, Ground Stroke, Sideline Cut, Soloing, Striking over the bar and Soloing through poles as quickly as possible. Michael, Fionn and Rhian won the Clare Division and travelled to Mallow on June 6th to represent Clare in the Munster Competition. Each county was represented and the boys showed great skill throughout the day. Well Done boys! Lovely Hurling!!

QUIZ ENTRIES

Children from Fourth and Sixth class took part in numerous table quizzes during the year.



They represented Clarecastle NS in the annual Credit Union Quiz, in Féile na hÍnse and in the Community Games Quiz. More recently two Sixth Class teams participated in the Garda Síochána Primary Schools Quiz and after a very tight contest, came in 3rd and 4th place. Well done to all the children who took part!

SWIMMING GALA



Pupils from Third to Sixth Class represented the school at the Annual Schools Swimming Gala held in Ennis Leisure Centre on the 11th of June. Teams of four competed in a mixture of width and length swimming. Well done to all the boys and girls who participated on the day!

MARION KEANE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Training began in January for the Marion Keane Basketball Tournament. We were in a group with Gaelscoil Mhíchíl Cíosóg, Barefield NS and CBS Ennis. The blitz took place in Gurteen.



We beat CBS but unfortunately lost two close matches to Barefield and the Gaelscoil. Gaelscoil Mhíchíl Cíosóg emerged as winners from the group at the knock out stages. Well Done to all who took part!

MUNSTER SCHOOLS TENNIS COMPETITION

After our Sixth Class girls' team won the inaugural Co. Clare Primary Schools Competition in June 2017 at Ennis Tennis Club, it was decided to enter a girls and boys team in the Munster Schools Tennis Competition this year. The girls and boys played two very strong teams from Cashel, Co. Tipperary, but unfortunately were beaten on the day. It was a wonderful experience for the Sixth Class pupils.



We are training hard to retain the cup for the Clare School Blitz on June 21st at Ennis Tennis Club.

TRAD MUSIC GROUP

The Trad Group have had a busy year and have welcomed lots of budding new musicians!

December began with a visit to Clarecastle Day Care Centre, providing a lively and lovely mixture of dance and music. This was followed by the Christmas Nativity which was held in the Church.



Seinn na nÓg was the next big project for April and once again, the Trad Group did not disappoint. Parents, family and friends came to hear and see a wonderful display of talent in music, song and dance. Clarecastle NS was delighted to participate in celebrating the rich indigenous culture that our Traditional Irish Music brings to Church life. Well done to all the musicians who attended on the night.

ENGINEERS WEEK

Engineers week was held from February 24th to March 2nd. Children became engineers for the week and imagined, planned and designed a great variety of projects. We had fantastic visits from five very generous parents who work as engineers. A big thank you to Dennis Geers, Ruairi Breen, Fiona McGonnell, Joe Doyle and David McParland.





The children thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful presentations and the week started the exciting journey with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and STEAM where the Arts are integrated with each of the above subject areas.

Thanks also to the parents who sent in all the wonderful recyclable materials.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council had their first Skype session in March with the children in Ashley River Elementary School, Charleston, South Carolina, U.S.A. Our Student Council got together in the library and asked lots of questions and also showed some of the wonderful work they did during Engineers Week.



Ashley River has engaged with STEM since 2011 and has since progressed to STEAM. They held a STEAMFEST in their school in May and invited us to contact them via Skype on 31st May. They demonstrated their recent projects and shared their experiences with us.

The Student Council also organised Crazy Hair Day as a fundraiser and raised nearly €600.



Council representatives invited children throughout the school to put forward suggestions as to how this money should be spent. All of these ideas were discussed by the Student Council and it was decided to spend the money on K-Nex kits and, as a treat, an ice-cream van will arrive at the school before the summer holidays....on a date that is presently known to the Student Council only!



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Bhí gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla ar siúl sa scoil i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge i mbliana.



Comórtas Seanfhocail:

Children from Third to Sixth Classes drew pictures of their favourite Seanfhocal and some of these are displayed throughout the school.

Féile na hÍnse:

Children took part in Amhránaíocht Aonair, Grúpa Amhránaíocht, Tráth na gCeist, Ealaín agus Aithriseoireacht. Children from Fifth and Sixth class won First Place in the Group Singing competition.



Sixth Class children took part in the Tráth na gCeist and one team came in fourth place. Alannah Hayes came first in the poetry competition and Róisín Halpin

came second in the individual singing competition. Well Done to all for taking part and for doing so well.

Tráth na gCeist sa Scoil:

A Table Quiz as Gaeilge was organised on Friday 16th March for Fifth and Sixth Class and on Friday 31st March for Third and Fourth Classes. All winners were presented with prizes and each quiz was enjoyed by all. Comhghairdeas le gach éinne!

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY WEEK

April saw the children engage with National Technology Week.



Junior classes learned coding with Beebots. The children also learned about coding, Scratch, project management and the wonderful world of technology.

Third, Fourth and Fifth classes had fantastic visits from the following parents: Mary Nugent, Peter Gorman, Peter Duffy, Tomasz Kantecki and Paul Ellingstad

Sincere thanks to all of the parents who gave so kindly of their time to visit and share their expertise with us. The children thoroughly enjoyed every visit!



Children were invited to bring in their own technological devices to show to their classmates. There were some interesting drones, remote controlled cars and robots on display and a very special visit from DASH the Robot. Thanks to all the boys and girls who brought in their devices.

PANGEA MATHS



Congratulations to Alex Sullivan, Sixth Class, who qualified to represent our school in the National Pangea Maths Finals in Trinity College in May. Well Done Alex!

WELLBEING WEEK

Wellbeing Week was held from May 14th to 18th to promote student health and wellbeing.



Children had the chance to enjoy yoga, Movement for Life, Crazy Hair Day and Friendship Day where they participated in random acts of kindness. We also had 'Food Dudes' and 'National Walk to School Week' as part of the Green Schools Initiative. Physical activity only was assigned as homework.

Thank you to the Parents Association for funding the yoga. Sincere thanks also to Rosie McMahan, to Kieran Ryan who introduced the school to Movement for Life and to Ian Dinan and Gerard Backes for planting peas and onions with Senior Infants in the Community Garden. Many thanks, as always, to all parents for their continued support.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Clarecastle NS is in the process of applying for their sixth Green Schools' Flag based on the theme Global Citizenship- Litter and Waste. This school maintenance theme affords the students the opportunity to

discover how the Green Schools work influences people and environments worldwide; while also revising litter and waste management.



The overall aim is to create a knowledge and understanding about the link between environmental degradation and human rights. It is a two year process which concludes in March 2019.

The new committee, formed in September 2017 consists of students from 1st to 6th class. The students meet once a month to discuss and plan upcoming events, conduct surveys and monitor our waste management. Compost waste and recyclable paper/plastic is collected from the classrooms on a daily basis. Litter picking occurs in the school grounds weekly. Students are encouraged to bring in old batteries and old phones from home so that they can be recycled in a controlled manner. Bird tables and feeders were set up during the winter months to look after our vulnerable feathered friends. A wild garden was set up in the school grounds in March to complement our Bug Hotel and we are currently observing natural wild flowers growing there.



A 'Spring Clean' of the local environs occurred in April and all students participated. Junior Infants to Second Class engaged in scooter training and Fifth Class students engaged in bicycle training.



During the months of May and June, pupils were encouraged to walk or to cycle to school or to park 'n' stride each Wednesday as part of the WOW initiative. The National Walk to School Week in May returned high student participation and we achieved a similar result during the National Cycle to School Week from June 11th to 15th. Sixth Class children enjoyed a cycle to Ennis and participated in a 4km cycle tour of Ennis on National COW Day, Wednesday June 13th. They were cheered on and waved off by other classes as they left the school.



In early June, Third and Fourth Class children had the opportunity to take part in a recycling workshop. They sorted waste packaging into the correct bins and learned all about the new household recycling list. Children were informed about a competition to make a bin lorry from recycled materials and many boys and girls are now working on this project. There is still time left to enter for those who would like to do so!

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all for their continued support and look forward to completing our application for the sixth Green Flag with more concentrated projects in the new school year.

FOOD DUDES



The Food Dudes Programme revisited our school in May and was received with great excitement and enthusiasm. All classes sampled fruit and vegetables such as carrots, grapes, apples, oranges, bananas, mangetout, cucumber and peppers. Incentives and rewards were earned as the programme progressed. This initiative, funded by An Bord Bia, aims to change the eating habits of children. There is no doubt that there will be many exciting and healthy lunch boxes in the future.



SCHOOL CHOIR



The wonderful sound of singing voices has been heard on the school corridors at lunchtime on Thursdays. The choir have been practising some lovely songs including 'Fight Song' and 'This is Me!' in recent months. Everyone is looking forward to a performance before the school holidays!

ACTIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

Active Schools Week is being held this year from June 18th to 22nd. Children in all classes have enjoyed Active Schools Week in recent years, and will no doubt do so again.



The initiative is about providing fun and inclusive physical activity opportunities for all members of the school community and allows schools to reinforce the message that physical activity is both enjoyable and good for you. Activities are planned as follows:

Monday:

Tennis - Junior and Senior Infants

Yoga - Second to Sixth Class

Tuesday:

Tennis - First to Fifth Class

Wednesday:

Orienteering in Ballybeg Woods - all classes

Thursday:

Zumba - all classes

Hurling Blitz - Third and Fourth Class

Tennis blitz in Ennis Tennis Club - Sixth Class

Friday:

Sports Day for all classes

It wouldn't be possible for the children to enjoy so many activities without the help and funding of the Parents Association. Many thanks to those parents who are volunteering to help out during Active Schools Week.



HURLING BLITZ



Clarecastle GAA is organising a hurling blitz for Third and Fourth class pupils on **Thursday 21st June at 11:30 a.m.** All parents are welcome to come along to support.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY



We would like to extend a massive thank you to John Power who takes the photos for the school calendar and for the First Holy Communion and Confirmation booklets every year. John does this on a voluntary basis and is always willing to help out. Thank You John!

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our school is very fortunate to have the support of many volunteers from across the community whose contributions truly enrich the educational experience of pupils in our school.



The Board of Management, staff and pupils would like to say a huge **THANK YOU!** to all the volunteers who gave so generously of their time over the past year to benefit our pupils. Thank you to the Clarecastle GAA coaches and to Chris Thomas, cricket coach. Thanks also to our local sponsors who generously sponsored us during the year.

UNWANTED UNIFORMS

If anyone would like to donate unwanted uniforms that are in good condition, they can do so by handing them in to the school office before the school closes for the summer holidays.



FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the children in Second Class who made their First Holy Communion and to the boys and girls in Sixth Class who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. You are all a credit to your families and to your teachers.

Thank you to the parents who provided the very welcome refreshments in the School Hall after both ceremonies.

BEST OF LUCK!

Best wishes and every success are being sent to our Sixth Class pupils as they depart for secondary school.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



The school will close to pupils at 12 noon on Thursday 28th June and will re-open on Thursday 30th August at 9:00am. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

School Calendar 2018/2019

Thursday 30 th August 2018	School re-opens.
29 th October to 2 nd November 2018	School closed - October Mid-term Break
21 st December 2018	School closes at 12 noon for Christmas Break
7 th January 2019	School re-opens after Christmas Break
18 th – 22 nd February 2019	School closed for Mid-term Break
18 th March 2019	School closed – Bank Holiday
12 th April 2019	School closes at 12 noon for Easter Holidays
29 th April 2019	School re-opens after Easter Break
6 th May 2019	School closed for May Bank Holiday
3 rd -4 th June 2019	School closed for June Bank Holiday
28 th June 2019	School closes at 12 noon for Summer Break

Please Note: There will be one additional day closure for Primary Language In-service Training for school staff during the first term. This date will be notified as soon as decided.