



## IMPORTANT DATES

**December 21<sup>st</sup> 2018**

School closes at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays

**January 7<sup>th</sup> 2019**

School re-opens

**February 15<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Confirmation

**February 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019**

School closed for Mid-term Break

**February 25<sup>th</sup> 2019**

School re-opens

**March 18<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Bank Holiday – School Closed

**April 12<sup>th</sup> 2019**

School closes at 12noon for Easter Holidays

**April 29<sup>th</sup> 2019**

School re-opens

**May 4<sup>th</sup> 2019**

First Holy Communion

**May 6<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Bank Holiday - School Closed

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Bank Holiday – School Closed

**June 28<sup>th</sup> 2019**

School closes at 12 noon for summer holidays

## INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY USE AGREEMENT

On September 13<sup>th</sup> the Clarecastle National School Internet and Technology Use Agreement was launched. Local public representatives and parents filled the school hall in support of the initiative.



The Internet and Technology Use Agreement was drawn up by students, teachers, parents and the Board of Management of the school over the previous months with the guidance and assistance of Dr Maureen Griffin, Forensic Psychologist and Director of MGMS Training Ltd. It provides guidelines on best practice on the use of technology by children in the home and gives resources to parents that help monitor and secure their child's use of technology. Children and their parents were invited to sign up to the agreement on how technology will be used by pupils in the school. The aim is to ensure that children embrace technology in a safe, age appropriate environment while leaving time for other important behaviours essential for their health and well-being.

There has been a wonderful response with 84% of families signing the agreement. Certificates will be issued in the coming months to those who have done so. If you have yet to sign it, copies are available from the School Office.

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parent's Association have produced a School Calendar for 2019. The calendar contains photos of each class and the known dates for forthcoming school events. Thanks to the many local businesses that have once again supported us by advertising in the calendar. Parents are encouraged, where possible, to support the sponsors when the opportunity presents itself. Sincere thanks to John Power who took the class photos again this year. Calendars will be available from the Parents Association and the School office.



The Parents Association wish to thank everyone who supported the recent 'Cash for Clobber' collection. Another wonderful amount of bags were gathered, which will raise welcome funds for the school.

New books for the school library and new sets of novels for a number of classes were also purchased. In the coming months, equipment for the new sensory room in the school will be bought.

The staff and students wish to say 'Thank You Very Much' to the Parents Association for all their time, commitment and dedication to fundraising which provides extra resources that greatly enhance education and learning in our school.

## **SUCCESS IN INTEL MINI-SCIENTIST 2018**

Almost ninety children from Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes participated in the Intel Mini Scientist Competition on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ten judges from Intel arrived to our school to view over forty projects. The judges were very impressed with the standard of projects and praised the children for their level of knowledge and presentation skills. They also thanked the parents of all of the children taking part for their commitment and effort in helping the children get their projects ready. The project that came in First place was based on a Solar Powered Car by Fifth Class students Addison O'Loughlin, Clara Powell and Freya Starr Amran.



The girls went on to represent the school in the regional final in Intel, Shannon on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The judges were so impressed with their project and with the presentation of their work that they were awarded First Place on the day. The entire school

community send their congratulations to Freya, Clara and Addison on their wonderful achievement in both the school and regional finals and wishes them every success as they take their project to the National Final in Dublin in February.

## **EAST CLARE SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING**

Well done to all the girls and boys who participated in the East Clare Schools Cross Country running competition on September 25<sup>th</sup> in Lee's Road. They all did very well and good fun was had by everyone.



Congratulations to Toby Akinagbe, Chroia Casey and Hayley Barrett who qualified to represent the school in the Clare Cross Country finals in November.

Toby and Hayley represented the school at the County Final and they brought great pride to the school with their performances on the day.

## **CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL**

Clarecastle NS Girls Football saw great successes this year as they reached the Division 2 Final in Cumann na mBunscol an Chláir. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of October they overcame Kildysart and Inagh in their blitz, to lead them into a semi final. A great game, with skill and talent shown from all players saw them defeat Crusheen in the semi finals. That performance then led them to Cusack Park where they had the great delight of playing in such a great setting, with their fellow

classmates cheering them on from the stands.



With their grit and determination, we were fortunate to witness a great display of Gaelic football. Unfortunately on the day it wasn't meant to be as they lost by two points to Barefield NS (0-8 2-1).

## **GREEN SCHOOLS**

Clarecastle NS is in the process of applying for their sixth Green Schools' Flag. The theme is Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste. A Global Awareness Day was held on December 18<sup>th</sup>. It provided an opportunity for pupils who have family members living in another country to give information about that country and to showcase foods, traditions and customs that are practised in that country. Many thanks to all the parents who attended and helped with the displays and Well Done to the pupils on their wonderful work and on making the day so enjoyable.



## **ANNUAL BOOK FAIR**

Thanks to everyone who supported the recent Book Fair. A special thanks to the Sixth Class pupils who gave their time to help.



It was a great success with a wide variety of books available to purchase. The wonderful support shown this year will be rewarded with extra books and resources for the school.

## ACCELERATED READER

Since September, pupils from First to Sixth Class have read in the region of 4,200 books which totals to approximately 43 million words. Well Done boys and girls! Keep up the reading during the Christmas break!



## GAEILGE 24

Students from Fourth Class and Sixth Class took part in Gaeilge24 on November 13<sup>th</sup>.



Pupils had a great time conversing in Irish for the entire day. Gaeilge24 is a challenge which encourages pupils to speak in Irish for 24 hours. The challenge which began in 2012, is organised by Conradh na Gaeilge. This year, more than 30,000 pupils from 300 schools across the country took part.

## LEARNING SQUADS FOR 'STEAM'



In October, children from Third to Sixth class were invited to become part of the STEAM Learning Squad. The group got the valuable opportunity to learn about Beebots, Sphero, Lego WeDo 2.0 and iPads. They, in turn, will be sharing their new found knowledge and skills with

other pupils as they visit different classes and help the children in each class get started on the various pieces of equipment. This is a huge opportunity for children to learn about coding and technology and to develop leadership and collaboration skills.

Currently there is a group of 18 children in the Learning Squad which takes place on Mondays from 3 to 4pm in the school hall. Due to the high interest and demand to be part of these squads, the groups rotate every six weeks. The first group finished their training on November 12<sup>th</sup> and a new group from the waiting list are now attending training.

## LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

A wide variety of lunchtime activities have been on offer for the children since September.

A Book Club was founded and on Wednesdays, children who would like to read their library books at lunchtime go to the library to do so.

The Trad Group has also been busy practising tunes and preparing for the Celebration of Christmas, which was held on December 18<sup>th</sup>. They will perform again in the springtime at the annual Seinn na nÓg Concert.



Fifth and Sixth class have been enjoying some relaxation as they attended yoga. Other classes will get a chance to do so in the coming months.



Third and Fourth Class boys were busy with indoor hurling in October and November, and Gaelic Football training was available to Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class boys and girls. As soon as the weather improves, lunchtime games will continue outdoors.

In recent weeks, children from Fourth, Fifth and Sixth class who are interested in increasing their general knowledge have been getting lots of experience at taking part in a quiz.



Their skills will be put to good use later in the school year when different groups will attend the annual Credit Union Quiz, Féile na hÍnse, the Community Games Quiz and the Garda Síochána Primary Schools Quiz.

## SCHOOL CHOIR

The School Choir have been meeting after school on Tuesdays. With almost 65 members they have been making great progress and are looking forward to some outings and competitions over the course of the year.



## WRIGGLE

### ROADCASTER VISIT

The Wriggle Roadcaster arrived to our school on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Some children from Second to Sixth Class got the opportunity to enter the roadcaster and get a chance to use the iPads and Sphero.



Wriggle is the company from which our school iPads were purchased. Thanks to the fantastic contribution from our Parents Association we have been able to purchase a bank of 18 iPads, Lego We Do 2.0 kits, Sphero (a robotic ball) and Beebots. This is part of our STEAM initiative to encourage and enhance students' skills in coding and using technology.

### STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council has two representatives from each class from Third to Sixth Class. All items on the agenda, which have been submitted from each class, are discussed and debated at their meetings, which are held every three weeks.



This term, a Student Council Constitution was drafted where each new member has been

made aware of the rules, procedures and expected behaviour.

The members of the Student Council are involved in the STEAM Learning Squads and more recently have been learning about the process of making a clear, informed decision. Mr. Moloney attends meetings from time to time when the council have ideas that they would like to discuss with him.

### SWIMMING LESSONS



Pupils from Third to Sixth Class attended five weeks of swimming lessons at Ennis Leisure Centre during the months of September to November. Children are given the chance to begin swimming lessons or improve their swimming skills while also enjoying themselves. The Annual Schools Swimming Gala, a competition which is usually held in June, will be an opportunity some pupils to show their skills.

### HURLING AND TAG RUGBY TRAINING

Pupils from Senior Infants to Fourth Class have been enjoying practising and developing their hurling skills every Wednesday in the school hall. Training was initially provided by Peter Casey and was then provided by

Carmel Strand-Duggan, Jim Corbett and Eoin Brennan.



Fifth and Sixth Class have been enjoying Tag Rugby with Ben from Munster Rugby during the term. Thanks is extended to Peter, Carmel, Jim, Eoin and Ben for their time and dedication.



### CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM MR MOLONEY



Christmas is upon us and it is time to celebrate and enjoy family and friends. The warmth of the season, as well as the hustle and bustle has begun!

As we give and receive gifts this year we should never lose sight of the things we can give for free, yet still keep - our TIME, a SMILE and a GRATEFUL HEART.

When we return in the New Year, I hope we will be all rested and rejuvenated. Thank you for your continued support to Our School and I wish all of you a Happy and Holy Christmas! **Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.**