

Clarecastle News



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

June 2017

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday June 19th

Active Schools Week starts and continues to Friday 23rd.

Tuesday June 20th

Bio Diversity Flag raising at Clarecastle NS at 1pm. All welcome.

Monday June 19th

Active Schools Week starts and continues to Friday 23rd.

Tuesday June 20th

RSE talk in school hall for Rang 6.

Wednesday June 21st

School Reports issued.

Thursday June 22nd

Rang 3 & Rang 4 Hurling Blitz organised by Clarecastle GAA.

Friday June 23rd

Sports Day

Wednesday June 28th

Graduation Mass for 6th Class in School Hall at 8 p.m.

Summer Closure:

School closes at 12noon **on Thursday 29th June**

Wednesday August 30th

Start of the 2017/2018 school year. The school will re-open to pupils at 9.00 a.m.

5th GREEN FLAG AWARDED TO CLARECASTLE NATIONAL SCHOOL

For many years our school has been involved in the **National Green Schools Programme** which is part of an international environmental education programme and award scheme known as Eco-Schools.



It is designed to raise students' awareness of environmental and sustainable development issues through classroom study. Schools are required to undertake a particular theme for each flag and to devise and implement a two year action plan coordinated by a school committee and involving all students and teachers from the school.



The theme for the 5th Green Flag is **Biodiversity**, the variety of plant and animal life and the study of our local ecosystems.

Many projects were undertaken including 'Feeding the birds', monitoring and surveying the birds frequenting our school yard, setting up a bug hotel, a wild garden, school trips to our local rivers and woodlands, planting trees and shrubs and various workshops.

The school also had to revisit and maintain the previous four themes **(1) Litter & Waste (2) Energy (3) Water and (4) Travel.**

In March we were visited by a representative from **An Taisce** to our school and thereafter we were delighted to be awarded our 5th Green Flag. In order to celebrate this great achievement we hope to raise the flag on **June 20th at approx 1.00 p.m.**

We are extending a warm invitation to all to attend this event and to join us for a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat afterwards. Thanking you, The Green School's Committee.

SCHOOL REPORTS

School Reports will be **e-mailed** home to parents on **21st June**. This is the first year we will be e-mailing home reports so it is essential that we are made aware of any issues which may arise.



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

Next August we will be rolling out the Parent Portal element of our school's Pupil Management System, Aladdin. This will be the primary means by which information will be circulated by the school. The Parent Portal will further enhance the school's communication with parents and will enable parents to stay informed about and connected with their child's education and learning.

E PAYMENTS

In August 2018 we hope to be in a position to commence receiving electronic payments from parents. The E Payment system will facilitate the easier payment of school money collections for parent/guardians and reduce the amount of cash and cheques being sent into our school in line with recent central bank directives. Updates will be issued next year.



INTERNET SAFETY TALK

The Parents' Association organised Dr. Maureen Griffin, Forensic Psychologist, to talk to pupils from third to sixth on the topic of internet safety. These talks proved to be very informative for and beneficial to

the pupils. I asked Dr. Griffin for feedback from the day in order to be able to inform parents of potential areas of concern.

The following are a list of concerns Dr. Griffin raised based on her interactions with the pupils in our school!!!!

1. Students using age inappropriate apps and sites (e.g. Instagram, Musical.ly and Snapchat -all of which are rated 13+)
2. Students are lying about their age online with some pretending to be over 18 years. This increases the risks children face online.
3. Students are using the main Youtube site instead of Youtube kids, which is designed for children under 13 years. This is particularly relevant for 3rd and 4th class students.
4. Students playing 16+ and 18+ first person shooter games such as the Call of Duty series, the Grand Theft Auto Series etc. These games are completely age inappropriate for children at primary school age. Parents should check the pegi rating system <http://www.pegi.info/ie/>
5. Students having technology in the bedroom at night-time. Numerous campaigns have demonstrated the negative effects of having technology in the bedroom (e.g. Safefood, National Sleep Foundation, World Health Organisation)
6. Students having password protected devices where parents do not know the password and students download apps onto devices without parental supervision. Parents should have the password to download all

apps and should be checking apps before they are installed to make sure you know the features and whether or not it is age appropriate. Common sense media <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/> is a great resource for checking out games, apps, sites etc.

As parents we do all in our power to protect our children....

LET'S DO SO ONLINE TOO!

ACCELERATED READER

The Accelerated Reader Programme which is funded by the Parents Association continues to go from strength to strength with 99% of pupils from 1st to 6th class engaging with the programme this year.

Last year, as always, we were very proud of all the boys and girls when they read over 9300 books totalling in excess of 111 million words. Believe it or not they have improved on that!!!!



To date pupils from 1st to 6th have read **12,500 books** totalling in the region of **130 million** words!!! That is a massive 3200 more books and 19 million more words than last year!!!!

Our fantastic library facility would not be the way it is only

for the continued support and funding provided by our wonderful Parents Association and the library volunteers who maintain this fantastic resource in our school.



If anyone has any unwanted books that are in good condition and that they would like to donate to the school, you can leave them into the school office.



CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL

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

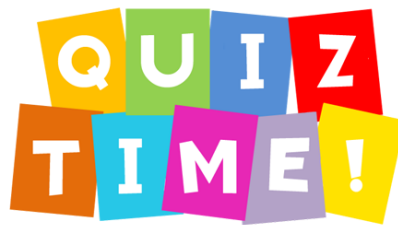
The boys' team met some stiff opposition along the way from **Ennis CBS, Gaelscoil Mhichil Ciosog, Ennis NS and Inagh NS**. While no win was recorded the efforts from all panel members was excellent and we battled on to the end.

The camogie team were narrowly defeated by **Gaelscoil Mhichil Ciosog and Flagmount NS** but wins over **Kilkishen NS and Ennis CBS** led to a play off with **Flagmount NS** where we reversed the original result. This placed us in a **semi final** against **Clonlara NS**. On the day of the semi final in Newmarket we

played brilliantly but in short Clonlara were the better team and winners.

Gaelic games are an important part of our heritage and culture and we are delighted to promote pupil participation and involvement in activities.

The assistance and continued support of **Clarecastle GAA** in this regard is much appreciated. Each year schools involved in Cumann na mBunscol are invited to send 6th class pupils for trials to represent Clare in the **Primary Game** which is held at half time in Munster Senior Championship Games. This year **Emma O' Loughlin (Camogie), Niall Brigdale (Hurling), Evan O' Connell (Football) and Charlotte O' Brien (Football)** represented Clarecastle NS. Well done to all. Niall, Evan and Charlotte went on to play on the Primary Games Team at half time in the relevant Munster Championship.



Children from 4th, 5th and 6th class represented the school in numerous Table Quizzes during the year. They took part in **Féile na hInse**, in the **Community Games Quiz**, and more recently in the **Garda Síochánna Quiz** in May. Our 6th class **Credit Union Quiz** team did particularly well this year, winning their regional quiz in January. They went on to compete in the tightly contested Clare/Limerick regional final. Well done to all the children who took part!



Pupils from third to 6th Class took part in the annual schools Swimming Gala held in Ennis Pool. Our fifth class girls' team came 3rd!! Well done.



SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Clarecastle National School took part in the **Marion Keane Basketball Tournament** on 15th March 2017 in Gurteen. 6th class boys and girls trained with Ms. Howard, Ms. Darcy and Ms. Talty on the run up to the tournament during lunch times.

Both boys and girls teams performed brilliantly in both blitzes and great fun was had by all involved. Despite our best efforts we unfortunately didn't proceed to the next rounds. Well done to all who took part!

TRAD MUSIC GROUP



Clarecastle N.S. Traditional Music Group is made up of members from 2nd – 6th class and is open to all who enjoy playing

a few tunes! We have been very busy this year playing at school events such as the **Christmas Concert** and the **Grandparents' Mass**. We also entertained the people at **Clarecastle Daycare Centre** and our 2nd class and 6th class musicians played beautifully at their Sacraments of **Holy Communion** and **Confirmation**.

We were most excited to play once again at the **Seinn na nÓg Concert** where we joined in with schools across the diocese to perform in Ennis Cathedral and for the first time we were invited to perform as part of the **Fleadh Nua**. We really enjoyed playing for the passers-by in Ennis town centre and are looking forward to our next performance as part of the Green Flag raising ceremony.



SCHOOL CHOIR

Clarecastle School Choir has had another great year, having had many opportunities to showcase the hard work of this very talented group of children.

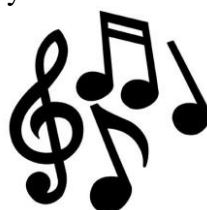
Last Christmas they performed at the annual **Christmas concert** and in the **Daycare Centre** before their first competition of the year on March 3rd where they travelled to the **Limerick Choral Festival** to defend their title from last year. The boys and girls beat stiff competition from 14 other choirs to place

first for the second year running in this competition. This marked the start of a very busy weekend for them as they also performed as part of a massed choir in the UL Sport's Arena the following Sunday to a thousand strong audience for the **Peace Proms**. The children loved the experience of performing with a live orchestra and many other choirs.

The children sang at the **Grandparents Mass** in the school and at the **Holy Communion** which was held in May. May also saw them undertake the long journey to Navan where they participated in the **Navan Choral Festival** for the first time. They sang their hearts out and placed 4th out of 15 choirs, an achievement of which they were very proud.

In a slight change to the usual end of year concert with which the choir have become synonymous in the school, the children were requested to perform in a special concert in **St. Mary's Cathedral in Limerick** on Tuesday June 27th. Here they will perform with **Parteen National School** and the visiting **Philadelphia Girls Choir** and this evening promises to be an unforgettable opportunity for the children, where they will not only perform their own repertoire but will have the chance to collaborate with other choirs in a joint performance of songs.

The choir will also perform at the Green Flag raising ceremony.



3RD CLASS BIODIVERSITY PROJECT



Ms Duff's third class recently began a project studying the **biodiversity in Clarecastle**. The project which will be ongoing throughout their years in Clarecastle NS is being carried out in conjunction with Clarecastle Community Development's Tidy Towns Committee. The whole class visited the wild flower garden in the local cemetery in Clarehill where they met PJ Garry of Tidy Towns. They identified a range of wildflowers and grasses and plan to return again to see the changes that take place as the year progresses.

OUR "DÍOLACHÁN CACAÍ"



On 15th June, 5th classes held a **díolachán cácaí** in the school halla. It started a nine and ended at about 12 noon. Everyone baked nice treats – for example buns, cakes, cookies and brownies. We got the idea from

our Irish book so we decided to talk in Irish during the sale.

We raised just over €420. We are going to give half to the Under 14 Camogie Féile and half towards the Stephen O'Keefe competition for the boys U12 Hurling. The bake sale was so much fun and we are happy we made so much money.

By Lara Kelly and Sarah Gorman, 5th Class

THIRD AND FOURTH CLASS BLITZ

Clarecastle GAA is organising a blitz for third and fourth class pupils on **Thursday 22nd June at 10.30 a.m.** All parents are welcome to come along to support.



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Each year our school produces photographs of pupils and classes for the school calendar, Communion and Confirmation booklets and other school publications. We would like to say a huge **THANKS to John Power** who takes the photos at all school events on a voluntary basis and is always at the end of the phone willing to help out.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

We are very fortunate to have a proactive and supportive Parents Association who works diligently and tirelessly to enhance the provision of education for **ALL** pupils within the school.

In order for this to be sustained going forward **our Parents Association needs new volunteers.**



You too can help!

Drop your name in to the school office and a member of the Parents Association will be in contact.

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our school is very fortunate to have the support of a wide variety of 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 the **Parents Association, Clarecastle GAA Club coaches, Chris Thomas, Kathleen Ryan, Nigel Bridge,** and all other volunteers who have given so generously of their time over the past year for the benefit of our pupils. Thank you also to our local sponsors

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 holidays on June 29th



It is hard to believe that the summer holidays are nearly here. The school will close to pupils at 12 noon on Thursday 29th June and will re-open on Wednesday 30th August at 9.00am.

Good Luck!

We wish our 6th class pupils all the best as they leave us for secondary school.

We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

School Calendar 2017/2018

30 th August 2017	School re-opens.
30 th October to 3 rd November 2017	School closed October mid-term break
22 nd December 2017	School closes at 12 noon for Christmas break
8 th January 2018	School re-opens after Christmas break
12 th – 16 th February 2018	School closed for mid-term break
19 th March 2018	School closed – Bank Holiday
23 rd March 2018	School closes at 12 noon for Easter holidays
9 th April 2018	School re-opens after Easter break
7 th May 2018	School closed for May Bank holiday
4 th – 5 th June 2018	School closed
28 th June 2018	School closes at 12 noon for Summer break

Active Schools Week Monday 19th - Friday 23rd of June

We are running an Active Schools week again this year with the help and funding of the Parents' Association. We are trying to promote exercise and healthy eating during this week. Please see below the timetable for the week. We hope everyone enjoys the fun filled week of physical activities.

Ms.Darcy, Active School Co-ordinator and Elaine Price, Parents' Association

Monday 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoga with Rosie McMahon Second Class-Sixth Class • Tennis with Kieran Galvin Junior Infants-Sixth Class
Tuesday 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoga with Ms. Healy Junior Infants-First Class
Wednesday 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trip to BallyBeg Woods. Orienteering and Teddy Bears Picnic. Junior Infants-Sixth Class. Refreshments provided by the Parents' Association
Thursday 22 nd	<p>Zumba Dancing with instructor Darren Nash. Junior Infants -Sixth Class</p> <p>Hurling Blitz Third/Fourth Class 10am-12.30pm. Organiser: Ken Ralph</p>
Friday 23 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricket with Chris Thomas, Munster Cricket • General sports day for all classes

