



## Important Dates.

**1916 Flag Raising Ceremony.**  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Easter Holidays:**  
School closes at 12 noon  
On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>  
March and re-opens on  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**Sacraments:**  
**Confirmation** will take  
Place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>  
April at 11.00am.  
**First Holy Communion**  
Will take place on  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at  
11.00am.

**May Closure:**  
School closed from  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
To Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May.  
School re-opens on  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**June Closure:**  
School will be closed on  
**June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>.**  
(Possible closure on 8<sup>th</sup>  
DES Inservice Training.  
To be confirmed )

**Active Schools:**  
Activities will take place  
From June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer Closure:**  
School closes at 12noon  
On **Wed 29<sup>th</sup> June.**

## FLAG DAY MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> 2016

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015, Jack O Donoghue, on behalf our school, was presented with our national flag by members of Óglaigh na hÉireann as part of the Flags for Schools Initiative. The initiative was launched to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising and to celebrate 100 years since the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. The army personnel spoke to those in attendance about how the National Flag should be cared for and the protocol that surrounds this vibrant symbol of our nation. It was wonderful to see so many parents and members of the wider community in attendance.



On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 all schools that were presented with flags will raise the Tri Colour in their school at 12noon.

Pupils from third to sixth classes are currently working on a pagent which will be performed by pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the school hall at 11.30am. This performance will culminate in the raising of the Tri Colour at the front of the school by past pupil **Kevin Mulcaire.**

Pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes will perform the pagent at 7.00pm for the wider community.

The pagent is being spearheaded by **Zara Starr** of the **Unlimited Dream Machine** and school staff. This is a joint venture between the school and **Clarecastle/Ballyea Heritage Group.** It promises to be a memorable day. All are welcome.



## PROCLAMATION FOR A NEW GENERATION.

During the ceremony on October 9<sup>th</sup> Alannah Hayes accepted a copy of the 1916 Proclamation from the members of the Defence Forces.

As part of the celebrations to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising all schools in the country were invited to compose their own **Proclamation for a New Generation.**

Pupils were asked about their hopes and aspirations for the

future. Following much collaboration between the pupils we became the first school in Clare to upload our school's proclamation. It is a piece of work that both pupils and staff are extremely proud of. Both proclamations will be framed and displayed in a prominent position in the school for future generations to see. Our school proclamation can be viewed through a link on the homepage of the school website at [www.clarecastlens.com](http://www.clarecastlens.com).



## GRANDPARENTS MASS

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February our annual Grandparents Mass was celebrated in the school hall by Father Pat Malone. We were delighted so many people were in a position to attend. The ceremony was greatly enhanced by the contribution of our **School Choir** and our **Irish Music Group**. At the end of the mass all of the grandparents in attendance were presented with a copy of the Mary Korzan poem "When You Thought I Wasn't Looking" by members of the **Student Council** and were invited to partake in some light refreshments kindly provided by our **Parents Association**.

Our sincere thanks to all involved in making this such an enjoyable occasion.

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association normally meet in the school on the first Wednesday of every month. All parents are informed of the meetings by means of text message. Parents are encouraged to attend these meetings and to take a proactive role in the association.

So far this year the Parents Association, in addition to their other contributions to our school, have funded the installation of two Promethean Interactive Panels in the Junior Infant classrooms and the purchase of a set of PM Readers. Expenditure on these two investments alone comes to €9,000. This level of expenditure would not be possible without the tremendous support shown by parents and members of the wider community to the various initiatives such as **Cash for Clobber** and the **Church Gate Collection (March 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>)** organised by the Parents Association. Your continued support is very much appreciated.



## STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is a new group formed last year following a hotly contested election campaign. The Student Council was formed to provide a representative structure through which students in Clarecastle National School can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management and staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students.



## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management has responsibility for managing the school and is accountable to the Patron and the Minister for Education. A new Board of Management has been appointed and its term of office runs from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The Board of Management is constituted as follows:

### Patron's Nominees:

Mr. Liam Barry (Chairperson) and Fr. Pat Malone.

### Community Nominees:

Ms. Aileen McEntee and Mr. James Malone.

### Parent Nominees:

Ms. Fiona Hickey and Mr. Brendan Browne.

### Teacher Nominee:

Ms. Claire Donnelly.

**Principal:** Mr. Martin Moloney

## ENROLMENT

We are currently processing applications for enrolments for September 16 received to date. There are revised procedures in place this year which are detailed in our Enrolment Policy a copy of which is available from the school office.



## SCHOOL WEBSITE

Work is currently under way on revitalising our school website [www.clarecastlesns.com](http://www.clarecastlesns.com).

Our thanks to Fiona McGonnell and Eimear Bracken for volunteering to carry out the necessary work on the website and for providing training to the school staff and the Students Council on using the website.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please be advised that there is an incorrect date on the school calendar. The school closes to pupils for the Summer Holidays at 12 noon on **WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> June AND NOT Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of June** as indicated on the calendar. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Due to Department of Education In-Service Training for a new

Language Curriculum there may be an additional day closure on **Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup>**. This proposed closure will be confirmed after the Easter Break.



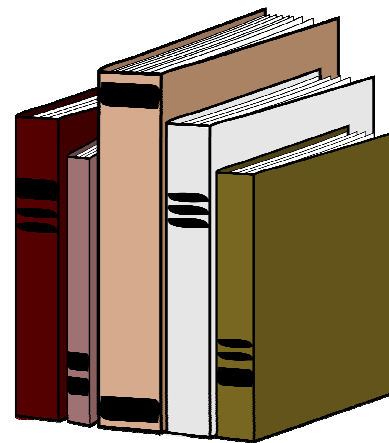
## SCHOOL CHOIR

The school choir is open to pupils from third to sixth class and rehearse every Tuesday after school in the hall.

Last November the Clarecastle NS choir were one of five schools to take part in a performance in the Cathedral in Ennis organised by the Diocese of Killaloe.

More recently, on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March the choir took part in the Limerick Choral Festival held at the Redemptorist Church in Limerick. The standard in this competition was very high. The hard work of the boys and girls, under the direction of Ms. Parkinson, paid off and the choir secured **FIRST PLACE**. Well done to all involved. An extra word of thanks to the pupils and staff as this was the day of the general election and schools were closed!

The next outing for the choir will be to New Ross at the end of May.



## BOOK RENTAL SCHEME

The school Book Rental Scheme was set up a number of years ago to help alleviate the financial burden incurred by families each school year. The scheme has been extremely successful and continues to grow. The scheme operates from third to sixth class. English Reading materials are rented to pupils from Junior Infants to Second.

The book rental scheme will operate again for the 16/17 school year and the appropriate forms will be sent home directly after the Easter holidays.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR PUPILS

**March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Flag Ceremony

**March 16<sup>th</sup>:** Green Day

**April 7<sup>th</sup>:** Garda Quiz

**April 8<sup>th</sup>:** INTO Camogie 7's

**April 8<sup>th</sup>:** Eddie Lenihan

Storyteller

**April 9<sup>th</sup>:** Community Games Quiz.

**April 12<sup>th</sup>:** INTO Hurling 7's

**April 16<sup>th</sup>:** Confirmation

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Holy Communion

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:** Seinn na nÓg Concert.

**May/June:** Schools Hurling/Camogie.

**May/June:** School Tours

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>:** Active Schools