

Clarecastle NewS



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

June 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday June 17th
Active Schools Week begins and continues until Friday June 21st

Thursday June 20th
School Reports will be Issued

Friday June 22nd
Sports Day

Monday June 24th
School Awards Ceremony at 12:45pm

Wednesday June 26th
Hurling League Final

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

Thursday June 28th
School closes at 12noon

Thursday August 29th
Start of the 2019/2020 school year. The school will re-open to pupils at 9:00am

SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY

An Awards Ceremony to celebrate the school's success in attaining the Sixth Green Schools Flag, the Plaque of STEM Award, winning the final of the Mini Sevens Camogie and their success in the Munster Hurling Skills. The ceremony will be held on Monday, June 24th at 12:45pm. All are welcome to attend and celebrate these wonderful achievements.



SCHOOL REPORTS

School Reports will be made available via Aladdin by the end of the week and can be accessed via the Aladdin 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'.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

We know that we are very fortunate to have such an active and supportive Parents Association whose work to

enhance the provision of education for all pupils in the school is much appreciated. Thanks to all those involved in the many initiatives and events including: Cash for Clobber, tea and coffee for school events and celebrations, purchase of library books, keeping the library organised, managing the hall rental to name but a few. These activities could not have taken place and could not have been as successful without the continued support and funding provided by the Parents Association. Sincere thanks to the parents who make all of this possible.

A special word of thanks has to go to those members of the Parents Association whose youngest child will be leaving us for secondary school this year. Your dedication and commitment during your child's years in Clarecastle NS have been very much appreciated.



In order for all of this great work to be sustained, new volunteers are always needed and always welcome.



If you are willing to get involved, 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.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS WEEK

Active Schools Week is being held this week. Children have enjoyed Active Schools Week at Clarecastle NS for many years and will undoubtedly do so again this year.



The initiative is about providing fun and inclusive physical activity opportunities for all members of the school community and it allows schools to reinforce the message that physical activity is both enjoyable and good for you. Planned activities for the week, to name but a few, include Hip-hop, Operation Transformation, yoga and orienteering in Ballybeg Woods.

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

CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL

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



There were some great matches and wonderful display of skills from both teams. The girls made it to the semi-final stage which

was a great achievement. Well Done to all involved.

MINI SEVENS CAMOGIE

Well Done to the Sixth Class girls who won the final of the Mini Sevens Camogie competition. They showed great determination and skill and were unbeaten throughout the series. Maith sibh go léir a chailíní!



HURLING SKILLS COMPETITION

Congratulations to Paul O'Connell, Johnny Casey, and Conor Ralph who represented the school in a Hurling Skills Competition which was held in the GAA grounds at Clareabbey on May 28th. They competed against five other schools from Clare. The following skills were tested in the competition: Long Puck, Ground Stroke, Sideline Cut, Soloing, Striking over the bar and Soloing through poles as quickly as possible. Conor, Paul and Johnny won the Clare Division and travelled to Mallow on June 5th to represent Clare in the Munster Competition. The boys showed great skill throughout the day and were awarded second place. Well Done boys!

HURLING BLITZ



A hurling blitz, organised by Clare County Board, was held for children in Third and Fourth Class on Friday, May 10th.

Knockanean NS and Doora NS travelled to Clarecastle on the day. Teams were made up of a mix of children from each school, and while the weather wasn't very favourable, it was great fun and the children had a chance to play their matches and make friends with other pupils from the visiting schools.

HURLING LEAGUE

On Friday, May 31st, pupils from Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes began the first round of the school hurling league. This is the first year that this has been held. Five teams were selected and comprised a mix of girls and boys from the three classes. Some very exciting games have been played and great skills have been honed and displayed during the league. Above all, the boys and girls have enjoyed the games and the chance to compete in such an enjoyable event as the end of the school year approaches.

The final will be held next Wednesday, June 26th. All are welcome to attend.

PRIMARY GAME

Well Done to Gillian Scanlon and Paul O'Connell who were selected to play on the Primary Game Camogie and Football teams. They both performed tremendously in Cusack Park. Well done to all involved.

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!

YOGA

Children from First to Sixth Class are enjoying yoga on Fridays for the month of June. Many thanks to the Parents Association who funded this lovely, relaxing activity and gave the boys and girls a chance to take a little time out from their classroom work.



ACCELERATED READER

The Accelerated Reader Programme continues to prove itself as a powerful tool in motivating the students to read for pleasure and it is invaluable in the monitoring and managing of independent reading practice. To date this year, pupils from First to Sixth Class have read in the region of 10,992 books which totals to approximately 101 million words!



PLEASE RETURN ALL LIBRARY BOOKS TO THE SCHOOL LIBRARY BY WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE.

TRAD MUSIC GROUP

The Trad Group have had another busy year and welcomed more 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. The group also played for Minister Jim Daly TD in February, at the Grandparents Mass in March and at a Memorial Night that was held by Clarecastle Comhaltas in May. As always, the group's lovely variety of tunes greatly enhanced each event. We can enjoy hearing them again at the School Awards Ceremony on Monday. Well Done to all the boys and girls for their lovely music throughout the year.



GREEN SCHOOLS

Clarecastle NS succeeded in its application for the sixth Green Schools' Flag based on the theme Global Citizenship- Litter and Waste. This theme gave students the opportunity to discover how the Green Schools work influences people and environments worldwide; while also revising litter and waste management.



It was a two year process which concluded in a visit from a member of Clare County Council on behalf of An Taisce, to assess the school in March 2019. Some of the Green Schools Committee travelled to Galway in early May to receive the award.

The work of the Green School Committee continued and they organised a Spring Clean of the school grounds and local area in April.

On June 17th, children in First, Third and Fourth Classes had the opportunity to take part in an Energy Workshop, which had previously been held for children in Senior Infants.

Third Class completed their Incredible Edibles project, an initiative that encourages schools to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

The committee wishes to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support.

STEAM

Clarecastle National School successfully achieved the STEM of Excellence Award 2019, now known as the Plaque of STEM Award from the Science Foundation of Ireland.



Well done to all the pupils on their science experiments, maths trails and engineering projects, and to the Learning Squads who led and provided wonderful demonstrations in each class and showcased lots of activities in exploring new ways of using technology in the classroom. This Award would not have been possible without the help of the whole school community. A special thank you is extended to the parents who visited the school to talk to the children about their careers.



Many thanks also must go to Roche Ireland Ltd., for its tremendous assistance with our STEM initiative. We look forward to everyone's continued

support going forward and hopefully this can become an annual occurrence.

SCHOOL CHOIR



The choir have done tremendous work this year, learning lots of new pieces of music and performing at various school events such as Grandparents Mass and for visiting Junior Minister Jim Daly TD. Their recent competition performance in Feile an tSamhraidh in Midleton was outstanding and earned them joint second place. They will also perform at the School Award Ceremony and in the Daycare Centre before the end of the school year. Ms Parkinson would like to take this opportunity to thank the Sixth class members, in particular, who have been dedicated members for several years and to wish them every happiness as they embark on their secondary school journey, hopefully one that will be full of music! New members are welcome from Third to Sixth class in September, with practices being held every Tuesday from 2:45-3:45pm.

STUDENT COUNCIL



The Students Council held their annual fundraiser on the 7th of June. Crazy Sock Day was a great success and raised over

€500. The money raised will pay for a visit from an ice cream van to the school. This will be a lovely treat for all the boys and girls before the school closes for the summer holidays. Any remaining money will go towards other upcoming Student Council initiatives.

HEALTHY EATING WEEK

Healthy Eating Week was held from May 20th to 23rd. There were wonderful healthy lunches consumed throughout the school during the week and the children have continued their healthy eating by bringing fruit for lunch on 'Fruity Fridays'. Children are encouraged to continue the habit in the coming school year.



Healthy Eating Week was held in conjunction with Bord Bia's Incredible Edibles Healthy Eating Week. Children in Third Class have been busy with the Incredible Edibles initiative and they sowed potatoes, lettuce, and green beans in the community garden and they also sowed chives and French beans. They even got the chance to taste the lettuce that they grew!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Congratulations to the children in Second Class who made their First Holy Communion on May

4th. They were a credit to their families and to their teachers.

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

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY



We would like to extend a massive thank you to John Power who took the photos for the school calendar and for the First Holy Communion and Confirmation booklets. 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 experiences – both educationally and socially - of all 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 during the year to benefit our pupils. THANK YOU also to our local sponsors who so 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.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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



BEST OF LUCK!

Every Success and Good Wish is being sent to our Sixth Class pupils as they depart for secondary school. Go n-Eirí Libh go Léir!



School Calendar 2019/2020

Thursday 29 th August 2019	School re-opens.
28 th October to 1 st November 2019	School closed - October Mid-term Break
20 th December 2019	School closes at 12 noon for Christmas Break
6 th January 2020	School re-opens after Christmas Break
17 th – 21 st February 2020	School closed for Mid-term Break
17 th March 2020	School closed – St. Patrick's Day
3 rd April 2020	School closes at 12 noon for Easter Holidays
20 th April 2020	School re-opens after Easter Break
4 th May 2020	School closed for May Bank Holiday
1 st June 2020	School closed for June Bank Holiday
30 th June 2020	School closes at 12 noon for Summer Break