



IMPORTANT DATES

December 20th 2019
School closes at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays

January 6th 2020
School re-opens

February 14th 2020
School closes for Mid-term Break

February 24th 2020
School re-opens

March 16th & 17th 2020
St Patrick's Day - School closed

April 3rd 2020
School closes at 12 noon for Easter Holidays

April 20th 2020
School re-opens

May 2nd 2020
First Holy Communion, 11am Clarecastle Church

May 4th 2020
Bank Holiday - School closed

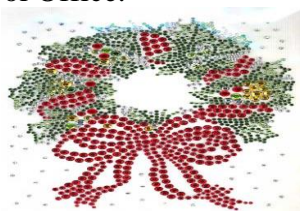
May 22nd 2020
Confirmation, 3pm Clarecastle Church

June 1st 2020
School closed for June Bank Holiday

June 26th 2020
School closes at 12 noon for summer holidays

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parent's Association have produced a School Calendar for 2020. The calendar contains known dates for upcoming school events and photos of all of the classes. Sincere thanks are extended to John Power who took the class photos again this year. Thanks also 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. Calendars are available from the Parents Association and from the School Office.



The Parents Association wish to thank everyone who supported the recent 'Cash for Clobber' collection. Once again, the prize for the most 'clobber' collected by a medium-sized school was bestowed upon us. Our school values and appreciates everyone's support in this project. The prize money will help buy additional educational resources for our school.

The staff and students wish to say a big 'Thank You' to the Parents Association for their time and dedication to fundraising which provides many educational resources that greatly enhance

education and learning in our school.

OPEN NIGHT

An Open Night was held on November 28th. This provided an opportunity for prospective parents and for the parents of children in Junior and Senior Infants to see the entire school building and to observe many of the activities involved in the different curricular subjects.



The Learning Squads, Green Schools Committee and Students Council were in attendance to demonstrate their activities as were the School Choir and Trad Group. There was a great attendance on the evening and those present were most appreciative to have had the chance to see the building and enjoy the demonstrations and activities. Many thanks to the members of the Parents Association who were in attendance on the night.



EAST CLARE SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Congratulations to all our U8, U10 and over 10 boys and girls who competed in the East Clare Schools Cross Country running competition on September 25th in Lee's Road.



Three children, Tadhg Duffy, Toby Akinngabe and Hayley Barrett qualified for the Clare Finals on November 13th. Well done on their excellent performances in the finals which were held in dreadful weather conditions.

GREEN SCHOOLS

The Green Schools Committee is in the process of applying for the seventh Green Schools' Flag. The themes for which flags have already been awarded are Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel and Biodiversity. We now move on to maintain these themes, but with the emphasis on Global Citizenship. Having achieved the sixth flag last May for Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste, our new focus is Energy. The committee have been busy working on this theme while maintaining the work completed to date.

Fourth class and the senior members of the Green Schools Committee were fortunate to attend a 'Global Goals' Conference in Cork on November 12th. We were one of eleven schools to attend and through a series of activities and talks students had the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into global goals for sustainable development. The

pupils enjoyed all the activities and demonstrated their enthusiasm and knowledge during a most enjoyable day.



ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

The School Book Fair took place from November 27th to December 2nd. It was a wonderful success and children had opportunities to view and purchase their favourite novels and picture books. A special thanks to the Sixth Class pupils who gave their time and helped to organise and monitor the sale of books and Folens annuals.

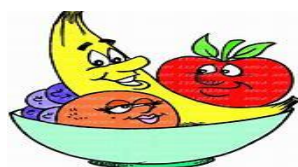


Thanks to everyone for the wonderful support again this year. In return for the success of the Book Fair, the school will be rewarded with extra books for the school library.



FRUITY FRIDAYS

In an effort to continue to encourage pupils to eat healthily and to improve pupil wellbeing, 'Fruity Fridays' continues every Friday. A wonderful variety of healthy lunches are being consumed throughout the school. Keep up the great effort boys and girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds!



PRIMARY SCHOOL DEBATES

Children from Sixth Class participated in a Debate Workshop in the West County Hotel in October. This was a wonderful, informative and fun day provided by Clare Education Centre and Concern.



The team - Thehan Jayasinghe, Liam Lynch, Sadie O'Brien, Alannah O'Leary, Abbie O'Looney and Johnny O'Loughlin - subsequently entered the Clare Debating Competition. The first round was hosted here in Clarecastle NS where our pupils debated against Lissycasey NS. They performed excellently and proposed the motion that 'Primary School children should be banned from using mobile phones'. The next round was against Barefield NS. This time, our very able pupils opposed the motion that 'Homework is a waste of time for Primary School Children'. It was a great experience and the children thoroughly enjoyed the debates.

HURLING AND CAMOGIE LEAGUE

Sixth Class boys and girls attended a Primary Schools Hurling and Camogie League in St Flannan's College in early December. All pupils played really well on the day, despite the cold conditions and the girl's team won the competition. Well Done girls and boys!



TAISPEANTAS

GAEILGE

Bhí “Taispeántas Gaeilge” ar siúl sa halla ar an 25ú Meán Fómhar. Bhí gach rang ag canadh, ag déanamh ceoil nó ag déanamh aithriseoireacht. Bhain gach duine taitneamh as an seans seo chun an Ghaeilge a úsáid le chéile.



A “Taispeántas Gaeilge” took place on October 25th in the school hall. Each class sang, played music or recited a poem. Everyone enjoyed this opportunity to speak and hear Irish together.

‘EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS’

The school took part in an attendance campaign called “Every School Day Counts” during the month of November.



The primary focus of this initiative was on improved attendance, in order that students can attain the best possible outcome from their time in education. Children and parents made a great effort and there was a marked increase in attendance overall. The names of children in each class who had full attendance were entered into a class draw for a voucher for the Book Fair.

An Art Competition was also held to raise awareness with pupils and their families. There were some fantastic entries which have been forwarded to the National Competition. Well done and Congratulations to all!

ACCELERATED

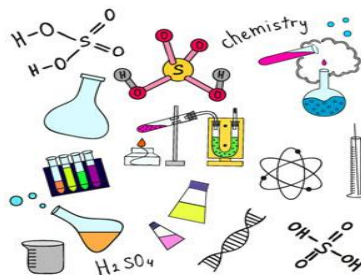
READER

Since September, pupils from First to Sixth Class have read in the region of 3,100 books which totals to approximately 32 million words. Well done boys and girls! Keep up the reading during the Christmas break!



INTEL MINI SCIENTIST

Well done to all the pupils in Fourth, Fifth and Sixth class who took part in the Intel Mini Scientist competition. There was a fantastic display of projects from everyone and great fun was had by all.



Congratulations to Freya Starr Amran, Clara Powell and Addison O Loughlin, all of whom are in Sixth Class, who came in first place in the school round of the competition. Their project, entitled ‘Wireless Energy Transfer’, was subsequently presented by them in the regional finals in Shannon on December 13th. They were selected to go forward to the National Final in the New Year. Congratulations girls and we wish you the very best of luck in the Grand Final!



Well done to Sadie O'Brien who was runner up in the school round with her project ‘Silent Killers’. Sincere thanks to all parents for their support.

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.

Members have been busy in recent months. They assisted Junior Infants to Second Class on their Maths Trails during Maths Week.



Recent meetings involved the establishment of ‘Restorative Justice’. Each Wednesday, council members are on duty in the school yard and are available if a disagreement arises. Restorative practice is based on the idea that the best way to help someone who has done wrong is to give them the opportunity to resolve the issue. Council members meet separately with the students involved in the disagreement and ask a series of assigned questions which should lead to a workable solution or way of making up for the harm caused.

The Student Council also spoke in recent days to students in America via Skype. Christmas traditions and customs here and in the USA were compared and shared.



VISITORS FROM NORWAY

Two school principals visited in September to observe teaching and learning in the school. They visited classes where pupils welcomed them, displayed their work and asked them questions about Norway. They also had the opportunity to hear the Trad Group and School Choir perform. They were also brought to the school hall by the Student Council where the Learning Squads displayed their knowledge of Sphero, Microbits, Lego WeDo, Beebots and a new app, Book Creator, on which work is being completed on the iPads. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit and were very impressed with all of the wonderful work.



TRAD GROUP

The Trad Group have had a busy term as they performed for our Norwegian visitors and at the Open Night on November 28th. They have been busy every Tuesday practising tunes and preparing for last week's Celebration of Christmas, where, yet again, their wonderful musical talent added greatly to the evening.



SCHOOL CHOIR

Once again, the School Choir sang wonderfully at our Celebration of Christmas last week.



The 55 members have been making great progress and have already enjoyed some events since September and are looking forward to the coming year.

On November 7th, they joined with Barefield, Parteen and Thomond National School choirs for a day of choral workshops called 'Canadh le Chéile' (Sing Together). This non-competitive, fun event, the first of its kind in this region, enabled the children to experience workshops in breathing exercises, round singing, actions in songs and warm ups. They also learned a song which was performed by all the children at the end of the day. Each choir then performed an individual song for the other choirs.



The choir also attended a Peace Proms workshop in Leisureland, Galway on 21st November. They had a most enjoyable day and received great praise from the conductor for their wonderful preparation and for their knowledge of all the actions and songs.

Peace Proms is a choral education project for Primary Schools which celebrates culture and diversity and promotes peace, unity and tolerance through music. The musical programme is tailor made to

ensure it is fun and engaging for children while also allowing them to experience a variety of musical styles and genres. Clarecastle NS Choir will come together to perform with up to 3,000 children, a youth orchestra and a host of soloists and performers. This concert will be held on January 25th in Kingfisher Hall, University College Galway and will, no doubt, be a wonderful event.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Well done to all pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class who performed excellently on the three evenings of the school's Celebration of Christmas.



Many thanks to Liam Hayes for all his work in preparing the school hall and the Church for the events.

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM ALL THE STAFF



Many thanks to you all for your continued support to our school. We wish all of you a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Joyful and Healthy New Year!

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh go Léir!