



IMPORTANT DATES

March 26th 2021
School closes for Easter Holidays

April 12th 2021
School re-opens.

May 3rd 2021
School closed for May Bank Holiday

June 4th and 7th 2021
School closed for June Bank Holiday

June 25th 2021
School closes for summer holidays

A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF

We wish you all a safe and Happy Easter and send a special thank you for your wonderful support during the recent school closure.



We hope that everyone in our school community can stay healthy throughout this school holiday and beyond. While the restrictions will limit our family traditions and Easter celebrations for a second time, we wish you all an enjoyable time at home. Everyone's adherence to restrictions will ensure a safe return on April 12th for the full term.



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents Association would like to thank all the staff and management for their support to our children during homeschooling. The daily work assigned through Aladdin and Seesaw helped to bring some structure and focus during this very challenging time. It is great that the school is open again and we encourage all parents and children to follow the return to school plan so that we can all stay safe and healthy.

A BIG Thanks to our Sponsors!

Many thanks to the sponsors of this year's school calendar. We hope to create a special flyer which will acknowledge their support of the school and encourage everyone to support these businesses and services.

We are hopeful that a 'Cash for Clobber' collection can be done at some stage and are awaiting the lifting of restrictions to see if it will be possible.

We continue to meet monthly on Zoom and all parents are most welcome to join the meetings.



SCHOOL CHOIR

Following a successful first term as a virtual choir and with their performance of three songs which were released to the school community prior to Christmas, the boys and girls of Clarecastle NS choir resumed virtual rehearsals again in January. They have had lots of fun learning a varied repertoire that included 'Sing', 'Good Job', 'Try Everything' and 'Amhrán na gCupán' with actions for Seachtain na Gaeilge.

The boys and girls attend virtual rehearsals and then do lots of practice at home with their rehearsal tracks. They then submit their recordings, which are edited into a full choral performance.



We hope you have enjoyed the tracks as much as the choir enjoyed putting them together for you.

ENGINEERS WEEK

STEPS Engineers Week was held from March 1st to 5th. The week encourages young people to explore the creative and limitless world of engineering.



Activities were assigned on Seesaw and children worked at home and created their own amazing structures and works of engineering and invention. Well done to all the girls and boys on their great work!

GREEN SCHOOLS NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

The Green School Committee is encouraging everybody in Clarecastle to support the National Spring Clean initiative and to actively participate in the cleaning up of litter in their own environment.



This year is the 21st year of the nationally organised campaign and the first time that people are faced with following Covid-19 precautions during the clean-up. The initiative helps to heighten awareness of litter and waste issues, promotes personal responsibility for keeping the environment litter free and motivates people to recycle and reuse where possible.

Our school usually organises a Spring Clean Up but due to the Covid restrictions, we cannot do so this year. Therefore, we are inviting families to keep their immediate areas clear of litter by making a concentrated effort to clean up their local environment. During the Easter Holiday, a commitment to spending two minutes picking litter each time one goes out would have a big impact on the local area and it would be a small but significant act of community service.



The following Covid-19 precautions must be adhered to when carrying out a clean-up: -

-Only do so with your household/support bubble.

-Stay within your own county or 5km radius.

-Hand sanitising is essential before and after the clean-up.

-Use your own gloves, and don't share your litter picker if you're using one.

-Make sure gloves/ litter pickers are clean before/ after clean-up.

-Do not collect any discarded PPE or tissue paper.

If families would like to take photos of their efforts, please do so as we would love to see them. You can email them to Carmel at c.nugent@clarecastlens.com. You can also send an email to Carmel if you require any further information or advice.

GLOBAL GOALS

Fifth Class are continuing their work on the Green School Global Goals project. This is based on seventeen Global Goals which were agreed by world leaders in 2015.



Climate Action, Zero Hunger, Clean Water and Sanitation and Quality Education are just some of the goals out of the seventeen which have the power to create a better world. Fifth Class are completing different projects, one of which included a Lego village with its own hydro dam and which is powered by solar energy. Keep up the great work everyone!

'INCREDIBLE EDIBLES' & 'THE BIG GROW' PROJECTS



The Green School Committee registered the school to take part in The Innocent 'Big Grow' and Agri Aware 'Incredible Edibles' projects. Both initiatives are very similar in that pupils will be sowing and growing food. First Class have already been sowing and caring for their growing produce while Third Class will begin their work after Easter. Some of the work will take place at school and more will be completed at the Community Garden. Both projects have been completed in the school in recent years and pupils are looking forward to the work involved again this year.



SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ón 1-17ú Márta. Rinne gach duine iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt sa bhaile chun an fhéile idirnáisiúnta seo a cheiliúradh. Tháinig na daltaí ar scoil ar an 16ú Márta agus iad gléasta ina n-éadaí glasa. Ná déan dearmad an Ghaeilge a labhairt sa bhaile ó am go h-am!



Seachtain na Gaeilge was held from March 1st to 17th. Everyone made great efforts to speak Irish at home to celebrate this international festival of Irish. Pupils came to school on March 16th all dressed up in their green clothes.

Remember to speak Irish occasionally at home!



GRANDPARENTS MASS

Many thanks to Fr Malone who celebrated a very special Grandparents Mass on March 4th. Grandparents Mass has been held in our school for many years and while this year's mass was very different, it was just as lovely as every other year. Our pupils from Junior Infants to Second Class got to watch the mass at school via the parish webcam while pupils from Third to Sixth Class were learning from home and were able to watch it there. Well done to the pupils in Second Class who deserve great praise for their reading of the Prayers of the Faithful and to the school choir for their beautiful singing. Both the prayers and singing were recorded for the mass and greatly enhanced this special occasion.

