



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



December 2021

IMPORTANT DATES

December 22nd 2021

School closes at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays

January 6th 2022

School re-opens

February 21st - 25th 2022

School closed for Mid-term Break

March 17th & 18th 2022

St Patrick's Day - School Closed

April 8th 2022

School closes at 12 noon for Easter Holidays

April 25th 2022

School re-opens

May 2nd 2022

School closed for May Bank Holiday

June 6th 2022

School closed for June Bank Holiday

June 24th 2022

School closes at 12 noon for summer holidays

WELL DONE TO OUR WONDERFUL PUPILS!

As we approach Christmas 2021 and look forward with hope to 2022, special tribute must be paid to all our wonderful pupils. They have, for the second year in their young lives, wholeheartedly embraced all the restrictions that are necessary at school.



Well done also to the pupils from Third Class to Sixth Class who have adapted easily to wearing masks at school every day. They deserve great praise for their efforts in keeping themselves and everyone safe. Well done boys and girls! Be very proud of yourselves!



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Happy Christmas to all parents and children in Clarecastle NS! What another strange year we have had - well done to all the children who have accepted the changes and thank you to Martin, the staff and the Board of Management for all their work in implementing the changing practices with little notice.

Thank you to all the parents who helped with Cash for Clobber in August. This is an important fundraiser for the Parents Association and your support is always very much appreciated.



We are very lucky to have local businesses who support our annual calendar and wish to thank them most sincerely. We ask you to please support them in whatever way you can. While copies of the calendar are selling fast, some are still available to order via Aladdin or from the school office, costing €10 for one, €15 for two and €20 for three. A sincere thank you is extended to Dan Powell who came on board this year and took the class photos.

Some parents recently spent an afternoon tidying the library. Many thanks to those involved. More work will need to be done next year so if you can spare a few hours, we would really appreciate it.



Volunteers are always appreciated and always welcome to help in any of our activities. Parents Association meetings will continue in the New Year. They are held via Zoom and all parents are invited to log in and contribute.



GREEN SCHOOLS

Congratulations to the Green Schools Committee who were awarded the seventh Green Flag in September. The theme for this award was Global Citizenship - Energy. The focus was on conserving energy locally while also engaging and learning about Climate Change on a global level.



The awards ceremony was held virtually and was viewed by all classes. Children got to see photos and samples of work from other schools and from Clarecastle NS during the ceremony. Each class had completed projects in preparation for the application, details of which were submitted to An Taisce as part of the application process. Many thanks are extended to the local Tidy Towns Committee and to Clarecastle-Ballyea Heritage and Wildlife Group who worked with the Green Schools Committee and with our pupils on different projects and which greatly added to the application. Well done and congratulations to all involved.



FOOD DUDES

Food Dudes is an award winning healthy eating programme, which was developed to encourage children to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables. It is managed by Bord Bia and is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with support from the European Union.

It is based on repeated tastings of fresh fruit and vegetables and children receive rewards for taking part in the programme.

A new and improved programme is now being rolled out in schools which includes new varieties of fruits and vegetables, additional tasting days and new eco-friendly rewards.



Pupils will receive individually pre-packed samples of fruits or vegetables to taste and enjoy as part of the programme. This will hopefully bring about significant change and improvement in their eating habits and in their consumption of fruits and vegetables at home and in school.



INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

Incredible Edibles is a healthy eating initiative for primary school pupils. The aim of the project is to educate students about growing fruit and vegetables and to increase their knowledge of food origin and quality.



The Green School's Committee have registered Third Class to take part again this year. They will be looking forward to their delivery of seeds and plants from Agri Aware. They will begin to sow these fruit and vegetables in the Community Garden when spring arrives. They will then begin work on their project book for the application in the hope of retaining the school's Gold Status Award!



MATHS WEEK AND SCIENCE WEEK



Maths Week 2021 was held from October 16th to 24th and Science Week was held from the 7th to 14th November. Classes had the opportunity to take part in enjoyable Maths Trails on the school grounds and to enjoy some practical Science activities in class. Pupils showed great interest in and enthusiasm for all the activities again this year - well done to all!



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK

Random Acts of Kindness Week was held from November 1st to 5th. Pupils in all classes did their very best to be extra kind to each other during the week and are no doubt continuing to say kind words and do kind deeds ever since.



A large variety of lovely artwork and activities were displayed throughout the school to celebrate the week. Well done to all pupils and always try to remember - Choose Kindness! After all, kindness is your superpower!!



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM & SENSORY GARDEN

Last September, Sixth Class, in conjunction with Biodiversity in Schools, had a busy time discussing and designing the outdoor classroom and sensory garden. The design has been completed and the outdoor classroom will include work benches, an outdoor blackboard and an all-weather surface which will have a tarpaulin shelter. The adjoining sensory garden will contain a reading bench surrounded by native trees, shrubs and woodland flowers, a bird-feeding station, fairy houses and a fairy hill.



It is hoped that work will be completed by June and will no doubt be another wonderful asset for all pupils to enjoy.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to the boys and girls in Third Class who received the Sacrament of Holy Communion in September.



The sun shone and the pupils were all wonderful on the day. Well done to all the girls and boys and many thanks to Fr Malone for the lovely ceremonies on the day.



COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND COMPETITION

Thanks very much to Clarecastle Playground Committee who recently held a very exciting colouring and art competition for all pupils.



Pupils were delighted to take part in the competition and were very curious to know what the prizes would be and when the results would be announced. Well done to all on the beautiful entries and to the lucky winners on their wonderful work!



THANK YOU TO CLARECASTLE GAA

Many thanks to Clarecastle GAA, and particularly to Eoin Brennan, who has been taking classes for hurling and Gaelic Football activities in the astroturf since September.



All the children have thoroughly enjoyed meeting Eoin each Thursday and getting a chance to improve their skills while having lots of fun as well! Thank you Eoin!



THANK YOU LIAM!

Many thanks to Liam Hayes for all his dedication to the school and especially for all his hard work in decorating the school for Halloween and for Christmas.

In recent weeks, every corridor has been lit up with beautiful Christmas trees, twinkling decorations and sparkling lights. Thank You Liam! We really appreciate all that you do to make our school so lovely for both pupils and staff throughout the year and especially so in the past few weeks.



A VISIT FROM HOLLY AND IVY!

Two very special visitors called to the school last week to meet all the pupils. Each class enjoyed the visiting donkeys as they stood quietly in the soft play area and watched everyone. They were on their best behaviour and were admired by every pupil in the school. They are called Holly and Ivy and we all hope that they will call back again next year. Thanks again to Liam for bringing Holly and Ivy to visit us!



CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM ALL THE STAFF

We wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year. We wish to thank you all for your support during 2021 and look forward to 2022 in the hope that some of the normality that we knew before the pandemic will return again.



Nollaig Shona agus
Athbhliain faoi Mhaise
Daoibh go Léir!

