

# Castletownroche NS

## February Newsletter



Welcome to Castletownroche National School's first newsletter. We are excited to share some of the wonderful news and events from our school.

### Green School News



Our Green School Committee have been hard at work preparing for the renewal of our Green School Flag based on the theme of water. The children are organising an Active Water themed day on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. The children will get involved in many activities and fun challenges on the day, which aim to make them more environmentally aware and conscious of conserving water.

Wee battery recycling boxes are now in place in each classroom. If you have any batteries you would like to recycle you can send them in.

Waste Free Wednesday lunches are going well and we are delighted to see 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> winning last week.

Now that Spring has arrived we will be planting potatoes and onions in our garden boxes. Walk on Wednesdays will recommence after the Easter break.

### Scór na bPáistí

Last Thursday, pupils from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> took part in an instrumental music group as part of Scór na bPáistí in Glanworth. The girls made a tremendous effort over the last couple of weeks, and did their teacher, Miss O' Keeffe, their families, and the entire school proud with their fantastic performance. They played "The Foggy Dew" and "The Sunnyside Jig".



### Active School News

Athletics started last week with Shirley, and will continue in all classes for six weeks.

Hurling recommenced last week for the children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Derek and Eddie for their help and support, and for giving so freely of their time to the children.

Swimming will recommence after the Easter break.

Thanks to all our teachers, volunteers and parents for their cooperation in relation to our PE programme. The children have ample opportunity to get involved in physical activity in school and this would not be possible without everyone's combined effort and cooperation.

### First Confession

Congratulations to 2nd class who celebrated their First Confession on February 15th. Thanks to Mr. Dineen and Fr. Scanlon for making this a special occasion for the children and their families. Thanks too to our school choir for adding to the ceremony with their beautiful music.

### Lent is Here!

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February children from all classes enjoyed yummy pancakes in school. On Wednesday, children went to 10am Mass for Ash Wednesday, and received ashes on their foreheads, and the children placed their Lenten promises on the altar.

### Health Promotion News

We hope you are all still enjoying the Super Trooper Programme which encourages children to be active. Thanks to all our parents for cooperating with our healthy lunch policy and just a reminder that the Friday treat should consist of a small funsize treat only. Also the fruit break initiative is recommencing so please ensure your child has a piece of fruit for this.

### Upcoming Events

- School is closed for Election Day Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February
- World Book Day Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- Green School Renewal Date 4<sup>th</sup> March
- 1916 Commemoration Flag Raising Day 15<sup>th</sup> March
- Seachtain na Gaeilge 7-16 Márta

### Congratulations

Congratulations to our teacher Ella Hayes and her family on the birth of their baby boy Billy last month.

### Visiting Speakers

#### • Chess Workshop

On January 20<sup>th</sup> the children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> enjoyed a chess workshop in the school. John Alfred explained how to play chess and the school purchased chess sets for the senior classrooms. Chess helps to increase higher level thinking skills, advance math and reading skills, and build self-confidence.



#### • Positive Mental Health Workshop

The children in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class took part in a positive mental health workshop on Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup>. We are thankful to the Avondhu Blackwater Partnership for facilitating this workshop. The children benefited greatly from this informative talk.



### Parents' Association

Reminder: The PA are setting up a facebook "closed group" page and also a mailing list for those not on facebook. Please send your email address to Sheila for noting [sheilaokeeffe@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaokeeffe@gmail.com) / 087 9710854 Cash for Clobber will take place after Easter holidays.

