News Sheet 5. 3rd April 2017.

A Thuismitheoirí,

Ba liom príomh scéalta na scoile/eolas ginearálta a roinnt libh anseo agus An Cháisc beagnach buaillte linn! Bainigí taitneamh as. Please find the latest school news items below together with other important points of information. Enjoy reading them.

1. The school closes this Friday at 12 noon for the Easter holidays and reopens on Monday 24th of April.
2. The school will close from 12 noon on Friday 28th of April to facilitate teacher training. Also note that the school will be closed on Friday the 2nd of June and Monday the 5th of June for the June Bank holiday weekend.
3. The whole school reading drive has proven to be phenomenally successful. Many thanks to all our staff and parents for making this possible.
4. Parents are thanked for not giving their children any smart phone access/unsupervised internet access and are reminded to keep doing so.
5. Tin Whistle lessons for pupils in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes cost a subsidised rate of €10 per pupil. This work out exactly at €1 per lesson! This represents excellent value for money. I’d ask that this be paid before the Easter holidays. As with all payment to the school please put the exact amount in an envelope with your child’s name and what it’s for written on the outside. Your child is encouraged to hand this up to your class teacher in the morning.
6. Environmentalist/naturalist Gordon Darcy visited the school recently. He shared some lovely drawing techniques with the pupils and taught the children about the wildlife in our area. We also welcomed our two local Headford Gardaí and a visit from Dogs Trust Ireland since News Sheet 4 was issued.
7. Please find yoga note attached. Many thanks to the P.A. who are going to subsidise the cost of the 8 yoga lessons so that they only cost each pupil €5! (Please disregard the cost of the lessons mentioned in the attached yoga note). Payment for these classes must be made before the Easter if lessons are to go ahead as planned. The P.A. have also purchased 25 new yoga mats for the school! All very good news and much appreciated. Perhaps it would make sense to enclose €15 in an envelope to cover the cost of both the yoga and the tin whistle lessons (please note pupils in the junior room don’t receive tin whistle lessons).
8. Please find attached information re Caherlistrane/kilcoona community games. All completed pieces should be brought to the school before Friday 7th of April for collection. Each entry costs €2. Contact John McGrath on 0879324697 should you have any queries.
9. We thank Tiny Tots for applying for funding for an outdoor learning garden! The P.A. have agreed to work closely with Tint Tots on behalf of the school on this project. Many thanks to all the parties involved. Fingers crossed the application will be successful!
10. Please find and read the enclosed information re a local information session on “Tips for Mental Wellbeing”.
11. An important letter re our exciting vision for this year’s Castlehackett 8k will be circulated later in the week. The organising committee believe our day on June 11th will be the biggest and best 8k to date! Let’s all get training!!
12. Swimming lessons will commence in Tuam swimming pool for classes 2nd to 6th on Tuesday 25th of April and continue for 8 weeks. We encourage all pupils to avail of this opportunity. Bus will leave the school at 10:10am and return at 12:20pm approx. The total cost (including bus) will be €56 per pupil. This money will be collected on Monday 24th of April.
13. Your child may well get p.e. homework in the coming weeks in preparation for the Castlehackett 8k and upcoming cycling events (in the senior room). Please continue to encourage this. This will all count towards Active School Week 2017. According to the Active Week Resource Pack available online : “Children and young people need 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity EVERY day. 80% of Irish children and young people DO NOT reach this target”.
14. Our senior hurling team recorded 2 fine wins against Caherlistrane N.S., Knockroon N.S. and Kilconly N.S. (draw) recently. We are targeting a top 4 finish or higher in this year’s Anthony Murphy Cup competition which will commence on Tuesday the 9th of May at 6:30pm (also April the 16th and the 23rd at the same time) in Sylane! Lunchtime hurling training takes place every Thursday in preparation for this. Lunchtime senior football training will take place every Wednesday in preparation for the Acorn and Raftery Cup competitions. Dates and times for both of these after-school competitions have yet to be decided. Cumann na mBunscol GAA boys and girls competitions will take place also during school time in Term 3! While we’ll all be very busy (nobody more so than the pupils themselves), participation in sport of any type is all very much worthwhile and time well spent!
15. Pupils in the senior room will be cycling the Mulranny to Newport 17km leg (one way) of the Co. Mayo Greenway (off road) on Thursday 29th of June. Up to 6 adults will be accompanying the children. Now that our cycling grant has finally arrived pupils can expect a talk on cycle safety, cycling lessons on the school site as part of their p.e. curriculum (pupils will be told in term 3 when to have their bicycles in school. Pupils won’t be allowed participate if they have no cycling helmets on these days), bus hire to and from the Greenway, bike hire and a possible treat if finances allow! It’s important that your child can concentrate fully while cycling steadily and safely (not wobbling to the left and right) for a half hour without stopping as prerequisite cycling skills. (You will be asked to sign a verification slip some time before the day itself re this, should you wish your child to participate in this adventure). Parents are asked to practise cycling with their children during the Easter and beyond in preparation for this.
16. Bags of recycled clothes are always welcome. All funds raised in this way are always given to our P.A. to aid in all the wonderful work they do for our pupils.
17. As always the P.A. are organising the raffle for Easter, eggs etc. One ticket per child. €2 per ticket. All monies raised going to A.C.T. meningitis awareness, a Galway registered charity. They are posting meningitis awareness cards to the school, one for every child to bring home.
18. Many thanks to the staff who attended training days on D.C.D. with Enable Ireland and also a training day in the new language curriculum in Tuam recently. Our pupils are very fortunate to have such talented/committed staff members working with them every day.
19. Congratulations to all our pupils who celebrated their Confirmation and First Confession since News Sheet 4 was issued. Many thanks to Fr Hughie, staff and parents for the role you all played in preparing our students to make these sacraments. We now eagerly await our First Holy Communion Day on the 20th of May at 11am.
20. Our end of year Mass/Graduation mass will take place on Wednesday 28th of June at 12 noon. All parents and grandparents are welcome to attend.
21. We have secured 9 new enrolments for September 2017 following very successful enrolment drive initiatives (5 new boys and 4 new girls)! We are delighted about this. Of course enrolment drives are incessant for any small school like Castlehackett N.S. Being proactive on this front far outweighs any reactionary measures. Our next big open day is the day of our Castlehackett 8k on Sunday June 11th!

Buíochas as an nuachtlitir seo a léamh,

Cáisc Shona,

Fergal Ó Neachtain.