**News Sheet 19**

1. **Fundraising**

Many thanks to our Castlehackett Parents Association and wider school community for organising and supporting the clothing drive held recently in the school. We raised €916. All funds raised will be given to the P.A and will be used to support educational projects in the school. We are so lucky to have such an active parent body in our school. The fundraising efforts will also help our school attain a new surface for a play area which we are benefiting from the “2020 Summer Works Scheme” <https://www.seancanney.com/galway-east-schools-to-benefit-from-2020-summer-works-scheme/?fbclid=IwAR2H3cQCz6bNgxUpsEKeQfxIutFeZ4sUR_cAWLJZtfhqmYbMsndz5DF77tg>.

Exciting times ahead.

1. **Christmas Recital**

**Our daytime Christmas recital** was a huge success. The lovely atmosphere at this event was very obvious. Huge credit goes to the children of Castlehackett for this performance. Thanks to the staff, parents and community for supporting and nurturing these wonderful talents.

1. **Safer internet day *WEBWISE***

Safer Internet Day (SID) is an EU wide initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people. It is promoted in Ireland by the PDST Technology in Education and Webwise. Please seek further information on ***WEBWISE*** [***https://www.webwise.ie/saferinternetday/***](https://www.webwise.ie/saferinternetday/)

The staff of Castlehackett will be running actives for “safer internet day 11th of February”.

1. **Free Language Support Pack**

A free language support pack is available to assist families who are raising their children through Irish or those who wish to do so.  **For more information you can contact Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta at*****teanga@tuismitheoiri.ie*****.** https://www.chg.gov.ie/gaeltacht/the-gaeltacht/language-support-schemes-programmes/language-support-pack/

1. **P.E**

Your child may well get P.E homework. Please continue to encourage this. “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”. This will complement the initiatives along with our P.E curriculum that we undertake in Castlehackett.

1. **Gymnastics**

Lessons have commenced in Castlehackett and the children are loving them. These lessons are a fantastic way to develop children’s fundamental movement skills in an enjoyable setting.

1. **World book day**

We are delighted to be celebrating World Book Day in Ireland on Thursday 5th March 2020. This year the pupils of Castlehackett NS will celebrate World Book Day in style. Children (and maybe one or two teachers) can come to school dressed up as their favourite character from a story. Please do not go to the expense of buying costumes as any character from Hermione Granger to Harry Potter can be assembled with ease. Lots of reading-based activities take place such as ‘buddy reading’ between junior and senior classes or children presenting books and stories that they wrote themselves.

1. **Making the move from Primary to Secondary school**

We know that the move from 6th Class to 1st year can be a challenging time for children and their parents. Here in Castlehackett NS we have a workshop scheduled for the 6th class in May, many thanks to the parent that is facilitating this. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any queries. **Folens have also developed a practical guide for parents to help support their children with this transition, authored by experienced counsellor and teacher Graham Richmond. This guide is available to download here** [**https://www.folens.ie/books-and-programmes/students-parents**](https://www.folens.ie/books-and-programmes/students-parents)

1. **Team Teaching**

This will begin in the senior room in the next few weeks. Narrative writing workshops will take place there. Literacy lift off will also be happening in the junior room. Prior to this happening information will be sent home. In the middle room there will be a “power hour” in relation to literacy commencing after midterm. This will be an enjoyable experience for all concerned whilst enhancing the strong reading culture that exists in Castlehackett NS.

1. **Our Open Morning will take place on the 18th of February at 9am until 10am. All prospective families are welcome** to get information on all our school has to offer for your child and see what makes Castlehackett NS such a special place.
2. **Medical Problems**

It is very important for us all to remember that ***Castlehackett N.S. is a nut free zone***. Please continue to make the school aware if your child has any medical problems. The information given in this regard will be treated with total confidentiality.

1. **Digital Learning**

As part of our digital learning strategy the pupils of Castlehackett NS are enjoying working with iPads. From utilising them for self-assessment to maths games these are a valuable resource.

1. **CPD**

We are blessed in Castlehackett that our staff are continuously engaging with Continuous Professional Development. We had a whole school Primary Language training day. We had staff members attend Physical Literacy seminars, iPad self-assessment and coding workshops in the Galway education centre, Elkan Speech and Language training days, and a DCD workshop in Salthill. This a brilliant testament to the dedication of the staff in or fantastic school.

1. **LEGO Workshop**

In the coming weeks the school has organised a LEGO workshop that is in line with our STEM and Digital Learning Plan. This is sure to be an enjoyable experience whilst developing important life skills such as problem solving, communications and spatial intelligence, whilst also enhancing their self-confidence and self-esteem.

1. **Social Media**

Social media Reminder re. Primary school children should also **not** be given unsupervised access to the internet. Parents have to supervise this situation very closely outside of school hours. Should any misconduct in this regard (by an unsupervised child in Castlehackett N.S. outside of school hours) be brought to the attention of the school authority, the parent with the concern will be directed straight to An Garda Síochána, Tuam.

1. **Credit Union Quiz.**

Congratulations to our Pupils that competed in the St Jarlaths Credit Union quiz and represented our school wonderfully. This is always a great chance for our pupils to relay all they learn in Castlehackett NS.

1. **Car Park**

When entering Castlehackett NS please enter with caution and the appropriate speed.

1. **Tin Whistle**

Thanks to Matt Cunningham for maintaining our important music traditions. our classes aim to develop the technical and musical abilities of pupils, whilst allowing their musical awareness, confidence and self-esteem to grow

**News Sheets**

All our news sheets are available for downloading on our website as there is some important links to websites on this edition. As always lots of exciting news to report from the school! We really enjoy sharing it with you as always. There are no ordinary days in Castlehackett N.S.! What a lovely learning and working environment we’ve all created for our pupils and staff!

 Beir bua agus beannacht,

David Reilly, príomhoide.