

# Castlehackett NS

## Our School Newsletter

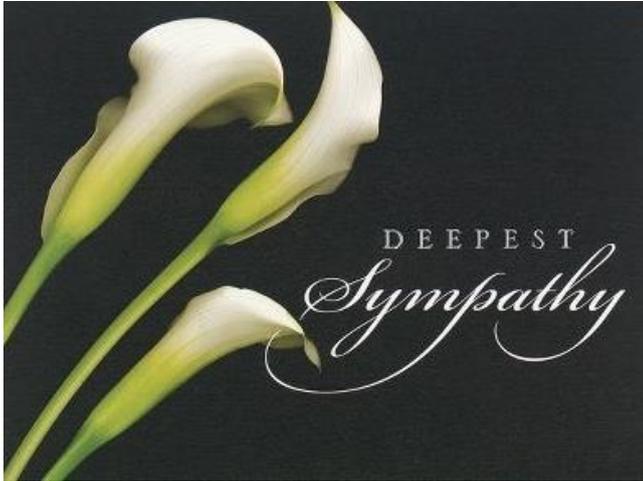
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### Issue No. 16 – February 2016

Dia daoibh a chairde. Tá Mí eile curtha isteach againn ar scoil. Deirtear go bhfuil An tEarrach buailte linn ach is deacair a rá go bhfuil aon Earrach feicthe againn sna laethanta atá caite againn go dtí seo! Pé scéal é, níor chuir sé sin isteach orainn agus muid i mbun ár gcuid oibre le ceithre sheachtain anuas. Maith sibh daltaí agus ár bhfoireann scoile.

#### Note of Condolence

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mary Glynn and her family on the death of her Mother who passed away in October 31st 2015. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilís.



#### Open Morning

A sincere thank-you to everybody who contributed to our open morning; it was a very pleasurable experience for the parents who attended. Enrolments are still being accepted. Please encourage any prospective parent to call to the school any time for further information.

#### Our Lenten Promises

Our Lenten promises this year drew inspiration from Pope John II when he said that during Lent "We train for a different goal the goal of following Christ." Lent is far less about abstinence and way more about simply acts of Christian kindness/giving etc.



## St Brigid's Day

Well done to Tiny Tots who wove fabulous Bridget's Day crosses with multicoloured pipe cleaners! Had they been available back in the day I don't think Bridget would have used rushes!



## Scientifically savvy!

Liquids expand when heated! Place a bottle brim full of dyed water in an empty jug. Then fix a straw to the bottle top and seal any gaps over with wet pottery clay. Place this in an empty basin and then keep pouring very hot water from a kettle into the jug. Continue doing this and observe. The dyed water flows out the top of the straw. We concluded that liquids expand when heated. Of course this is the principle that the old glass thermometer of our youth is based on!



## Making history

Sometimes, should time allow, we respond to topics taught in History class in project form. World War 1 formed the basis for some recent projects. The events of the 1916 Rising is now the current theme. The pupils' enthusiasm is infectious. Well done to them.



## PA Support

Many thanks to the PA who recently bought some lovely books for our school library. More titles are at the point of being purchased. We are indebted to our PA.



## Just dance!

We're still dancing! As you can see there's no holding back. Why is it that we have inhibitions when we grow older! A new block of P.E. lessons will commence after Easter.



## Time for Training

Time to step it up on the training plan contained in the January issue of our newsletter for your Castlehackett 8k -Jog 1k, walk 1k, jog 1k again; it's as simple as that! You can do it. All it takes is just half an hour at most. We want everybody on the start line this year!



## Station/Team Teaching

Many thanks to Ms Noelle Gannon and Ms Lucy Fleming for engaging in station/team teaching in the Junior Room every Wednesday. It's a novel way of introducing learning support in a whole class setting. The staff of Castlehackett NS are never slow to trial new ideas. We are very indebted to them.

## Graded readers

Breda McHugh has been working tirelessly after school in recent week to source readers for target classes. She has a self-return book system in place in the senior room. Most efficient entirely and it gives the pupils ownership of the initiative. The only problem I have is that I can't stop my pupils reading now! I suppose it could be worse! Well done Breda.



## Our Catholic Schools

Bishop Michael Neary spoke to staff representatives at a recent Conference in Clifden. Yes our Catholic Schools are different to other school types, yes our Catholic schools perform exceptionally well (academically etc) internationally, yes our Catholic schools are open minded and accepting of all faiths and none, yes our Catholic schools do a fantastic job in very challenging times. We are all very proud as I know you are of this. This is something that can't be taken for granted.

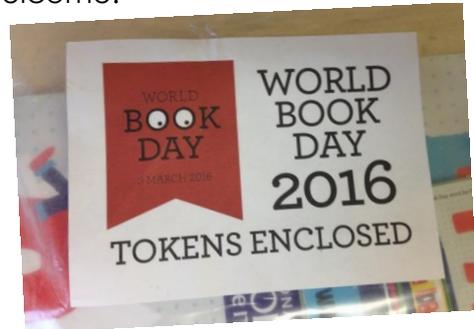


## Inspector's Visit

We thank Ms Anne O Sullivan (school inspector) for her recent school visit. All the school parties were complimented on doing an outstanding job. It's reassuring to get feedback of this nature.

## World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on 03 March, book tokens were sent to all schools in February. It's another small initiative to encourage reading amongst our pupils. It's all very welcome.



## 1916 Proclamation Day

"Proclamation Day" for pupils will take place on Tuesday March 12th. On this day we will celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the 1916 rising. Pupils will hear stories of local interest from Mary Glynn relating to 1916. Joe Forde will communicate tales of great bravery and sadness of national significance through the use of the powerful ballad. Both Mary and Joe are parents of pupils attending the school. It promises to be a very memorable morning. We thank both parents for accepting invitations to share their talents with the pupils.

## Jack & Jill Foundation

Congratulations to Zoe Forde in 4<sup>th</sup> class who recently fundraised €260 for the Jack and Jill foundation. Well done Zoe!



## Green Schools Initiative

Thank you to Aislinn Flaherty (Resource Teacher) for leading the Greenschools Flag application for our school. The committee are doing a fantastic job and were responsible for getting nearly 90% of pupils travelling by green transport on our first wow/cow day. What an achievement. This set a county record. Keep up all the good work. Our Greenschools Flag will be presented by Galway County Council representatives on the day of our Castlehackett 8k on Sunday 12 June (after they've completed the 8k of course!)



## No Smoking!!

In a recent SPHE class the pupils discovered that smoking even one cigarette can cause serious respiratory complications. Look at the discolouration caused to the cotton wool on the LHS in the photo, caused by just 1 cigarette when smoked through a plastic bottle! All the pupils also agreed that the odour was horrendous. We only get one set of lungs. I think we've learned an important lesson!



## Confirmation 2016

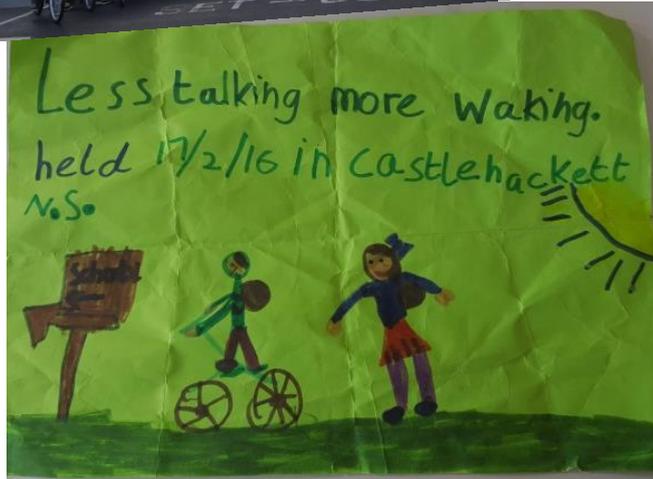
Well done to everybody who helped prepare our 6<sup>th</sup> class for their Confirmation. A special mention must be given to Marie-Ann Monaghan (parent) who led the after-school preparatory sessions, Aislinn Flaherty (teacher) who led the confirmation art classes, Lucy Fleming (teacher) who accompanied the students to the Church and all the staff who helped supervise senior room pupils who weren't taking part in the ceremony. Bishop Neary and Fr. Loftus didn't do so bad either! It was a fantastic team effort. Of course the star performers were the 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils themselves.

Let the light of The Holy Spirit guide them at this informative juncture of their lives.



## WoW CoW

Our Walk on Wednesday (WoW)/Cycle on Wednesday (CoW) Launch Day was a memorable one. Well done again; let's keep it up.



## Valentines Art

Good team work is always evident in Castlehackett NS. Ms Lucy Fleming took a senior art class recently while senior pupils were making their Confirmation. Buíochas as seo.



## iPads!

Three new iPads are on the way, thanks to the Bligh family connection and their extraordinary generosity. The iPads we have to date have been an excellent aid to pupils' learning and teachers' teaching. When used appropriately technology can play a major role in education. I thank all the staff for committing all the extra time in sourcing and recommending quality apps for us all to use. Great team work once again.

## Pancake Tuesday

Ms Gannon brought her kitchen to the junior room at the beginning of Lent. The pupils all made pancakes. What a lovely experience for the children. Míle buíochas a mhúinteoir.



## Note from Principal

Tá súil agam gur bhain sibh taitneamh as ár nuachtlitr a léamh. Tíocfaidh ár gcéad eagrán eile amach le linn na Cásca. Beir bua agus beannacht,

*Fergal Ó Neachtain*

## Thought for the month

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WHAT WE HAVE TO  
LEARN TO DO, WE  
LEARN BY DOING.

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