



Castlehackett NS

Belclare ▪ Tuam ▪ County Galway
e: info@castlehackettns.ie t: 091 791708 Roll No. 18289D



News Sheet 20

21st October 2020.

1. Fantastic News

We are now a “GAA 5 Star Centre!”

What is a GAA 5 Star Centre?

The GAA 5 Star initiative aims to support and recognise Primary Schools that provide pupils with 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous Gaelic Games activity per week in a manner that ensures the children will experience fun, friendship, fairness and ultimately improve their fitness. Recognition as a “GAA 5 Star Centre” is awarded to Primary Schools that undertake to deliver a programme of Gaelic Games activity that is age-appropriate and meets the developmental needs of children within the school. In order to receive recognition as a “GAA 5 Star Centre” a Primary School must provide for the flexible delivery of the following activities over the course of a school-year:

2. Baboró

Due to the “new normal” Baboró went online this year. We were lucky enough to secure a live show in our middle room. The children really enjoyed it. Thanks to Baboró and our staff for facilitating this.

3. Thank you

To all the Castlehackett school community. On behalf of the Board of Management and pupils of Castlehackett NS, I would like to thank the parents, children, school staff and the whole community for their support during our first two months back in school. To the all the staff, thank you for all the work you are doing in ensuring our school environment is as safe as possible. To the parents/guardians, thank you for adopting our new procedures and implementing them such as social distancing at collection/drop off etc.

4. Creative Schools

We have been awarded a grant that enables us to participate in “Creative Schools 2020-2022”. It is a flagship initiative of the Government’s Creative Ireland Programme, it puts the arts and creativity at the heart of children and young people’s lives. The initiative is led by the Arts Council in partnership with the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. As schools adapt to the changing environment created by Covid-19, Creative Schools is here to support us. We hope the arts and creativity can play a positive role as we go about the important work of re-engaging learners and supporting the wellbeing of our whole school community.





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5. Assembly

Monthly assembly is going very well. We have adapted our assemblies as they now take place outside in our lovely court yard. We can do this thanks to the brilliant portable PA system our *Parents Association* bought for the school. We always have pupils share their poetry, singing, art and handwriting etc. with all the staff and pupils of the school through this forum. This component of our assemblies has rightly praised pupils for their efforts and as a result has improved their confidence.

6. Nut Free Zone

All staff and parents are reminded at this time of year especially that Castlehackett N.S. is a nut free zone.

7. Book Club

Many thanks to parents and staff who engaged with the Setanta Book Club once again. The school gets book token credits based on the size of the orders put through. Staff then select titles to improve their classroom library selection. All very good news indeed.

8. Shoe Box Collection

This year our Christmas Shoebox Appeal is going to be run differently. Due to the effects of Covid-19 restrictions, it is not possible to send gift-filled shoeboxes from Ireland this year, so we're asking families to donate shoeboxes online. Please follow the link. <https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/>

9. G.A.A. Training

- a. All G.A.A. training by visiting coaches has stopped for the winter but the senior room will continue to be trained on Wednesdays during lunchtime for football by Mr. Reilly and Mr. Farragher.

10. Teaching Practice

Conor McHugh is doing a fantastic teaching practice in the senior room. Well done to him.

11. Fibre Broadband

As part of our digital learning strategy we have installed fibre broadband in the school. This now paves the way for Castlehackett NS to upgrade its store of iPads and continue utilising them. From self-assessment to maths games, these are a valuable resource.





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12. 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. **Please continue to ensure your child has no smart phone access and that their internet usage is monitored at all times. This is vitally important!**

13. Gaming

Please ensure that such consoles are out of bounds totally during the school week and used under strict time control measures at the weekends if your child has one. They also should be supervised if your console is linked to the internet as online gaming is an area that can pose a serious risk to children.

14. WEBWISE

Webwise is a fantastic resource that promotes a safer internet for all users, especially young people. Please follow the link for more information. <https://www.webwise.ie>

15. Bligh Awards and donation.

A special word of thanks to the Bligh family who once again made a donation of €1600 to the school. We thank them most sincerely for their invaluable continued support. Their very generous donation will go towards educational projects within the school. We look forward to Welcoming Richard, Angela, David and the extended Bligh family in the near future.

When restrictions are lifted we hope to present last years Bligh awards as these have become an integral part of our recognition of achievement in Castlehackett NS.

16. Galway Rural Development

Thanks to the Galway Rural Development for painting the front walls of our school. This work was much appreciated.

17. First Communion

Congratulations to the children in 2nd class who made their First Holy Communion. It was a beautiful ceremony and we are very grateful to Fr Seán Cunningham, choir, Church Community and all the parents and staff involved for all their work.





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18. Parents Association Fundraising

Our last collection on September 1st raised €332. 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.

19. Midterm break

The school will close this Friday at 2.30pm for midterm break.

20. Fibre Broadband and Digital Learning

As part of our digital learning strategy we have installed fibre broadband in the school. This now paves the way for Castlehackett NS to upgrade its store of iPad and continue utilising them for self-assessment to maths games as these are a valuable resource.

21. Credit Union Art.

Congratulations to all our students that entered this years Credit Union Art Competition.

22. Cycle Right

Our Senior room will be partaking in CYCLE RIGHT. It is a cyclist road safety training programme designed to give cyclists the knowledge and skills to move safely through the road system, an environment shared with other road users. CYCLE RIGHT is delivered over three stages with participants gaining skills and knowledge on a phased basis which prepares the individual to cycle in increasingly complex road scenarios.

23. After school collection

Please ensure the roundabout is kept clear when collecting your child.

24. Personal Accident Insurance

All pupils are now covered for 24 hour personal accident insurance.

25. New Pupils

I wish to welcome our 7 new Junior Infants and 4 other new enrolments and their families that have joined our Castlehackett school community. It has been lovely to see how well they have settled into our lovely school.

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 our fantastic school!

Beir bua agus beannacht,
David Reilly, Príomhoide.

