



S.N. Naomh Górnait
Caisleán an Droim

Nuachtlitir Scoile

Eanáir/Feabhra

2019



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Old Clothes Collection: Many thanks to all who contributed to the 'Old Clothes Collection' which was held at the school in October. A total of €825 was raised from same.

Temple Street Children's Hospital: A total of €240 was donated by the school community to Temple Street Children's Hospital on Thursday the 25th of October as a result of our Halloween Fancy Dress which was held at the school on the same day. Míle Buíochas.

Music Classes: Miss McGrath began the first of her music classes this term with 2nd class on Friday the 9th of November. Brendan O'Sullivan commenced with the first of a number of music lessons at the school on Wednesday the 14th of November with classes 3rd to 6th.

FAI Soccer Blitz: Teams from 3rd/4th classes in the school participated in this year's Boys/Girls FAI Futsal Soccer Blitz held in Tralee. The boys played in their competition on Wednesday the 7th of November with the girls participating in theirs' on Friday the 9th of November. Well done to all who took part. We are most grateful to Mr Ryan and to the parents who brought and attended both events with the children.

Shoebox Christmas Appeal: In association with Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal and with the help of Mary Foley we held a Shoebox Christmas appeal collection at the school on Friday the 9th of November. Over 60 boxes were collected in total.

Art Competition Results: Well done and congratulations to Saoirse Wenk 5th class on winning the Astellas Art competition. Saoirse's art piece will be included in the Astellas calendar for 2019.

Primary Science and Maths Award: Science Week was marked in the school between the 12th and 19th of November by Students engaging in various class appropriate activities. The week culminated with a whole school Science Quiz on Friday the 16th. The school is in the process of applying for our sixth Primary Science and Maths award this year.

GAA: PJ Reidy of the Kerry County Board continues to give fortnightly football training sessions at the school on Tuesdays.

Health Promoting Schools/Active Schools: In-service training was held for the Health Promoting Schools initiative on Wednesday the 14th of November. The School Committee held its second meeting of the year on Friday the 16th of November. This meeting focused on our actions and strategies for the promotion of priority number one on our application: Healthy Eating. Among some of the other items also discussed at the meeting were, The Food Dudes programme, Friendship Buddies and Mindfulness. All classes at the school are currently participating in the Run a Mile initiative as part of our HPS and Active Schools applications.

CELTIC BOOK FAIR: A Book Fair was held at the school between the 15th and 22nd of November. The school received free books to a value of 60% of the total sales (total sales €687). We wish to thank everybody for their support.

Green Schools: Mrs Griffin and The Green Schools Committee held a meeting on Tuesday the 20th of November to review our progress to date and to continue planning for and working towards our 7th Green Flag on Energy and Global Citizenship. Congratulations to Roisín McCarthy 2nd class who received the citizen of the month award for November and to Brien Mangan 4th class who received the award for December, well done.

Castledrum Parents Association: held a meeting at the school on Tuesday the 20th of November. The PA also are organised a very successful Christmas card 'design and sell' fundraiser this term. Many thanks. Castledrum PA will hold a Christmas Fun Run/Walk at the GAA grounds on Wednesday the 19th of December, the children will be there to sing Christmas carols; refreshments will also be provided. All are welcome.

Amber Flag: Mrs Griffin and The Amber Flag committee held their second meeting of the year on Wednesday the 21st of November. A variety of Mindfulness initiatives and activities were discussed with a view to implementing same on a whole school basis in the coming months.

November Parent/Teacher Meetings: Teachers held meetings with parents during the month of November. Meetings with parents who have children in multiple classrooms were held on Wednesday the 21st of November.

Castledrum BOM: held a meeting at the school on Wednesday the 21st of November.

READaTHON 2018: in excess of €400 was collected for MS during the 2018 READaTHON. Well done and many thanks to all.

Credit Union Art Results: Congratulations to all at the school who participated in this year's Credit Union Art competition. The following received special recognition for their work: Tony Griffin U7, Aileen Clifford U7, Lilly Mai Clifford 8-10yrs, Tara Ryan 10-13yrs. Well done to all.

Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony: took place at Kiltallagh Church on Tuesday night the 27th of November at 7:00PM. The School has fifteen candidates for Confirmation this year.

An Gaelbhrtach: Thionóil Miss McHugh cruinniú den choiste seo ar an Aoine an 30ú Samhain. Deineadh ár n-iarratas do bhrt a trí a phlé go mion. Deineadh athbheithniú agus tréisiú ar chéimeanna 1-7 den dtógra. Tá súil againn a bheith abálta leanúint ar aghaidh ag obair i dtreo brat a trí i mbliana. **Aipeanna** úsáideacha as Gaeilge do Thuismitheoirí agus leanaí: **Aip na Míosa:** Irish Gaelic by Nemo. Comhghairdeachas le Ellen Ní Fhoghlú Rang a 2, a fuair an gradam 'Gaeilgeoir na Míosa' do mhí Dheireadh Fómhair agus le Keelan Ó Foghlú Rang a 6 fuair an gradam i Mí na Samhna.

French Classes: We are most grateful to Mrs Angela Cronin O' Shea who kindly agreed to give French classes to the 5th and 6th class children during the first term. The lessons concluded for the year on Wednesday the 5th of December. Míle Buíochas.

E-Twinning: Mr. Ryan has linked the school to a variety of schools across Europe. Christmas cards and decorations were made by the children at the school and posted to various destinations across the continent on Friday the 7th of December.

Addition School Accommodation: 'Reeks Consulting' have been awarded the contract to manage the build of the new extension at the school. Plans are currently being drawn up for a new classroom and toilets.

New Yard Extension: We hope to be in a position to pay the remaining 30% of the cost of our new yard in January. We sincerely thank you all for supporting out weekly draw.

School policies/Curricular plans: the staff are currently working on our school policy on Assistive Technology. All school policies and plans are available for parents to view on request at the school.

Christmas Excursions: There were a number of school excursions during the month of December, with younger children paying a visit to Santa at Knockreer House and the older children going Skating on Ice in Killarney.

Christmas Confessions: Fr. Roche held confessions at the school on Thursday the 13th of December.

Ocean View Nursing Home; Children from the school visited the residents of Ocean View to sing Christmas carols and play music on Friday the 14th December. We sincerely thank all the parents who transported the children to and from the Nursing Home. We also thank the staff at the Nursing Home for their warm welcome and for giving the school an invitation to visit and perform for the residents.

TextaParent: have developed a new TextaParent App which enables the school to send messages at a much reduced rate via the app as opposed to sending a standard SMS message. Please download TextaParent to your smartphone as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

Swimming Lessons 2019: have been scheduled for classes 1st to 6th at Killarney Leisure centre for Jan/Feb 2019. The following are the dates scheduled, Monday the 14th, 21st and 28th of January and Monday the 4th, 11th and 18th of February. If you are available to attend any lessons to help with supervision please make contact with the school.

Kerry Broadband: We are most grateful to Kerry Broadband for providing their services to the school free of charge.

School Website/Blog/Twitter and Facebook accounts: We are thankful to Evelyn Langford for continuing to maintain the school website (castledrumns.com), to Miss Sheehan and the senior classes for maintaining the School Blog (castledrumnsblog) and to the middle classes for maintaining the Twitter ([@castledrumns](https://twitter.com/castledrumns)) and Facebook ([castledrum150](https://www.facebook.com/castledrum150)) accounts.

Confirmation/First Communion Dates 2019:

Confirmation Day is Friday the 8th of March at 11AM. First Communion will be held on Saturday the 11th of May at 10AM

Remaining closures for 2018/2019 school year are as follows:

Christmas 2018: Friday the 21st of Dec, school re-opens on Monday the 7th of Jan 2019.

February Mid-Term Break 2019: Thursday the 21st and Friday the 22nd.

March: Monday the 18th, Saint Patrick's Day closure.

Easter 2019: Friday the 12th of April, school re-opens on Monday the 29th of April.

May Bank Holiday: Monday the 6th.

June Bank Holiday: Monday the 3rd.

Summer Holidays: Friday the 21st of June.

Nollaig Shona agus athbhliain fé mhaise dhaoibh go léir ó Fhoireann na Scoile.

Ciarán Mac Gearailt
(Príomhoide)