



Nuachtlitir Scoile Samhain/Nollaig 2018



Back to School Prayer Service: We wish to welcome our 14 new pupils (13 to Junior Infants and 1 to 5th class) to the school. We hope they will all be very happy with us. A short Prayer Service was held in each of the classrooms at the school on Friday the 30th of August to mark the beginning of the new school year.

Yard Extension: We are delighted with our new extended playground; we are grateful to Brendan Ashe and Co for their help, guidance and advice during the project. We thank them also for doing an excellent job. Míle Buíochas.

Fundraising Draw: We sincerely thank all who are contributing to our weekly fundraiser. We have currently paid for 70% of the cost of the yard through BOM funds and your weekly contributions. We hope to be in a position to pay the outstanding 30% in January. Go raibh maith agaibh.

Additional School Accommodation: We are delighted to announce that we were granted our request over the summer to proceed with the construction of a new classroom and toilets. We are currently in the process of appointing an engineer to manage the build.

Blue Star European Project: Mr. Ryan made an application on behalf of the school to join this initiative at the end of August. The aim of the Blue Star project is to heighten children's awareness of the European Union. This is our third time to take part in this project in recent years.

Health Promoting Schools: We have enlisted in the Health Promoting Schools Initiative again this year. We ask that all children pack a healthy lunch each day with a small treat allowed on Fridays only. No sugary or fatty foods are permitted on any other day.

Active Schools/ Health Promoting Schools: We are delighted to have the services of Ian Foley again this year to help out with PE in the school. Our new Active Schools/Health Promoting Schools committee held their first meeting of the year on Friday the 7th of September. Under the Chairmanship of Mr Ryan the committee discussed the various initiatives planned for the year ahead, including how best to make use of our new playground extension. European week of Sport was marked at the school between the 24th and 28th of September.

September Parent/Teacher Meetings: Teachers held meetings with parents of new children in their classrooms during the month of September.

Castledrum BOM: held a meeting at the school on Tuesday the 11th of September.

Roald Dahl Day: was marked at the school on Thursday the 13th of September. Well done to all the children who dressed up as their favourite Roald Dahl character for the day.

Primary Science and Maths Award: As part of our application for our sixth award the children in 5th and 6th Classes carried out a forensic examination of our school environment as part of our Fieldtrip Day which was held on Thursday the 13th of September.

GAA: PJ Reidy of the Kerry County Board began fortnightly football training sessions at the school on Tuesday the 18th of September. Castledrum NS played Caragh Lake NS in the first round of the Mid Kerry 4-teacher school competition on Friday the 28th of September. Castledrum lost what was a very competitive game on a score line of 4-7 to 6-4. Castledrum NS comprehensively beat Kilgobnet NS in the same competition on Thursday the 11th of October on the score line 6-15 to 1-5. Thank you to all the parents who helped with transportation on those dates. Thank you also to Mr. Ryan for training and preparing the team for the competition.

Goal Workshop: A Goal workshop was held at the school for the children from 3rd to 6th on Friday the 28th of September. Mura Tierney from Goal outlined the work of the charity and explained how funds are used to help developing countries and famine stricken parts of the world.

E-Twinning: Mr Ryan recently twinned the school with a school in Spain. We look forward to hearing and communicating with them over the coming months.

Space Week: was marked at the school between the 4th and 10th of October, the highlight being a very informative and interesting Skype call received by the children in 3rd and 4th class.

Green Schools: Mrs Griffin and the new Green Schools committee held their first meeting of the year on Tuesday the 9th of October to review our progress to date and begin planning for our 7th Green Flag on Energy and Citizenship. Congratulations to Max Clifford 5th Class who received the citizen of the month award for September and to Lill y Mai Clifford 3rd class who received the award for October, well done.

Amber Flag: The school aims to get involved in the Amber Flag initiative for the first time this year. This initiative promotes positive mental health and links well with the school's SPHE policy. Mrs Griffin and the committee held their first meeting on 'World Mental Health Day' which was marked at the school on Wednesday the 10th of October.

An Gaelbhatach: Bhí cruinniú tosaigh choiste nua an Ghaelbhataigh fé stiúir Miss McHugh ann Déardaoin an 11ú Deireadh Fómhair. Deineadh athbhreithniú ar obair an choiste le ceithre mbliana anuas agus cuireadh plean oibre le chéile don scoilbhliain 2018/2019. Táimid sa tóir anois ar ár dtriú brat i mbliana. **Aipeanna** úsáideacha as Gaeilge do Thuismitheoirí agus leanaí: **Aip na Míosa:** Caoga caoga. Comhghairdeachas le Tara Ní Riain, Rang a 5, a fuair an gradam 'Gaeilgeoir na Míosa' do mhí Mheán Fómhair.

GOAL Jersey Day: A 'No Uniform Day' was held at the school on Friday the 12th of October in aid of GOAL charity Ireland. A total of €175 was collected. Thank you to everyone.

READaTHON 2018: Children at the school are currently engaged in this year's reading initiative sponsored by MS Ireland. 90% of the funds collected will be forwarded to MS Ireland with the school receiving the other 10%. The READaTHON runs from the 12th of Oct to the 12th of Nov. All children are encouraged to read as many books as possible during this period.

Maths Week: was marked at the school between the 14th and 20th of October, culminating with a whole school Maths Quiz on Friday the 19th of October.

Kerry Minor Visit: Members of the victorious Kerry minor team along with the Tom Markham cup visited the school to the delight of the pupils on Monday the 15th of October.

Old Clothes Collection: We held our annual old clothes collection at the school on Wednesday the 17th of October. Thank you to all who submitted clothes for collection. A total of 155 bags were collected. All proceeds from same will go to Castledrum BOM.

French Classes: We are most grateful to Angela Cronin O'Shea for giving French classes to 5th/6th class at the school this term. The first of these classes commenced on Wednesday the 17th of October.

Aistear in Infant Classroom: Miss McGrath has introduced our new Junior Infants to the Aistear programme which is being implemented at our school. They are currently exploring the Restaurant and the Halloween fancy dress shop in the socio-dramatic station.

Killorglin Library: The school had a visit from our local Librarian on Wednesday the 17th of October to outline the services they provide for children.

School policies/Curricular plans: The staff are currently working on our Special Education Needs Policy. All school policies and plans are available to parents to view on request at the school.

Art Competitions: Children at the school participated in various Art competitions during September/October including the Credit Union Art Competition, Astellas' Art Competition, Sightsavers' Art Competition, Google Art Competition and the Road Safety Art Competition.

Radio Kerry Story Competition: Children at the school took part in the Halloween, Radio Kerry Story writing competition.

Halloween Fancy Dress: A 'no uniform day' will be held on Thursday the 25th of October, children at the school are encouraged to dress in their Halloween costumes, all proceeds from the day will go to Temple Street Children's hospital.

Christmas Shoebox appeal: In association with team Hope we are once again participating in the Christmas Shoebox appeal. We ask that all boxes are dropped into the school on or before Friday the 9th of November.

November Parent/Teacher meetings: Please be advised that teachers will be conducting P/T meetings throughout the month of November. Teachers will be holding P/T meetings with parents who have children in **more than one classroom** in school on **Wednesday the 21st of November**, times of meetings on this date will issue shortly after the midterm break.

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

Swimming Lessons 2018/2019: have been provisionally booked for classes 1st to 6th at Killarney Leisure Centre for Jan/Feb 2018.

School Uniform: The children look really well in their uniforms, please try to ensure that full uniform is worn each day.

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.

Opening/Break/Lunch/Closing Times: School begins at 9:20am, with doors officially opening at 9:10am, formal supervision of children begins at that time. In the event of the morning being wet the doors will be open at 9:00am with formal supervision also beginning at that time. Morning break is between 11:15am and 11:30am with lunch being between 1:00pm and 1:30pm. Infant day finishes at 2pm, school closes at 3pm.

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

Closures for 2018/2019 school year are as follows:

Presidential Election: Friday 26th of October.

October 2018 Mid-Term Break: Monday 29th of Oct to Friday the 2nd of November inclusive.

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.

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.