



# Castletownroche N.S. Newsletter Easter 2024

Muintir Baile Chaisleáin an Róistigh - Welcome to our Easter Edition of the CTRNS Newsletter. We hope you enjoy it.



## Principal's Address

Hello folks and I hope this Easter Newsletter finds you all well. Just a few pages to bring you up to speed on all of that is going on at CTRNS.

Firstly, from my colleagues and I, we'd like to wish you all a Happy Easter. Have a lovely break and here's a wonderful Term 3 ahead.



Terms 2 was a busy one and saw many wonderful experiences for the pupils and teachers. In recent weeks, the children of 2<sup>nd</sup> class celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Congratulations to

them all and we look forward to their First Holy Communion Day on the 25th May. Maith sibh go léir!



Please take the time to read through this newsletter. There are a number of things to look out for in term 3 but that's all for now folks. Have a lovely break and see you in a couple of weeks,

Slán 's beannacht, Eóin.

## Clever Fox Book Fair

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we hosted a Book Fair in the school run in conjunction with Clever Fox Book Fair on the 11th of March. Children visited the Book Fair with their classes during the day and if they wished, purchased books.



Books started for as little as €3.50 and each child received a FREE World Book Day Book. It was a tremendous success. The total sales in one day was €520 and the school received a voucher for the purchase of books with a total value of €182. Thanks everyone for the support!



## Pancake Tuesday

CTRNS celebrated Pancake Tuesday on the 13th February. The boys and girls got to enjoy some delicious pancakes.

## Euro4Clothes Clothing

Our Euro4Clothes Clothing Collection proved to be a great success with a whopping 1,538kg in clothes being collected and donated by the Castletownroche Community. This converted into a very useful €800 which will be put to great use at the school. Thanks to all who contributed and special mention goes to our dedicated Parents Association who held the clothes and coordinated the collection. Míle Buíochas.

## New Special ASD Class

Earlier in term 2, we received notice that we had been sanctioned by the Department of Education for a Special Class to better cater for pupils with Autism at the school. This is very welcome news and will be a wonderful addition to the school. We will be appointing an extra permanent teacher and if the class fills, two SNAs to add to our dedicated team.



### OT Playground

Soon after Christmas, we commissioned our brand new OT Playground at the school. It is proving a big hit with all of the pupils and is sure to benefit so many pupils in the years ahead. It includes a see-saw, in-ground trampoline, climbing frame and OT swing. It also features a soft pour rubber floor and we have plans to incorporate a climbing wall in the coming weeks. With too many people to thank individually, this is a project that would not have happened but for the support of the entire school community. Míle buíochas ó chraoí.



### Safer Internet Day - 6th Feb

We celebrated Safer Internet Day at the school on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. This is such an essential day to work through with the

children. The children spend so much time using devices and accessing content through the internet. Unfortunately the statistics and facts are frightening and but hopefully an action day such as this equips the children to look after themselves while using the internet.



### Open Night

Our open night on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February was a wonderful success. Once again, the entire evening was student lead who gave a wonderful insight into the workings of the school. The children are so proud of their school and are keen to show it off to any potential enrollees. The evening was well attended and here's hoping that it converts into a good intake of pupils in September later this year. Please feel free to direct any potential enrollees to our way. They can telephone the school on (022) 26024 or email us on [office@ctrns.ie](mailto:office@ctrns.ie). Alternatively families can pre-enroll their children by clicking on the following link - <https://www.aladdin.ie/i/5334252044419072> We are always looking to maintain our numbers and hopefully grow them as the village grows.



### Congratulations to Ms. Howard!

Heartiest congratulations must go to Ms. Howard and her partner Ollie on their recent wedding. From the entire Castletownroche N.S. community, we wish you both nothing but the best for you and your family in the years ahead.

### Read and Raise

Earlier this week, we launched our Read and Raise Fundraiser which promises to be a serious gamechanger for the school. It will be run on the readandraise.ie platform which is custom built to develop literacy levels in children while raising funds for the school.



The fundraiser will start on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Children can read whatever material they like. We just want to see them reading and enjoying it as much as they can. Before the fundraiser starts, we will send instructions on how to register on readandraise.ie.

Here's to lots of reading and raising of funds which will put towards the cost of an Accelerated Reader Programme which will be a further game changer for the pupils at the school.

### Lá Lán Gaelach

We had a wonderful day at the school on the 14<sup>th</sup> March last when the children enjoyed a Lá Lán Gaelach at the school.



The day was filled with activities and the craic was only 90. Great memories made for all.



Maith sibh go léir a pháistí!!

**JUNIOR & SENIOR INFANT**  
**NEWS**  
**Aistear**

The children in the infant classroom have been thoroughly enjoying Aistear. Last month we were learning all about restaurants and this month we are learning all about spring. While we were learning about restaurants we had great fun learning all about healthy foods to eat, we set up our own restaurant and we designed our own fruit kebabs.



We also had some very fussy restaurant critics taste testing our food.



This month while learning about spring we have been enjoying 'Bingo', spot the difference, learning all about the life cycle of a butterfly and the life cycle of a frog. We even set up our own Garden Centre for our drama station. We also went on a spring walk to spot signs of spring around the school.



**OT Playground**

We have been having so much fun in our new OT Playground. We have been climbing the climbing frame, jumping on the trampoline and bouncing on our space hoppers. Senior Infants and Mr. Bracken have been getting very creative in Math and used our new see-saw to learn all about balance. Thanks Mr. Bracken, we had some much fun.



We are so lucky to have this new playground and we love being able to play there during break time



**Grandparents Day**

On Friday the 2nd of February we celebrated Grandparents Day. We were so excited to be able to invite all our grandparents and parents into the school to show them all the amazing work we have been doing. We had been busy all week doing lots of experiments for our Science week and we loved having the opportunity to demonstrate these experiments to everyone.

**Sport**

We enjoyed 4 weeks of football training with Leon and we are due to start hurling training just after Easter. We can't wait. We also did 3 weeks of Rugby with Kenneth, which was absolutely brilliant and

we learnt lots of new skills. We loved getting the opportunity to see the URC Trophy won by Munster last season.



### 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> CLASS NEWS

#### First Confession

On the 27th February, the children in second class got their First Confession. Families attended the mass and it was a beautiful evening. The children were fantastic and they sang a lovely song called "Gifts from God" to conclude the mass. Well done Lily, Sean, Annie, Maebh, Eleanor, Liam, Edith, Kevin, Mark, Noah and Anshel. You should be very proud of your efforts and all the hard work you put into preparing for this special sacrament.



#### World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day in CTRNS on Thursday the 7th March. The boys and girls dressed up as their favourite book character and the costumes were incredible. We had lots of fun in first and second class - we did buddy reading with Ms. Howard's class, had DEAR time, designed our classroom door with art and had a quiz. The Clever Fox Book Fair came to school on Monday the 11th March and the children were able to purchase some new books for independent reading time. It was a very exciting few days!



#### Picker Pals

First and Second Class are involved in the Picker Pals programme again this year. Every child in first class has already had a turn and we have now moved onto second class. We have participated in the art competition, zoom calls and in class activities. The children seem to really enjoy getting involved and the feedback has been very positive. Castletownroche and the surrounding areas have never looked so clean! Well done to all involved, keep up the amazing work!



### 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> CLASS NEWS

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class news corner! We have had a very fun and busy year so far. Enjoy reading all about our activities below and please do follow us on Instagram for lots of photos and regular updates - [missdeere123](#)

#### Say Yes to Languages

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class were delighted to take part in the brand new Say Yes to Languages programme here at CTRNS. Our secretary Lynn taught us how to speak French over an 8 week period. We really enjoyed learning lots of French greetings, we can count to 12 in French and we can also say our names and ages.

- Our favourite song was Alouette!
- Our favourite greeting was Bonjour.
- Our favourite saying was "Comme ci, comme ça!".
- Our favourite game was Number Bingo.

Our French lessons were really great fun and we loved having Lynn join our class. Merci Lynn!



#### Sports

We have had a very active year so far at CTRNS. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class really enjoyed 4 weeks of GAA training with Leon on the astroturf.



Once our GAA lessons finished, we moved quickly onto Table Tennis in the community hall with Con Higgins from Table Tennis Ireland. We learnt a lot of new skills and were so lucky to be trained by the Irish national team coach.



We then had 3 very lively sessions of rugby with Kenneth on the astroturf. It has been great to try such a range of sports here in school. We are looking forward to going swimming again later in the year in addition to all of our regular lessons and activities.



### **New Playground**

We have been thoroughly enjoying the brand new playground here at CTRNS. We get to use this area for 3 or 4 of our breaktimes during the week. We have a climbing frame, swings, balance beams and a trampoline along with lots of other pieces of equipment! It is a lot of fun and we are developing a variety of new skills.



### **Science Week**

During the month of February, we celebrated Science Week here in school. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class took part in some very interesting research projects. We covered a wide range of topics from across the Science curriculum. In pairs or groups of 3, we explored the following topics:

- Teeth
- The Skeleton
- Plants
- Endangered animals
- Light
- Magnets
- Materials
- Pollution
- Recycling

The steps we took in our project work included:

1. Researching / collecting info
2. Designing & creating information posters
3. Setting up a display area

### **4. Doing an experiment or demonstration**

The final step was to present to an audience. We were delighted to present to each other, to all the other classes and teachers and finally to our families on Grandparents Day. We were so proud of our efforts, we worked well in our groups and learned a lot of new facts!



### **Online Adventures**

During the Science projects, we spent a lot of time on new websites researching our topics. In addition to these research skills, we have also been practicing our typing, improving our spelling, learning how

to code and exploring online safety. The below are some of the most-used websites in our classroom this term. Please do open them up with your child at home and have a look at some of our online activities!

Interland :

[https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en\\_us/interland](https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us/interland)

Spellings for Me:

<https://spellingsforme.ie/>

Dance Mat Typing:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr>

Hour of Code: <https://code.org/>

English games:

<https://www.gamestolearnenglish.com/>

Math lessons:

<https://www.mathantics.com/>

## 5th & 6th CLASS NEWS

### Sports

Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class boys gave us good reason to be really proud of them when they took part in an FAI Soccer Blitz in Carrigtwohill. Their efforts as usual were amazing!



Having won all of their group matches, they finished top and went on to play a game which potentially could have brought them to Musgrave Park for another day out. In a game that went to extra time, they showed such character to come from behind and were only to lose out by a single goal. Not bad for a bunch of fellas who only play soccer together during lunchtime. Each and every single one of them made their own

contribution and great memories were made. We'll have plenty more days out with these boys - a pleasure to bring anywhere.

Sincere thanks also to the dedicated parents who got the boys to and from the blitz. Many thanks for all of the support. Ní



neart go cur le chéile!



And if that was not good enough, this same Band of Brothers represented their school and themselves so well at a recent Sciath na Scol Indoor hurling Blitz in Mallow. They were immense throughout and worked their socks off in their 4 games and we all know that hard work makes luck. Looking forward to seeing these fellas in action again later in the year in the Sciath na Scol Hurling Competition proper. Maithiú fellas!! Thanks also to our dedicated team of supporters and drivers who brought the boys to these two event.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

### Rugby Coaching

The children had the opportunity to take part in Table tennis and

Rugby in recent weeks. It is a great opportunity for children to get a taster of all kinds of Sports.



On the final day of Rugby training the Coach brought the URC Cup that Munster won in 2023 against the Stormers 19-14 in Cape Town.

Getting competitive during Table Tennis!

### World Book Day



As part of World book day the children had the opportunity to dress up as a character they like and we did Buddy reading with 1st and 2nd class. The children listened to each other reading. We are currently reading our 3rd novel at the moment. It's called Wildflower Girl. We have read Private Peaceful and Under the Hawthorn Tree. The children enjoyed reading the novels.

### Lá Gaelach 14ú d'Mhárta (Seachtain na Gaeilge)

Ar an Déardaoin bhí lá ghaelach ar siúl sa scoil. Bhí na páistí ag canadh amhráin, ag foghlaim

dánta, ag déanamh rince, ag cócaireacht agus ag déanamh ealaín. Bhí tráth na gceist ar siúl ag deireadh an lae freisin. Bhí spórt agus spraoi ag na páistí go léir.

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th class will be swimming on the 16th, 23rd and 30th April.
  - Senior Infants, 5th and 6th class will be swimming on the 14th, 21st and 28th May.
5. First Holy Communion - The children from 2nd class will celebrate their First Holy Communion on Sat 25th May
  6. School Tours
    - Junior Infants - 2nd Class: 25th June
    - 3rd Class - 6th Class: 12th June

### Upcoming events & dates to remember in Term 3



1. Zumba - The children from Junior Infants up to 4th class will partake in Zumba dance classes from the 19th March - 23rd April
2. Easter Holidays - The school will close on Friday 22nd March at 12pm for Easter Holidays. School will reopen 8th April
3. GAA Training - All classes will partake in hurling training with Leon for the month of April. The children will begin this the first Monday back after the Easter Holidays.
4. Swimming Lessons