



Castletownroche N.S. Newsletter October 2024

Muintir Baile Chaisleáin an Róistigh

Welcome to our September-October Edition of the CTRNS Newsletter. We hope you enjoy it.

Principal's Address

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the first of our newsletters for the 2024/2025 school year. It is our hope to produce newsletters on a frequent basis once again this year in order to keep you abreast of school activities and developments. Like all of our school communications, these newsletters will be sent electronically. Please download them and pass them to whoever your feel would like to read about the school - grandparents, friends, neighbours', past pupils etc.

Slán 's beannacht, Eóin.

Congratulations to Ms. Dineen and her husband Jonathan

All at CTRNS would like to heartily congratulate Ms. Dineen and husband Jonathan Jonathon on their recent marriage. We wish you both nothing but the best in the years ahead.



Sciath na Scol

Girl's Football Final

CTRNS Abú

Last Wednesday 23rd of October was a day to remember at CTRNS when the girls of 5th and 6th class did us all so proud in winning their Sciath na Scol Football Final in Mallow. It was a reversing of form with their opposition who defeated our girls on the way to the final. So it was a matter of putting all shoulders to the wheel and our girls ground out a comprehensive victory on the day. Maith sibh go léir a chailíní. We're so proud of you all. Thanks must go to Ms. Keating and Mr. McCarthy who

prepared the girls so well for the final.



Completed School Building Upgrades

As you probably all know at this stage, extensive construction work has been carried out at the school in recent months. This includes a new Wheelchair Accessible entrance at the rear of the school; a total renovation and upgrading of the Disabled Bathroom to create a washroom and upgrading of facilities; and the conversion of the old shed and shelter to make a fully equipped IT Hub and School Library.





These facilities will be well used in the years ahead. Our new IT Hub and Library will hugely compliment our Digital Learning Plan and Accelerated Reading Programme.

We look forward to showing you these new facilities when we will have an "Open Night" later in this school year.

New "Climbing Wall" in the OT Playground

Our already well equipped OT Playground was added to over the last few months. We have an extensive 10m long climbing wall which will be so well used in the years ahead. Most sincere thanks must go to James Walshe of Walshe Engineering and Concrete Limited whose generous donation enabled the construction of this wall.



Thanks also to the parents of a past pupil who also made a very generous donation which allowed for the construction of this wonderful facility.

MS Readathon

Once again, pupils from CTRNS will take part in this year's MS Readathon. Now in its 3rd year at the school, this will totally compliment the children's learning and literacy while also raising money for a fantastic cause. Furthermore, it will hugely compliment their new Accelerated Reading Programme which we hope to roll out in November.



Money raised for Mercy Hospital

There was great excitement at the school last Friday when we held our Superhero's Dress Up and No Uniform Day in aid of the Mercy Hospital Foundation. In total, we raised a whopping €374 which is a wonderful amount for a school of 87 pupils. Sincere thanks to all who contributed.



MS. DINEEN'S CLASSROOM

We've been busy settling into our new classroom, and it's already starting to feel like home! The room is buzzing with excitement as we explore new activities, make friends, and get comfy in our learning spaces. From colourful displays to fun new routines, we're ready for lots of adventures together this year. We can't wait to see what amazing things we'll discover as we learn, play, and grow as a classroom family!

September

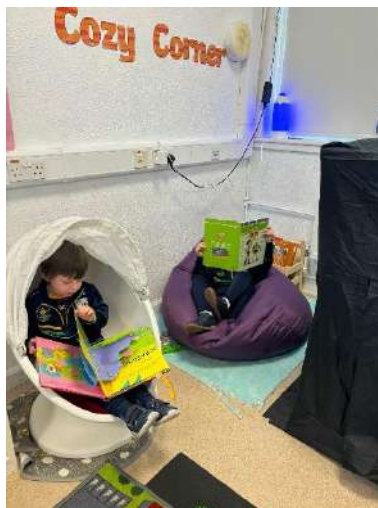
September was a month filled with excitement and learning in our classroom! We welcomed two new students, Miley and Alfie, and were delighted to welcome back Tyler and Ronan. The children eagerly explored the school grounds, including our fantastic greenhouse, where we picked tomatoes and lettuce. We also tried out many new activities and toys, with kinetic sand and playdough becoming some of our favourites. We feel so lucky to have a space for cooking and baking; so far, we've made pizza and Rice Krispie buns, but our favourite treat was our "Warm Apple and Berry Crumble" made with apples from Eóin. We also enjoyed an autumn walk and dove into some creative art projects using the leaves we collected.





October

October was an exciting month in our classroom! We kicked things off with GAA sessions with the Junior and Senior Infant classroom, which the kids thoroughly enjoyed. Pumpkin designing sparked creativity, and we had a blast making slime together. Our baking adventures continued with delicious cookies and muffins. We also designed and coloured our Christmas cards in preparation for December. The children loved watching the tractors ploughing the fields next to the school, and we embraced our new cozy corner with our new egg chair and beanbag while exploring some of our new books. We even took trips to the shop with the Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine, adding to the fun and learning throughout the month!



JUNIOR & SENIOR INFANT NEWS

First Day of School

On the 29th of August we welcomed back our very excited senior infants who were thrilled to be back with all their friends. We also welcomed 8 new junior infants to the CTRNS family. We welcomed: Hailee, Alex, Lucia, Conor, Cara, Keelan, Teagan and William. The children have settled in really well and we have all been very busy getting to know each other.



GAA
 For the past few weeks we have been learning new football skills and playing lots of games with Mr. McCarthy. We look forward to learning more new football skills over the coming weeks.



Playtime

We have loved getting to know each other by playing lots of fun games and also by practising our cutting, threading and fine motor skills and by playing 'pass the heart' game.

Math Games

On Fridays we are playing lots of Math games and we are absolutely loving them. We are practising our counting and turn taking and we are having so much fun at the same time.



Playground

Senior infants have loved showing junior infants the 'ropes' in our OT Playground and how to use all the equipment.



Aistear

We started our first Aistear theme in October and we have been having so much fun learning through the theme of Halloween. For art we made 2D shaped Frankenstein's as it was also Math week. We engaged in role play where we got to go shopping for our Halloween costumes and then go trick or treating. We found lots of interesting and scary creatures in our sand pit and we had lots of fun making witches potions while also practising our counting.



Playground Games

Thank you so much to Ms. Deere's 5th and 6th class who showed us

how to use all the new playground games that were painted around our track and on the school yards. We had so much fun going around with you and learning how to play them. You have set us up for so much fun for the rest of the year.



1st & 2nd CLASS NEWS

What a great start to the school year in 1st & 2nd Class. The children have been very busy and having lots of fun so far!





The children in 1st and 2nd class would like to thank the children in 5th and 6th class for teaching them how to play the new playground games and activities. It was great to learn all about them as they can be played every day.

Outdoor Fun

1st and 2nd class started off their year with lots of sunshine and fun lessons both indoors and outdoors. The children explored the school grounds and collected some soil for a science experiment. The science experiment explored how air is present in soil. The children poured water into the soil they collected and watched how the air that was trapped in the soil escaped in the form of bubbles! 1st and 2nd class became astronauts when they explored all about space and how a Rocketship works. They made their own Rocketship's and flew them all around the school.

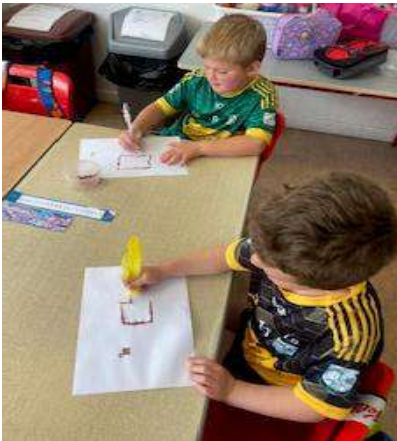


Hands-On Learning

Hands-on learning is so important and makes learning so much fun! The children made shapes in maths using uncooked spaghetti and marshmallows as they learned all about the different shapes and where the sides and corners are. They became archaeologists as they dug in the sand trying to find buried 'old artefacts' and took a step back in time to record what they found using a feather quill and ink!



Gaeilge was widely celebrated throughout the last few months. When the children tried their best to speak Gaeilge throughout the week they were rewarded with Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine which was very exciting! "Tír Gan Teanga, Tír Gan Anam"



Amazing Artists
Autumn was the season of colour and art in 1st & 2nd class. They used a lot of materials during their art lessons and a lot of artistic styles, such as abstract art, collage, line drawings, sketches, colouring and painting. The sunshine came out for us again and the children made the school yard a lot more colourful by drawing some amazing things with chalk.



The children are great gardeners as they help out in the school greenhouse ensuring the plants are cared for. The gardening then came into the classroom when the children planted various seeds in their personalised flower pots.



Celebrations

On the 26/10/24 it was SNA Appreciation Day where 1st and 2nd class made beautiful cards for the wonderful SNAs in our school and class. There were several birthday celebrations in our class this September and October. The importance of our Irish language,



GAA

The GAA training in school definitely supported 1st & 2nd Class as they made us so proud at the 6 a side football blitz on 15/10/24 in the Mallow GAA Sports Complex. It was a rainy day for the blitz but that did not stop them! They won all their matches and their efforts were amazing as always!

3rd & 4th CLASS NEWS

Chromebooks

The boys and girls have really enjoyed using the Chromebook in class. Their favourite activities include Dance Mat Typing and Spellings for Me. They are really looking forward to researching their own projects and presenting to the class. Each child from third class has a buddy from fourth class and this has worked very well. They love helping each other!



Baking

The children have been learning all about procedural writing this month. We have been focusing on the following elements; purpose, layout, command verbs and evaluation. The boys and girls decided that it would be a good idea to write our own recipe for Rocky Road and follow it step by step. Thankfully, we created a very delicious recipe that everyone enjoyed!





GAA

The children from third and fourth class have been busy practicing their GAA skills. They have been partaking in a GAA workshop once a week. So far, they have been focusing on the following skills; hand passing, kicking, soloing and shooting. Teamwork has been a big focus and it has been lovely to watch everyone get involved!



Art

When the children were asked about their favourite activities so far this year, a number of them mentioned art. We have been focusing on the units of drawing and print. One girl said she likes how "relaxing" art is while another said it makes them feel "happy". Their favourite art lesson so far has been the *Halloween silhouette cat art* and the *all about me backpacks*"



Quizzes

Every Friday, the boys and girls in third and fourth class have a quiz. Sometimes they work in pairs while other times, they work in small groups. The children have also prepared their own quiz questions and have had lots of fun testing their classmates. Their favourite quiz is *Terminator*. This is like a game of *knock out* where all the children begin standing around the classroom. If a child answers a question correctly, they get to take a step. If they can reach one of their classmates, they touch them and knock them out of the game. The last child standing is the winner! It is always one of our highlights of the week.

5th & 6th CLASS NEWS

Welcome to the 2024-2025 academic year here in 5th & 6th Class. This year, Miss Deere is delighted to be teaching the senior classes. We have 19 students in the room with 14 in 5th Class and 5 students in 6th Class this year. We were absolutely delighted to welcome two new students to the school this year. Both Ridvan and Adasa have settled in great, with all of the students being so welcoming and friendly towards them. We hope that everyone has a fantastic year ahead!





Transition to Secondary School

We have had a very busy return to school this year. We have already welcomed three different secondary schools to present to the class. We loved hearing from the teachers from Nagle Rice Doneraile, St Colman's College and also Coláiste an Craoibhín, both from Fermoy. This is a very big decision in our students' lives so we have been really enjoying asking plenty of questions, reading through the brochures and also attending their Open Nights.



Playground Activities

We were so delighted to see the playground markings with new activities and games being finished on our return to school. 5th & 6th Class students decided to buddy up with the younger classes and teach them how to get the most out of the new track. We had so much fun working together and the younger students were also able to teach us some new games too! We found ways to use our math skills and our Gaeilge as well, making this both a fun and educational activity! These games have added a new level to our Daily Mile every day and it is great seeing them being used by everyone. A huge thank you to the Mad Hatters Playground Painting for the amazing work completed.



Coiste Gaelach

Our newly formed Coiste Gaelach are off to a tremendous start this year. Kayla, Fionn, Billy, Ava, Doireann, Kate, Kira and Adasa have all thrown themselves very enthusiastically into their new roles. They have been busy sharing the Frasaí na Seachtaine with the classes, announcing the Gaeilgóirí na Seachtaine every week and also getting some puppets and fun activities prepared so they can encourage more Gaeilge across the school community. Maith Sibh!



GAA

On September 13th, we were delighted to attend a 5th & 6th Class GAA blitz in Fermoy. The boys played hurling whilst the girls played football. The girls were very successful on the day and so much fun was had by all. This event was organized by the Transition Year students in Loreto Convent & St Colman's College Fermoy and was a fantastic experience for all involved.

On October 9th, we also took part in the first of this year's Sciath na Scol events. The boys were unlucky here in Castletownroche against Dromina and Grange NS but the girls had a fantastic morning in Doneraile and are now set to take part in the Sciath na Scol Girls Final this coming Wednesday. Thanks to Miss Keating for arranging this event and for accompanying the girls to Doneraile.

We have also been lucky enough to receive a number of training slots for our GAA skills development here in school. Mr. McCarthy has been working so hard with all the students on a weekly basis which is certainly helping develop their confidence also in this area. We hope to take part in plenty more sporting activities as the year progresses.



Table Quizzes

Our first table quiz of the year has also taken place. We were delighted to have 2 full teams attend from 5th & 6th class when we went to Shanballymore on the 3rd of October. While we didn't have any win on the night, a fantastic time was had by all. The students are already looking forward to the next ones which have been scheduled over the next few weeks in Fermoy and Mitchelstown.

Upcoming events & dates to remember



1. Castletownroche Halloween Spooktacular Weekend 25th to 27th October
 - Friday Cake Sale - 9am to 12pm
 - Friday Halloween Disco 7pm - 8.30pm. Please note parent supervision is required
 - Sunday Funday 5.30pm - 7pm
2. Midterm Break - The school will be closed from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November. School reopens on Monday 4th November
3. Parent Teacher Meetings - 19th and 20th November
4. Euros4Clothes - We hope to hold our first Euros4Clothes Collection of the year to coincide with the General Election when the school will be used as a polling station.