**CASTLEBRIDGE NS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020**

**Pupil and Parent Appreciation- Covid 19**

Firstly we would like to thank you all for adhering to the HSE guidelines and wearing a mask when you drop off and collect your child each day. This helps in creating a safer space for us all.

Restrictions and guidelines are going well in school. We keep our windows and doors open to allow for optimum ventilation in the classrooms. There are sanitising stations in each classroom and around the school for the children and staff to use throughout the day.

Children in the senior end of the school are divided into pods and are socially distanced in the classroom. Children stay in their pods moving from their classroom to other areas of the school

Our breaks are staggered to allow the children to play in their own designated areas.

With continued vigilance and adherence to safety measures we will continue to battle Covid 19 together.

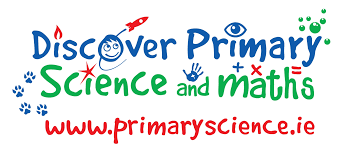
**Amber Flag and Positive Mental Health**

The children and the staff of Castlebridge N.S. carried out many activities in the 2019/2020 academic year while working towards achieving the Amber Flag. We were delight to be granted our flag in June of this year and even though, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, many of the activities are no longer possible, the staff and students continue to enjoy and acknowledge as many achievements and celebrations as possible. One examples of this is the King or Queen of Kindness. Each week a King or Queen of Kindness is crowned in each class. This is done in an aim to acknowledge the many kind deeds that occur in our classrooms on a daily basis. Another activity that the children have been enjoying occurs on the last Friday of each month. The children who have celebrated their birthday during that month receive a goody bag from the school in celebration of the children’s birthdays. Finally, during the month of December, a month in which we pay particular attention to, and show our gratitude for, special people and things that we have in our lives, the children will decorate the school with love hearts identifying the people and things in their lives that they are grateful for.

**STEM Award**

Congratulations to all the boys and girls in Castlebridge NS whom have just received recognition as a DPSM school for the first time, achieving a certificate award. You can review our first years work on the Castlebridge website and follow our progress in 2020/2021 as we continue our STEM Journey.

Here, in Castlebridge Primary School, we place a strong emphasis on the teaching and learning of science and maths. We endeavour to give our pupils hands-on experience with practical activities which develop the children’s scientific skills as well as literacy and numeracy skills. The focus is on inquiry-based learning where the children participate in simple science experiments and activities relevant to their everyday lives and environments.

**GAA coaching**

In the recent weeks we have welcomed Seamus Casey, the Gaelic Games Development Officer with the Shelmaliers GAA club, to our school. For November Seamus worked with children from Junior Infants to 4th class, focusing on their fundamental movement skills as well as working on their ball handling skills. He also ran a lunchtime league with the children in 5th class which saw Kerry play Wexford and Dublin take on Tyrone in the finals. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities and those from 1st class to 6th class now look forward to more fun and games with Seamus during the month of December.

**Rugby Coaching**

Rugby coaching will begin next term. This is run by Leinster Rugby and our community club officer, Graham Barry. Further details will be sent out on Aladdin in January.

**Christmas Raffle**

The Christmas Raffle will take place Friday 18th December. Tickets will be on sale from the 14th and cost 50c for a strip of tickets. The proceeds of this raffle will go to four different charities-Autism Ireland, Wexford Women’s Refuge, St. Vincent de Paul and Crumlin Children’s Hospital.

**Christmas Cards for Castlebridge Manor Nursing Home**

6th class pupils have designed and written their own Christmas cards to the residents of Castlebridge Manor Nursing Home .Well done to all the pupils and Ms Hearne for this kind gesture.

**Christmas Crib**

Thanks to the generosity of our Parents Council, 6th class, in their pods, have decorated and painted the silhouettes of a manger. The decision was made that the silhouettes be placed in the grounds of St. Ibar’s Church, Castlebridge.

**Dates for December**

Christmas Jumpers- Every Friday for the month of December pupils can wear their Christmas jumpers to school.

A drama and dance workshop will run in school for all classes outside, in keeping with covid-19 guidelines. These workshops will take place during the week of the 7th-11th of December.

Santa will visit the school the week of the 14th-18th, this will be outside and following Covid -19 guidelines. All pupils will receive a selection box.

Monday 21st December- Christmas Movie in all classes

**Christmas Break**

The school will close on Tuesday, December 22nd at 12.00 and will re-open on Wednesday, January 6th.

We wish all our pupils and their families a very happy and safe Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhlian Faoi Mhaise Daoibh go léir!