

# Clinstown N.S. April Newsletter 2017

Green School      Amber Flag School      Junior Entrepreneur School      Digital School of Distinction

This is our monthly newsletter to keep you up to date on events in the school.

## **Special Class for Children with Autism**

In March this year we were delighted to be approached by the NCSE to see if we would we set up a special class for children with Autism in our school. We were picked because of our location and school profile. After consultation with the teaching and non-teaching staff, the parent's association committee and the board of management we decided to go ahead with the class. It will bring many benefits to our school such as extra skills and expertise with the extra teaching staff required, more bodies to cover supervision and help out with after school activities, as well as giving the children in the school the opportunity to build tolerance and patience when interacting with children with special educational needs.

## **Schools Hurling/Camogie**

School's hurling and camogie is now up and running. The girls are unbeaten in their competition, while the boys are also performing well in Roinn C, despite having a very young team. The girls reached the final of the mini sevens competition in Danesfort on Tuesday and were very unlucky to finish runners up on score difference. It was still a great achievement and well done to all who help out with both teams.

## **Green Flag**

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded our 6<sup>th</sup> Green Flag on Global Citizenship and Recycling. The award ceremony is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May in Hotel Kilkenny. Well done to all the children and committee, especially Ms. Henry for all her hard work in coordinating the school effort.

## **"20 Minutes or 20 Pages" Reading Initiative**

We are still continuing our reading initiative and there is a huge amount of children reading 20 pages or for 20 minutes every day. Well done to all our prize winners from before the Easter break. We are giving our rewards this Friday to all those dedicated readers. Our current block starts from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June (holidays and weekends included!!)

## **Amber Flag/Mental Health**

The Amber Flag committee have organised many activities to promote positive mental health in our school during the year. We are very lucky to have Mary Dooley coming to our school to do meditation with all classes for a short time during SPHE every month. We have also set up a "buddy system" for next year's Junior Infants where the 6<sup>th</sup> class will make sure that they have someone to play with at break time and look out for their general wellbeing. We have decided to invite some of our past pupils back to our school to talk to the present 6<sup>th</sup> class about secondary school and answer any questions or concerns they might have about starting a new school in September.

## **Spelling Bee**

Well done to Darragh Hennessy who performed very well at the final of the Kilkenny Spelling Bee making it as far as the final round. Well done Darragh!

## **Sacraments**

The First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 12 o'clock in Conahy Church and I hope all the children and their families have a beautiful day.

St. Joseph's National School (18607 O) Clinstown, Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny

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## Maths

We are continuing to implement our school improvement plan for maths. We are taking a whole school approach to the measure strand in maths this year. If you have any concerns about your child regarding these topics then please talk to your class teacher. During May we will focus on **Capacity**.

## English

As part of our review of literacy in our school we decided to implement a few different strategies as part of our school improvement plan for English. All children in our school are focusing on **Explanatory Writing** for April, May and June. We are also focusing on **Clarifying** as the main comprehension strategy for April, May and June this year.

## Parents Association

A huge thanks to our Parent's Association Committee who are doing fantastic work for our school again this year!! They have raised a large amount of money which has been put to very good educational use. We purchased over 600 books to implement a guided reading scheme in the senior end of the school. This means that every child in the senior end of the school will be reading a book suited to his or her ability level. We hope that this will improve children's attitudes to reading and develop a love of reading. We are also buying 4 more ipads for our school.

## Soccer

Well done to both our boys and girls soccer teams who were both competed in the Kilkenny 5 a side soccer champions. The girls finished runners up in their competition and the boys were crowned Kilkenny Champions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. They represented Kilkenny at the mid Leinster blitz where they performed with great credit!!

## Aistear

We are implementing the **Aistear** programme in the junior room. In May we will be looking at the story of Giraffes Can't Dance. The moral of the story is that with the right music we are all capable of dancing. Details on the **Aistear** programme can be found at [ncca.ie](http://ncca.ie)

## Science

This year we are taking part in the SFI Primary Science and Maths award. During the year the children have been working on Science and Maths experiments from different strands of the curriculum and using different types of technology and we have now applied for the award!!

## School Calendar

Please check out the school calendar on the school website [clinstownns.com](http://clinstownns.com) for up to date news on all events going on in the school during the busy final term.

## Enrolment

We are now accepting enrolments for September 2017. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the school website or we can post them out if you contact the school. If you have any questions about enrolling your child in our school please contact us on 056776740 or email [stjosephsc.ias@eircom.net](mailto:stjosephsc.ias@eircom.net)

To keep up to date with some of the work going on in the school you should check out the school twitter account (@clinstownns) which often has pictures of work samples or the children at work or the school website [www.clinstownns.com](http://www.clinstownns.com) which we try to keep up to date.

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