



Carlow Educate Together

Newsletter | September 2009

Unit 5 Shamrock Business Park, Graiguecullen, Carlow Town

Phone: 059-9179453 | Fax: 059-9134566 | Email: simon@carloweducatetogether.ie



Dates for your Diary

Oct 01 Grandparents' Day

Oct 02 Lisbon Referendum - School closed due to use as a polling station

Oct 07 Staff Meeting - School closes 12pm

Oct 08 Staff Training - School closes 12pm

Oct 26-30 Mid-Term Break - School closed

Nov 04 Staff Meeting - School closes 12pm

Welcome to our Newsletter

It's hard to believe that one year ago, Carlow Educate Together NS opened its doors for the first time. We're now in our second year and the place is buzzing! It's brilliant to see all the children back again and we're delighted to welcome all our new parents and children. We hope you will enjoy your time in the school and please get yourself involved as much as you can!

We have some new faces on staff too and I'm delighted to welcome Ciara, Emer and Samantha to our school. They bring a wealth of experience and we're very proud to have them in our school. We're also delighted to welcome back Aisling, Clare, Sinéad, Lisa and Barbara.

For those of you online, we've launched our own Facebook and Twitter account. Already several parents have signed up and there's plenty of room for more! We'll shortly be providing Internet access in our parents'/staff room as our server is being upgraded. Watch this space.

Remember if you need anything, feel free to drop by for a chat. Take care,
Simon



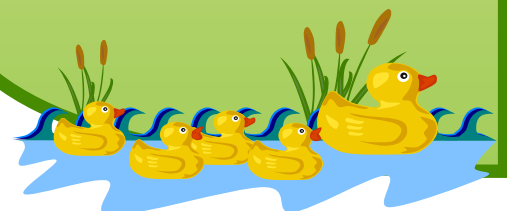
There are a number of festivals that fall in September this year. They include: Rosh Hashannah (the Jewish New Year), Eid (the end of Ramadan for Muslims) and Dasera (a Hindu Festival).

Parental Involvement

The Parents' Association were trained by the National Parents Council recently. Every parent is automatically a member of the school's parents' association. This section will be used to keep you up to date with all their news.

Parents (and grandparents) are always welcome to join each other for a coffee and a chat from 9am to 10am in the staff/parents' room every Friday.

If you have a special talent or interesting hobby or job you'd like to share with our children in the school, talk to Simon. The children would love visitors to the class!



In other news...



School Bus

A School Bus service has begun to transport children to and from school. Currently, the bus stops in the following places: a, b, c. If you wish to avail of the service, please talk to Siobhán. If the bus is not in your area, it may be in the future. Until then, you should avail of the grant from Bus Éireann.

After School Service

The After School Club has begun and there are still a number of places available in it. Contact Catherine on 086-1518513 for information.

Swine Flu

The Swine Flu guidelines have now been ratified by our Board of Management. Please see our web site for more information.

Coffee Morning

A successful coffee morning was held in aid of the Carlow Hospice. Thanks to all who donated.



Fire Drill

A fire drill was successfully held during the month. All children were very well behaved and listened really well.

Assemblies

Assemblies begin on Friday 18th September.

Some children will be awarded the Student of the Week, so look out for them on the web site.

After School Activities

Art, Drama and Spanish classes are on offer so far this year to any pupils who wish to take part. All information is on the noticeboard in the foyer.

Communion

Parents of children who wish to make their Communion this year in Graiguecullen are requested to talk to Simon as soon as possible.

Cleaning Contract

The Board of Management are currently tendering for cleaning contracts. Talk to Aisling for more information.

New Fun Things in Our School!

Our school always goes through changes and over the summer, you may have seen us pottering around! Firstly, you've probably noticed our new parents' / staff room. Thanks to Andy for doing such a great job. We're hoping to add a couple of computers and open an Internet café really soon.

In the foyer, we've added a few tables and chairs for little ones to chill out on. It's great to see them being used already. Something that you might not have seen is our giant magnetic map of Europe. The idea is that any time someone goes away on holidays, they might bring us back a magnet and we can stick it on to this board. It's a great way to share where we've been! Simon started it off with a magnet from Gdansk in Poland.

Weekly Voluntary Contribution

Every school has to fundraise to keep going. If you can spare between €3 and €5 per week, please pop it into Siobhán in the office. This is completely voluntary but all money will go towards cutting costs for swimming this year.



Class News

Ciara's Class

The Junior Infants have had a great month settling into Ciara's class. We have spent lots of time getting to know one another and are now well used to the run of things. Gary the guard watches everything from his desk but sometimes he plays tricks on us! Every morning we spend a little time playing with the toys. The sand box and play dough are our favourites! We know lots of rhymes and songs and have fun singing and doing actions every day. We have started to put things on the nature table.

Simon's Class

Simon's class have almost doubled in size since last year with 12 children enrolled. This month we've started on 3 projects - we've been investigating Swine Flu, Sunflowers and the Counties of Ireland. The sunflowers in our school garden are showing their first signs of yellow and we're looking forward to seeing them in full bloom. We're also doing some cool science experiments with Asiling and we made a periscope using milk cartons and mirrors. We're also learning about how writers make comics - it's not as easy as it looks!

Emer's Class

Firstly I'd like to say welcome back to all the children and parents of Carlow Educate Together National School. Over the past few weeks we've been welcoming new boys and girls into our class. It's been great to meet new friends and get to know each other. We also appointed the Fire Safety officer for our class. Kane was picked because he knew so much about fire safety! He did a really great job! Next week we will be starting Show and Tell. This will take place on Thursday morning when one child will bring in their favourite toy.

Samantha's Class

Our Outreach class this year is in full swing! All the children are settling in well and are really enjoying the fun activities that we do in school! We love our structured play time in the morning and we are really learning to play together and share toys. This week we have started to go down to Ciara's class and Emer's class for Phonics and we enjoy learning and having fun with the other children. We have been doing art and we have created wonderful self-portraits using paint.

