

Carlow Educate Together NS News



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Quick News

Work Experience

We've had a number of students on work experience in our school. Many of them are leaving us at the end of this term so a big thank you to Ana and Rachel. We're delighted that we still have Miriam, Louise & Nicky with us. Next term there will be some more new faces-we'll keep you posted.

Staff Meeting

A staff meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1st April. All children to be picked up at 12pm.

Absences

The NEWB is responsible for the welfare of children in Ireland. After 20 days of absences, by law, we must send a report to the NEWB to let them know of these absences. Two children from our school have been forwarded to the NEWB. It is essential that a written note or email is sent to the school in the event of an absence for our records.

Parking

Just to remind parents that parking is not allowed around the school gates for long periods of time, i.e. 5-10 minutes approx. If you wish to park for any longer, please use the parking spaces around the business park.

Looking for staff

An advertisement has gone into the local papers looking for a part-time secretary and cleaner. It is with regret that due to illness, Paul and Ruth Curtis are unable to continue. We thank them for all their work and wish Paul all the best.

Enrollments

We're still enrolling children for the September 2009. If you know anybody interested in joining our school, please let them know to get in touch with us as places are filling up.

Letter from the Principal



Dear parents/guardians,

This March was the first time I ever had to march in a St. Patrick's Day parade. I found myself under the head of a dragon for most of it but it was great to see so many children from our school attending both the Carlow and Graiguecullen parades. A big thank you to all our parents for taking time out of their holidays to join us.

It's hard to believe we're coming up to our final term in our first year as a school. Personally, I've been really enjoying the experience and I hope you have too. We're planning on having an Open Evening to discuss the school and its direction for 2009 and I hope some of you will be able to get involved in a Parents' Association amongst other things.

One thing we're always trying to get right is how to get information to you as parents. I've written a short article on page 4, which outlines the ways we are currently communicating with you. If you can think of some other ways that might help, please get in touch. I'd also like to encourage parents to use our facilities, particularly on Friday mornings as the room has been fairly quiet

Simon

Read Together

Our Read Together Programme came to an end on March 26th. The Junior Infants enjoyed reading with parents and we hope that parents enjoyed coming into school and seeing how the children are learning.

Lateness

Lateness affects children's ability to settle into their work at the start of the day. School begins at 8:50am. Please ensure that your child comes to school on time.

Dates for your Diary

- 1st April: Staff Meeting (Half Day)
- 3rd April: School Closing for Spring Holidays (Full Day)
- 20th April: School re-opens (Full Day)
- 22nd April: Formal Assessments
- 23rd April: Photographer
- 1st May: Swimming Lessons begin again

A full calendar is available on our web site.



Parents' Open Evening

On April 29th, Carlow Educate Together NS will host an open evening for all parents and children. The idea is to reflect on our first year and to make plans for the upcoming year. By September 2009, we hope to have set up a Parents' Association, a School Garden, An After School Club, A School Bus and strengthen our ties with the community.

We will also be inviting any parents who have pre-enrolled their children to the school and hopefully increase our enrolment. We will probably be designing leaflets for the event and if anyone would be able to drop them around their estate, that would be great.

Class News

Aisling's Class (Junior & Senior Infants)

All the children are trying their best to follow the Golden Rules (pictured). We are engaging in fun activities based on the book, "Farmer Duck". The Easter Table (also pictured) is nicely decorated and the children really enjoy looking at it. We have also finished all the 42 Jolly Phonic sounds! I am very proud of the children's good work and effort.



Simon's Class (1st to 3rd class)

March was a great month in our class. We made our video from our visit to Oak Park, which you can see on the school web site. We're also taking part in an online project called "Your School Day." Children from all over Ireland share what goes on in their school and we can read all about it. In sad news, Ana is finishing her time with us and we'll really miss her.



New Staff

Carlow Educate Together NS is delighted to announce a new member of staff starting on April 20th. Barbara Price joins us from Scoil Mhichíl Naofa, Athy, and she will be working in our Outreach class with Tom and Sinéad. Barbara comes with several years experience working with children with Autism Spectrums Disorder.

Parents' Section

Parents are encouraged to meet up for coffee and a chat every Friday from 9am.

Noticeboard

Almost every morning, the notice-board in the foyer contains important information. A copy of the notice-board will be posted on the school web site too.

Survey

A big thank you to Sharon for completing a survey about our school and the general feedback we've received. Thankfully, feedback was overwhelmingly positive and any issues raised will be discussed at our open night.

Parents' Association

The NPC run workshops for schools who wish to set up a Parents' Association. Please talk to Simon, if you'd like to organise this.

Skills Day

We received an offer of a crochet class in our school and it got us thinking about a "Skills Day", where people could share their skills with each other. If you have a skill or know someone who would be interested in this idea, let us know and we'll do the rest. So far, we've had an offer of crochet.

Looking for Writers

Would you like to write an article for our newsletter? As we expand, there is space for articles from parents. Ideas for articles include: "My job", "My favourite hobby" and "When I was at school" It would be great for our children to read about the parents in this school.



Our ICT Vision

One of the key parts of the curriculum is the use of Information and Communications Technology, (ICT). ICT refer to any electronic devices like computers, laptops, Interactive Whiteboards and robots.

We were recently awarded a grant for €13,000 to spend on ICT. The Board of Management have sanctioned the purchase of a high-end server and 3 interactive whiteboards. We also hope to purchase some robots. Our server will control all computers in the school no matter how old they are so if you have any old computers or know of anyone who has some, please donate them to us as we still need another 20-30 machines.

More Class News

Tom's Class

The children are working on new reading strategies. These are individually based methods that each child performs. Also, the children have been participating in the use of the new sensory room, which is loads of fun!

Clare's Class

This month, the ESL group are learning colour attributes, ie. Describing objects by their colour. We are learning all about "My Family" and describing our sisters and brothers, parents, grandparents. We are also talking about our lunchbox and our favourite foods. At Easter, we will have an Easter Egg hunt and learn about directions!

Competition

Just for fun, we're having a little competition for our readers. The prize is a VERY EXCLUSIVE Carlow Educate Together pen! All you have to do to win is complete the puzzle below and write your details underneath. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter.

Simon took this photograph of a road sign. However, he zoomed in too much! You must decide what the sign is for and write your answer below.



What is this sign for? _____

Your name: _____

Mobile Number: _____

BOM News

The following is a summary of the minutes from the Board of Management meeting held on 9th March 2009. The full minutes are available for download from our web site or they are posted up in the school in the foyer.

- Garda Vetting will now be in place for all adults working in our school unsupervised.
- A campaign was sanctioned by the Board to collect old mobile phones. Please donate all old phones to the school. For every 100 mobiles donated, the school gets a laptop.
- Classes will not pay rent this year. However, rent will apply to after school activities from September 2009.
- The Board congratulated Nathaniel Curtis on his success in the Doodle 4 Google competition.
- The Enrollment policy was ratified
- The Behaviour Policy will be discussed at the next BOM Meeting.
- CD of our school song will be recorded professionally.

Behaviour Policy

We would like you to read over our Behaviour Policy before the next Board of Management meeting and make suggestions on how we can improve it. As the document is several pages long, and in the interests of the environment, we will print out copies for those who wish paper copies. The document is available on our web site in the Board of Management section.



Fill in a form

For our records, we need to keep all children's PPS numbers and dates of birth. There are still some children in our school that have not sent these details. Also, if any of your details have changed, please fill out this form so we can update our records:

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ PSS No: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Twitter ID (if any) _____

Doctor's Details: _____

Allergies: _____

And Finally...

There are lots of festivals happening during our spring break. If you'd like to chat to your children about these festivals, this may be of help. We recommend the following web site for further information: <http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/calendar.htm>

- 3rd April: Rama Navami (Hindu)
- 5th April: Palm Sunday (Christian)
- 5th—10th April: Holy Week (Christian)
- 8th April: Hanamatsuri (Buddist)
- 9th—16th April: Passover (Jewish)
- 10th April: Good Friday (Christian)
- 12th April: Easter (Christian)
- 14th April: Baisahki (Sikh)
- 21st April: Yom HaShoah-Holocaust Remembrance Day (Jewish)



Did you know that the dates of Easter were originally decided upon in Old Leighlin, just up the road?

Ways to Get in Touch

There are loads of ways to stay in touch with what's going on in our school.

Texting

If there's something coming up in school, we generally send a text message to all parents as a reminder. Please make sure we have your correct mobile number.

Web Site

Our award winning web site, www.carloweducatetogether.ie, contains all the latest information and dates for you diary. Make sure to check it regularly.

Letters

We generally send any messages in children's bags. We find that children often forget to give these messages to parents so please check their bags. Also, if your child is absent, check with the teacher when he/she comes back.

Noticeboard

There is a noticeboard in our foyer in the school, which is photographed and put online on our web site.

Google Calendar

If you have a Google Account, you can subscribe to our calendar by talking to Simon.

RSS

Our calendar provides RSS feeds so you can subscribe to it from the school web site—follow the link.

Other Ways for the Future

We're thinking of using services like Facebook, Twitter and blue-tooth marketing to further improve communication. Any other ideas are welcome.