

# Castleblakeney National School

Castleblakeney, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Tel: 090 9678433 U.R. 164641

[www.castleblakeneyns.ie](http://www.castleblakeneyns.ie)

September 2025

Dear Parent,  
Hope all is well. Welcome back the school routine. Please take time to read newsletter.

## Dates for Your Diary

Hurling/Camogie Training for all. Emer Finnegan – Parent has kindly offered to conduct training with all children in the school.

Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> SNA Appreciation Day- a day to say Thank You to Marie and Mary for all the work they do and support they give.

Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – Diocesan Advisor for Religious Education visits our school.

Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle Right- Safe Cycle Training for 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes begins for 4 weeks.

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> October – Photographer comes to school.



Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – School Closes at usual times for Halloween Break. 13:50pm for Infants and 14:50pm for older children.



Children may dress up for Halloween on this day.



Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – Presidential Election - School closed for classes.

School reopens on Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> after Halloween break.

Parent- Teacher Meetings 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

November. Further details later.

Swimming lessons for 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> classes begin Friday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 *if enough interested*

ANY CHANGE IN CONTACT DETAILS, PLEASE INFORM OFFICE. Thank you

## School Times



School begins at 9.10am for all children. Children may be dropped at school from 9am onwards.

No responsibility can be taken for children before this time.

Infants finish at 1.50pm

Other classes finish at 2.50pm

## NEWB



Importance of Absent Notes It is important that all absences are explained with a note. All notes should be handed to the class teacher. All absences and reasons are recorded. This is a requirement of the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB). Absences of 20 days or more must be reported to the NEWB. Such reporting is required by law. Thanking you for your continued co-operation.

If you would like your child to receive

Flu Vaccine

the flu vaccine in school during the

coming weeks, please fill the attached form and return to class teacher.

# Welcome - Fáilte

**W**ord of welcome to Kiera Carr, Clodagh Harris, Grace Nolan and Kate Raftery who are embarking on their primary school years here in Castleblakeney N.S.. Not forgetting the children who are returning to another academic year, we welcome you back and hope you will enjoy learning many new things this year. We wish the children of sixth class '24-'25 every success in their new secondary school.

## Annual Renewal of Policies

**Bí Cineálta** Our recently formulated Bí Cineálta – Be Kind Policy which we launched last June at our end of year mass by raising our Bí Cineálta Flag is available for viewing on our website.



## Parent Contribution

This money is essential for running of our school. It is used to subsidise pupil insurance, such art supplies, photocopying, participation in school and sporting activities. *Attached is an envelope for your contribution if not already paid.*

### Payment options are as follows:

**Option 1:** Payment in Full €150 for year

**Option 2:** Payment per term - €50 per term

**First Holy Communion will take place place on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> in Caltra Church.**

**Confirmation will take place on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> in Ahascragh Church.**

## School Meals

Please be sure to cancel your child's meal order on the app if you know they will be absent on a particular day or if you are going on holiday. Failure to cancel meals is incurring an unnecessary cost to the school.



It is important to speak with your child about the school meals and find out what they like. Currently, there is a considerable amount of waste.

## School Self Evaluation

As part of our School Self Evaluation we will be working on Wellbeing among Students and Staff. As part of this initiative a student council



has been elected as a means of giving our students a voice in school matters.

### Our Student Council Members – Róise Ní

Cheallaigh, Noah Geraghty, Seán Coffey, Sarah Nevin, Tom Divilly and Emma Lyons.

## Gaelbhhratach



Our school will be participating in 'The Gaelbhhratach Scheme' throughout the coming year.

The Gaelbhhratach is an award scheme recognizing schools that actively promote the use of the Irish language throughout the school. All staff and students will be encouraged to use more Irish throughout the day.



We are delighted welcome back Mags Kearney providing our 'Breakfast & After School Club' on site each school day. This is a vital service for the future of

our school. It is available to all children on a once off or continuous basis. It is hoped parents will support and promote this service in our school. Contact details for 'little tribes' service are available here [Little-Tribes-Breakfast-After-School-Club](#)

## Swimming



**C**hildren from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will participate in swimming lessons beginning Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> November for six consecutive weeks in Ballinasloe pool.

Due to the high drop out rate last year our school ended up paying for lessons and bus transport resulting in a cost of €500 to our school .

If there is a high dropout rate this year swimming will not go ahead. This will result in us losing our school place with Ballinasloe Swimming Pool.

Cost of Swimming per child will be €75. School has subsidised this at €8 per child.

**This cost is based on all children attending.** If you wish your child/children to attend swimming lessons please confirm by signing the attached form.

**coming weeks. Children will be informed what day the drill will take place. Please speak with your child about this.**

## Christmas Drama!



All classrooms will stage a drama on **Wednesday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 11am.

Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be served.

## Staff Training

Our school will be closed to accommodate staff training on the New Curriculum on the following dates

**February 5<sup>th</sup> 2026- School Closed**

**May 7<sup>th</sup> 2026 - School Closed**

Please see attached for information on the New Curriculum.

## Word from the Principal

Should you have any concern or query please do not hesitate to contact the teaching staff or myself on [gallachns@hotmail.com](mailto:gallachns@hotmail.com) or 090 9678433. Wishing your children every happiness and success as we work through the new academic year together.

Mise le Meas,

*Anna Maher*  
**FIRE DRILL**

**We will have fire drill practice in the**

