



Castleknock National School

September 2026 Newsletter



We are looking forward to a busy and exciting school year in CNS! A warm welcome to our new staff and pupils, all of whom seem to be settling in well.

World Food Day Proceeds

Some of the money raised by 6th Class at the World Food Day/School Sale last June was used to purchase a number of playground games which will be introduced at break times over the coming weeks.



IMPORTANT DATES

Junior Infants Parents Information Evening

Wednesday 30 September at 7.00 pm

Parents' Association AGM

Wednesday 30 September at 8.00 pm (following the Junior Infants Parents Information evening).

We hope as many parents as possible will attend.

Mid Term Break

School will be closed from 26th – 30st October and will re-open on **Monday 2nd November**.

School Carol Service

Sunday 13th December at 11.30 am in St Brigid's Church.

Hot Lunches and lunchboxes

Log in details have been provided to all new pupils in the school and those who had previously opted out of lunches. If you know in advance that your child will be missing school for a day or more, please log in and on the menu select no product for that day(s). This greatly reduces the amount of food wastage.

Those who have Carambola lunchboxes from last year, please ensure to bring them in each day to bring home the remains of their lunches. We have provided replacements to those whose have been damaged or lost over the summer.

All new pupils receiving hot lunches have been provided with a Carambola lunch box to bring home the remains of their hot lunch each day so parents can see how much they are eating.

We only have a limited number of spare boxes so please ensure that your child brings back their Carambola lunch box each day.

Please ensure that the snack being sent in for little break is a healthy option.

Afterschool Activities:

We have a great range of afterschool activities on offer at school – Homework Club, Art, Technology, Chess, Multi-sport, Lego and Cross stitch, these commenced on 7th September. If you haven't signed your child up and you would like them to participate in afterschool activities, please contact Olive in the school office to sign them up.

Please make sure to collect your child/children promptly at the front of the school after activities.

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

Castleknock National School is a 'Smart Phone Free' school and pupils are discouraged from wearing smart watches and/or bringing smart phones to school. Those that wish to do so, even on an occasional basis, must complete a Permission Form and devices are left in the Principal's office during the day. If your child may be wearing a smart watch and/or bringing a mobile phone to school and you have not completed the permission form, please ask Ms Moloney for a copy of the form.

We would also remind parents of the need to monitor all online activity carefully and regularly.

WhatsApp Groups

The Parent's Association operates WhatsApp groups for each class for sending notices and reminders about various PA activities and events. Parents may only join the WhatsApp group for the class that their child(ren) are in.

There are a second set of WhatsApp groups in each class, these are operated independently by parents in the class to share birthday invitations and to assist parents in checking homework set if a child has forgotten to write it down or it isn't legible. We would ask that the parents who are operating these would ensure that only parents of children in the specific class are permitted to be part of those WhatsApp groups.

The logo for Art2Fund, featuring the text "Art2Fund" in a stylized font. "Art" is in red, "2" is in blue, and "Fund" is in red. The logo is set against a yellow background.

As the children enjoyed their participation so much last year, CNS will be once again joining the *Educational Art Weeks*, a creative art project by Art2fund. 2nd-5th Class will be participating in this project. The aim is to inspire every child, at their own level, to create a true work of art. To do this, the children will explore world-famous artists and their work.

During the Educational Art Weeks, every child is an artist!

Each age group will focus on different artists: 2nd class on Andy Warhol, 3rd Class on Karel Appel, 4th Class on Joan Miró and 5th Class on Henri Matisse. After learning about "their" artists, the children will get creative with a hands-on art project inspired by these masters.

Once their art project is submitted to Art2Fund, each student will receive a free **printed card featuring their own artwork** to celebrate their creativity. Every child will also have a **personal private online Museum** where they can invite family and friends (with a little help from you) to view their artwork. Naturally, each Museum includes a **Shop** where **fun souvenirs** can be ordered — all printed with your child's art. Imagine, just like Van Gogh or Miró, having your own painting on a mug or placemat — how special is that!

The final part of the project will see the children see and discuss their artworks by viewing them in class in the Class online Museum. The school will also receive a large poster of all the children's artwork which we will display so parents can appreciate all the wonderful art produced by the children.

We're sure your child will surprise both you and themselves with a wonderful piece of art.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flu Vaccinations

The school have booked McCabes Pharmacy to come in on Wednesday 21 October to administer free Nasal Flu Vaccines to any pupils who wish to avail of this. Further information on the flu vaccine and details of how parents can book their child(ren) in to receive the vaccine will be circulated by email to parents in due course.

OTHER NEWS

Staff updates

We are delighted to welcome Ms Stephens permanently to the staff, she will be teaching 3rd Class this year. We also welcome Ms Harte and Ms Boyle to the staff this year, they have joined Ms O'Brien Carroll in support.

Illness in School

As we are all working very hard to keep illness out of the school, please do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms

*A temperature of 38 degrees or higher

*A sore throat

*A cough

*A tummy bug (vomiting or diarrhoea) in the past 48 hours

If your child becomes unwell during school hours we will ask you to take them home promptly.

We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



Pencil Case

Please check your child's pencil case regularly to ensure they have everything they need on their stationery list. All pupils need to have **their own** pencils, rulers, colours etc and label them if possible for ease of return.

Head Lice

This is a recurring problem each school year. In order to prevent it becoming a problem this year, please could **all** parents check their children's hair regularly and treat accordingly. These pests require everyone to be vigilant.

Stationery Fee:

Thank you to everyone who has paid their Stationery money already. May I remind any parents who have not paid their Fees (€35 per child) to do so as soon as possible. If you are unsure if you have yet paid please check your Databiz Eolas App or email Olive in the office to confirm payment.

Permissions

Thank you to all the parents who have completed the permissions on the Databiz Eolas app over the past number of weeks. This has been a very smooth way of collecting all the permissions we require for the children for the academic year. If at any time during the year a parent wishes to change any of the permissions, please log into your Databiz Eolas app and update them.

Behaviour & Supervision

Please remind all pupils that climbing on fences/gates & cycle racks is strictly forbidden. Please be respectful of the area in front of the parish centre and do not use the flower bed as a playground. Please be respectful of St Brigid's school and do not enter their yard or ours before 2pm at pick-up time. Good manners and behaviour are expected from all pupils at all times!

Parking

Parking is available at St Brigid's School in Beechpark Avenue or at the local shops. There is no parking available for parents at the front of the school. Parking there is strictly staff only. We would also ask that parents do not pull in to that car park area at drop off or pick up times as it can be quite dangerous with children and parents trying to enter and exit the school at that time

Lost property

All the lost property left at the end of last year was washed over the summer period and donated to the local charity shops. We would encourage parents to ensure that all their children's property, particularly coats are jumpers, is named (even writing the name on the tag with a marker will suffice) as it makes returning it to them much easier. If your child is missing any jumpers or coats or other items, please call into the office at drop off or pick up to check our lost property pile.

Dogs on Premises

No dogs should be brought into the school yard by children, parents or guardians at any time before, during or after school. It does not matter if they are on or off leads, in arms or in carriers, they must not be brought onto the premises.

