

November 2021

St. Brendan's NS

The Square, Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We really enjoyed meeting with all our parents last week. These meetings are so valuable to your child's education and we appreciate you making the time to attend.

In this newsletter I will outline our plans for the Christmas festivities. We are still quite restricted but we will make the most with what we can do. We still have not had a Covid case in school and this is all down to everyone's vigilance. Continue to monitor your child and if in any doubt, exercise caution and follow public health advice.

Yours sincerely,

Eilís Treacy

School Principal

Reading

A central theme to our parent teacher meetings this year was **reading**.

We aim to foster a love of reading here in Eyrecourt NS and we now have 1st to 6th class visiting the library weekly.

However, due to the lockdowns we have extra work to do on **reading fluency**. This is your child **reading aloud**. This needs practice and is a vital part of their homework.

In the junior classroom, the focus is on **sight words**. These are the basic words children should know by sight (at, the, and, he, look). The sight word stories sent home need to be read and reread and reread again.

In the middle room, there is still a focus on sight words as these children are behind because of lockdowns. Ms McGrath and Ms McGettigan have sent home reading packs and these need to be followed every night as part of homework.

From 2nd class upwards, children have their **Reading Zone** story to read. It should be read **3 times every night**. The aim is to have your child reading the story fluently by the end of the week. The first night could need some help with tricky words but as the week goes on your child just needs someone to listen as they read.

The Reading Zone stories and sight word stories are homework. They should be completed like a written exercise, they are not bedtime stories. They require concentration and effort but it will really pay off in the long run!



Upcoming Events

<http://www.eyrecourtns.ie/calendar.php>
for full year of school holidays and
important dates

Tues 21st Dec

Festive Walk

Wed 22nd Dec

Christmas Holidays

Money collections:

Photographs

The extra group photos taken in November must be purchased through the school. Proofs were sent out yesterday.

Christmas Annuals

Order forms were sent home today for the Christmas Annuals. Each cost €3

Carnival	Infants
Fairground	1 st / 2 nd
Parade	3 rd /4 th
Festival	5 th /6 th

There are also culturally diverse annuals available: Winterland (infants) and Wonderland (1st/2nd)

Secretary:

Patricia is in the school office

Mon-Thurs 9am-11am

090 9675362

office@eyrecourtns.ie

Cash for Clobber

Cash for Clobber was a great success. We counted 91 bags in the morning but more arrived throughout the day. 760kg was collected and this will result in about €300 (40c per kg). We are putting the money towards our Green Schools projects. This year, led by Ms. McGettigan, we are working towards our biodiversity flag.

Our first project will hopefully start tomorrow. We plan on planting 27 window boxes of spring bulbs!



Google Classroom

The words "Google Classroom" probably cause an allergic reaction to us all, but just to be safe, we are setting up and launching our Google classrooms again.

Teachers will use the parental email address listed on Aladdin up to 3rd class. If you have a preferred email address, please contact the teachers directly: amcgrath@eyrecourtns.ie, amcgettigan@eyrecourtns.ie.

As before, the senior room pupils will work more independently. Over the next few days we will have them all set up with their own email addresses. Parents can still join the Google Classroom and contact aclarke@eyrecourtns.ie.

I will be on each teachers Google Classroom and I will also set up my own to share resources with my various groups. etreacy@eyrecourtns.ie

Christmas Festivities at Eyrecourt NS

Bearing in mind the current situation and restrictions we believe we have come up with a suitable way to spread some Christmas cheer!

Last year the senior room ran a "Santa Dash". We are going to expand the idea this year and have a "Festive Walk" for all the school. We are asking each child to dress festively (some Santa suits might reappear from last year) and we are going to walk a lap of the village spreading festive cheer. We will have music and spectators will be welcome to join in on Christmas carols. Teachers



are working on some bell/percussion accompaniments also. This walk will be held on Tuesday 21st December at 1pm.

We plan to host a Christmas jumper day on Friday 17th December for charity and we also plan to watch a good Christmas Panto online.

Each classroom will also have their own activities on the lead up to Christmas and while we are restricted again, we will make the most of what we can do!