

# PETNS Newsletter

## December 2012

20/12/2012

Volume 2, Issue 2

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### Shoe Box Appeal

Thanks to all who contributed to our Shoe Box Appeal. All boxes have been delivered to people in need. Your support is greatly appreciated.



We have had a very busy Term 1 in Powerstown Educate Together National School.

Children have participated in numerous activities and outings as well as partaken in lots of educational workshops.

### Workshops & Visitors

We had very special visitors from Dog's Trust; Fiona & Jake. The children listened to a workshop about keeping animals safe and discussed how to look after animals properly.

We had a Green School Visitor, Trish Kennedy who was accompanied by Derek McKitterick, the Litter Warden. They showed us the Green Flag and told us what we have to do to earn our first Green Flag here at PETNS.

Our Community Gardaí, Dáire and Chris called into us to discuss Safety in our Community. They hosted a fun interactive talk, where we discussed keeping safe in the dark.

We were very lucky to have a special visitor to speak to us all about Birds. Mike Glynn hosted three different workshops for each class. He showed us lots of pictures of different birds and let us listen to the beautiful songs they sing. He also prepared lots of fun activities for us to do based on birds.

### Parental Involvement

Chestnut Class were very lucky to have Shalima come in and do some baking with them. Shalmia showed the boys and girls how to make delicious buns. They all really enjoyed getting to taste them!

A Big Thank You to all parents who participated in Language Week. You helped make it a great success. All children thoroughly enjoyed hearing stories, songs and rhymes from different languages all around the world. Children were very proud when their parents stood up at the top of the classroom!

To mark Pet Day, we had some very special visitors to the class; including rabbits and cats. Children got to hear all about different animals, and got to touch them.

We marked Math's Week by having lots of fun math's activities; including a Math's trail, math's quizzes and a "Maths for Fun Day." Thanks to all parents for coming in to play fun math's activities with the children. You helped make it a very memorable day!

We did lots of fun experiments during Science Week. Parents came in to do some experiments with us. Senior pupils also hosted workshops with the Junior Pupils which was great to see.

Many thanks to all parents who came in to talk to the children about Diwali. We thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the Festival of Lights



## Fundraising— Cake Sale, Winter Fair & Winter Singing

A big **Thank You** to our entire school community who have supported our fundraising initiatives in Term 1.

Our Cake Sale in October was a huge success. We raised € 200 which was used towards the purchase of Jaggo Blocks. These blocks cost €650. There are very impressive. Both teachers and

pupils are looking forward to using them in Aistear.

Our Winter Fair last week was a fantastic community day! Thanks to the PTA for their assistance in organizing it. The Winter Fair raised €1058.

Winter Singing in Blanchardstown was also very successful. The Senior Pupils and Cróna did an amazing

job! A big thank you to Diarmuid and Briain for accompanying us! We had a fantastic group of very talent musicians and singers representing the school. . We raised €268.

All Winter Fundraising money is going towards the purchase of a graded reading scheme for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th class.

## Festive Fun

In true December style, everyone has been working hard to develop the winter atmosphere in the school.

Children have been doing some beautiful winter writing and have been designing lots of Winter items including snowmen and stars. Senior pupils have a fantastic Winter Writing Display on the corridor, which is well worth a look!

### Garda Band

The Garda Band came to the school today, Thursday to help get us in the festive spirit. Thanks to our local Inspector Vincent Connolly for bringing them to our school!

### Winter Performance

Children and teachers have also put a lot of time into preparations for the Winter Performance.

Chestnut class performed "Santa lost his hat."

Ash class performed their own rendition of "The

Littlest Christmas Tree."

Oak Class had a unique performance called "Superheroes."

There was also be a reciting of the poem Jack Frost.

Ash class have been learning Lámh signs throughout the year, and performed "Santa Claus is coming to town" with accompanying Lámh signs.

Some of senior children will also performed a trio!

Parents and friends were invited to stay for some mulled wine and mince pies before taking the children home for Winter Break.

Remember school re-opens on Monday. 7th January 2013 @8.30am



## Health and Safety—Unsupervised Children

Parents, school does not start until 8.30am.

**YOUR child should be supervised by YOU** until they are received by their class teacher @8.30am.

Under NO circumstances are you permitted to leave your child on the school grounds (inside or out) unsupervised until 8.30am.

Although Helena is outside in the morning, she is not there to supervise children. She is there to greet parents and children !

Under no circumstances are children permitted to come into the school building in the morning unless the door is opened by Helena.



## E- School: Phone Numbers, Text Alerts and Email Addresses

To cut down on the use of paper and photocopying we are in the process of becoming an "E-school".

### Phone Numbers & Alerts

We send out regular text reminders to parents. If you have not received text alerts and/or change your mobile number, please let the office and/or your child's class teacher know as soon as possible.

Please note that when your child is absent, our computer system automatically sends out a text to you.

### Email Addresses

To become an "E-School" we need to maximize the use of electronics to communicate with parents. We hope to email all letters to parents. So please regularly check

your inbox and make sure we have an email address for you that you use!

### School Website:

The school website is a great forum for communication. Please check school website regularly for information, school calendar, updates and class blogs for information about your child's class.



# Attendance

## 8.30am Start Time

Please note that school starts every day at 8.30am. It is important that your child arrives to school on time. The school day is very busy and routine is very important for children. It is very difficult and upsetting for the boys and girls to come into class when teaching has already commenced.

### Absence:

All teachers follow a standardized curriculum, outlined by the Department of Education and Skills. Each day is very busy in school. And children learn

lots of new things every day. Please ensure your child attends school every day when possible. Your child should only be absent when he/she is sick and/or in extreme circumstances.

It is important that you take family holidays during the school holidays. Family holidays are not a valid reason of absence from school.

For all absences please ensure you use the absence explanation template so a written explanation is on file .

Under Education Welfare

Act we are legally obliged to report any concern in attendance and when your child misses 20 days of school.

The school can be asked to present reasons for absence , that is why we require a written record for our files.

### Finish Time

If you are going to be late collecting your child, please phone the school on 01 8272018 and let us know in advance.



## Emergency Contact Details



Parents, please ensure your phone is turned on AT ALL TIMES. There have been numerous occasions where we have been trying to contact parents and their phones have been turned off. This is very worrying as if there is an emergency we need to be able to contact you.

Please ensure we have at least one emergency contact person for your child, other than parents, in case we cannot get in touch with you.

## Green Schools



Powerstown have made a huge effort to become a Green School this year. Lots of parents and children bring in items for us to use during art. The recycling point has moved to that back of the school so please leave any items in the basket by the front door and the children will sort it later.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the children and parents that brought in mobile phones for recycling. We have collected 15 phones so far for the Jack & Jill Foundation. If we reach 100 we can get a new laptop for one of the classes so please have a look around your house during the holi-

days for anymore!

Don't forget we also have a battery recycling point so keep any old batteries over the holidays and bring them in for January too.

Thanks for all your help this year and please keep it up for 2013!

## December 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## January 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Schedule of Events—December

- 16th Dec: Winter Fair 1—4pm
- 17th: Winter Singing, Blanchardstown Shopping Centre 10am—12noon
- 18th: Junior Classes visit Gaelscoil to see dress rehearsal
- 20th: Garda Band visit @ 11am
- 21st: Winter Play @ 9.45am
- 21st: School closes at 12 noon

### Schedule of Events—January

- 7th: School re-opens ‘ 8.30am
- 8th: Green School Workshop
- 7th—18th: Religions of the World.. Children will be briefly introduced to a variety of religions. If you are willing to share your beliefs with the pupils please let your child’s class teacher know!
- 20th Jan—1st February: We are celebrating Music from around the World. If you play a musical instrument or sing, we would be delighted if you would come in and share your talents with us. If you have some traditional music/songs on CD’s we would be delighted if you would share them with us!

## Note from Ann, our Secretary

Dear Parents,

I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Ann Dunne and I am the new school Secretary. I have been working in the school since September.

I am really enjoying my time working here. The staff and children in the school are a pleasure to work with. As the school is growing, the office is starting to get really busy now!

Just to let you know that my office is open from 9-12 Monday to Friday. If you have any queries in relation to school matters, please feel free to drop into me or phone me during these hours.

I would like to take this opportunity to you Wish you a joyful Holiday Season and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Ann

# News from the Oak class!

## Class Trips:

This term we have had lots of fun and gone on some great class trips. In October we went to the Pearse Museum and St. Enda's Park. We learned about how different schools were long ago and we also discovered lots of interesting facts in the nature exhibition. In November we went to the National History Museum to find out all about the Stone Age and to try out some of our own cave painting. Check out our class blog to see our photos and comments about our trips! We are really looking forward to going on lots more class trips in the New Year. We would like to extend a big thank you to Vincent Connolly of Blanchardstown Garda Station for driving us in his bus.



## Student Council:

This term we ran a campaign to elect the members of our first Student Council. We made posters to display in the corridors and we made speeches for all the students and teachers in the school. We then held a vote and elected two representatives from each class. Congratulations to Kevin Oboye and Adesuwa Ugiagbe from the Oak class who will represent our class on the council. We look forward to hearing all your great ideas in the New Year!

## Tree Day

We learned about the hedgerow and woodland habitat as part of our celebration of National Tree Day on October 11<sup>th</sup>. We went on a nature walk and investigated the different plants that we found. Look at our class blog for pictures!



## Science Week

We celebrated Science Week at the beginning of November and we carried out lots of fun and interesting experiments. In the Oak class we learned about the shapes that are strongest in buildings and bridges, we built our own structures in class and tested how strong they were. We also learned how to make lava lamps and then we taught the Chestnut and the Ash class how to do it

## Winter Singing:

In December we learned lots of carols and winter songs and we sang them in Blanchardstown Shopping Centre. We made €268 which we will spend on new books for our class! Well done Oak Class!



## Winter Writing Competition:

This month 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> learned how to write instructions. We had a writing competition in which we wrote instructions to build a snowman. We also wrote beautiful winter poems. Congratulations to the winner of this writing competition, Kevin Oboye!



## Project Work:

In the New Year we will be carrying out lots of project work in the Oak Class. We will be working hard to gain the Discover Primary Science awards through our science work. We will also be learning about Europe and the European Union as part of the Blue Star project. We are really looking forward to learning new computer skills and participating in lots more fun activities and trips as part of these projects.



# News from the Chestnut Class!

## Diwali:

Chestnut Class celebrated Diwali in November. The children heard the story of Rama and Sita and talked about the different characters. We talked about Diwali lamps and then children made their own out of clay. They coloured in beautiful Rangoli patterns that we hung up for display



## Science Week

For Science Week we had lots of parents come into class to help all the children with all the amazing science experiments. Later in the week the senior classes came down to show us how to make our very own lava lamps! Chestnut Class thought they were amazing and we learnt a lot about liquids.



## Bird Watch with Mike Glynn

In December we had a special visitor come in to us and talk about all the different types of birds we have around us. Mike talked to the children about where birds make their homes and the noises they make. The children had a lot of fun trying to sound like the birds and when everyone make a crow sound at the same time they all sounded like a very convincing rookery!

## Gardaí Visit

We were also very lucky to have the Gardaí come and visit our class a few weeks ago.

The children loved talking to the Gardaí and one boy was even lucky enough to wear his hat for a little while! They talked to the class about staying safe on the roads and how we can cross the road safely.



## Aistear

For the month of December in Aistear the theme was 'Santa's Grotto'. All the children got to make beautiful stocking and Christmas trees during Junk Art, they wrote letters and greeting cards during Free Writing and for Drama all the boys and girls got to pretend they were Santa's helpers in his grotto. They had a lot of fun and are really looking forward to our new theme of 'The Doctors' in January!

# News from the Ash Class!



## GAA Coaching:

The Ash class began their GAA coaching with James in November. They have been learning throwing, catching and kicking



## Aistear:

The children explored the themes of the post office and the Elves Workshop in Aistear in November and December.



## Shared Reading:

Thank you also to the parents who have come in so far for shared reading on Monday mornings. All parents are welcome to join us 8.30-8.40am every Monday and this will continue in January. We would also love to hear stories in other languages so if you have any children's story books at home that you would like to share with us in another language we would love to hear them too!

## Science for fun:

Science week 2012 ran from 11-18th November. To celebrate it we ran Science for fun on Thursday 15th November 8.30-9am in the Ash class. The theme of our experiments was 'sounds around us', we made some musical instruments from junk materials, experimenting with making sound travel and watching how sound causes vibrations. Thank you to all of the parents who attended.

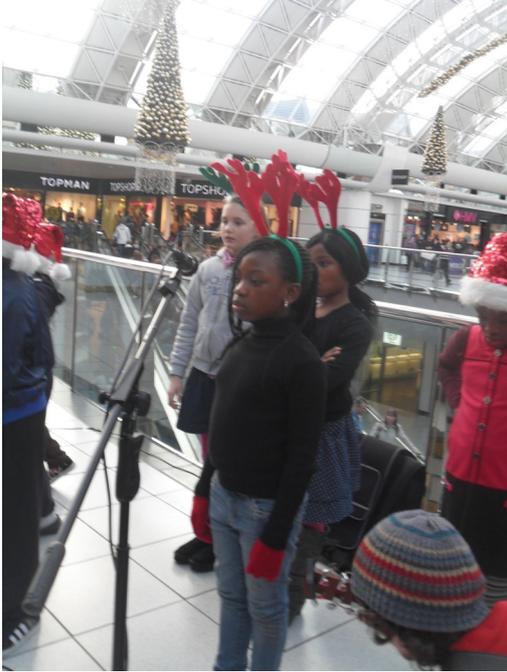
## Mike's Bird Talk:

On Monday 10th December Mike Glynn came in to speak to the children about native Irish birds. He showed us a presentation of pictures of the birds, and we listened to the sounds that the birds make. We got to look at bird houses for the different birds and bird feeders. Mike gave us some useful tips for feeding birds over the winter.

## Our trip to the Gaelscoil:

On Tuesday 18th December the Junior and Senior Infants visited the Gaelscoil to watch their Winter play. We really enjoyed being back in our old school and seeing their excellent performance. Thank you to Fergus, Nóinín and all the Naíonáin for having us!

# Gallery







## **Festive Greetings from Staff**

Parents, Guardians and Friends, Thank you all so much for your continuous support towards Powerstown Educate Together National School. We have had a fabulous and eventful first term in our new school building. The pupils and teachers have done fantastic work this term, and it is a joy to see the children's work displayed throughout the school. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy holiday! I look forward to seeing you all on January 7th and hearing about your Winter Break adventures.

***Best wishes, Helena Regan (Principal)***

I would like to thank Chestnut Class for all their hard work this year! I hope everyone has a lovely holiday and a very Happy New Year to everyone! ***Katie Flynn (Chestnut Class)***

Thank you for your continued support; from the work you do with your child at home to attending school events. It has been great working with you in this first term and I look forward to seeing you all again in January for term two! I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday. ***Lorraine Cullivan (Ash Class)***

I hope everyone has a nice relaxing and peaceful holiday. Looking forward to seeing you all back again in the New Year! ***Cróna Glynn (Oak Class)***

Hi Everyone, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all happy and healthy holidays and a joyful new year for 2013. I hope you all get a well deserved rest and have lots of fun with friends and family. Look forward to seeing you all in the new year. Best wishes, ***Deirdre Mulhern***

I am delighted to have gotten to know all of the pupils in Powerstown ETNS in my first term here. I took one of the Senior After School Clubs and we did sport. We tried lots of different things, including Basketball, Football, Hurling, Hula Hooping and Olympic Handball which brought out a great team spirit in the Senior Class! Keep an eye on the School Website for photographs. I am looking forward to working with all of the children again in the New Year. I would like to Wish everyone a safe a peaceful Christmas and New Year! ***Gráinne Ryan***

May your world be filled with warmth and good cheer this festive season and throughout the year. ***Sharon Carr***

Wishing all family and friends a very happy and healthy New Year. ***Andy Flaherty***

