



# Powerstown Educate Together NEWSLETTER 14

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2011



## Winter Crafts Fair



A big thank you to everyone that supported our Winter Craft Fair.

Thanks to Browne Barbers, Sharon, Katie, Lorraine & Helena for donating raffle prizes.

Thanks to Santa for donating the presents.

We raised €760 for the school!

### Winter Performance - Santa's Hat



The children have had a very busy week! On Monday the Radio station 92.5 Phoenix Fm recorded the children's dress rehearsal of the play Santa's Hat. It will be streamed online at 11am today. They will also save it as a podcast on their website [www.phoenixfm.ie](http://www.phoenixfm.ie).

On Wednesday, we did a full dress rehearsal of the play and video recorded it. We are currently in the process of editing it and we will upload it onto our website over the holidays.

A big congratulations to all the boys and girls, who did a fantastic performance for their parents, family and friends today! We are super proud of all the work and preparations they did for today's show!

### Hanukkah (20<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> December)

This week the children learnt about Hanukkah and the use of the Hanukkah candles.

### Frásaí na Seachtaine



We will continue with Frásaí na Seachtaine after the winter break!  
Nollaig Shona Duit!

### Language of the Month - POLISH

In January the language of the month will be Polish! If you can help the teachers learn a few phrases and/or poems please let us know. Thanks

### English Station Teaching

As we have now completed our 42 Jolly Phonics Letter Sounds, we will be progressing to blending and word lists. Our stations during English will change to two reading stations and two writing stations.

At the reading stations, children will be introduced to blending letters, reading words, making words using letters, reading sentences, making sentences using words and reading stories.

At the writing stations, children will be focusing on the formation of letters (using cursive writing), writing their name, pre-writing and emergent writing skills.

Please encourage your child to use **CURSIVE** writing when writing at home.

If you would be interested in observing an English Lesson, please let Helena know at the office.

## January Theme:

When we return to the school in January, we will be focusing on the theme Transport. If you have any toys/books/posters about transport that you would like to donate, we would be very grateful.

## Department of Education Numeracy & Literacy Strategy

The department of education have set up a new strategy to improve literacy and numeracy levels in Ireland.

This affects the school in numerous ways.

- The amount of time spent on English has to increase by one hour. Therefore we will be spending 4 hours per week on English lessons
- The amount of time spent on Maths has to increase by 70 minutes. Therefore we will be spending 3 hours 25 minutes per week on Maths
- To ensure we enforce these changes, we have to change our class timetable

I have attached the strategy for parents to read if they are interested. It can also be read in PDF format at [http://www.education.ie/admin/servlet/bl\\_observlet/lit\\_num\\_strat.pdf](http://www.education.ie/admin/servlet/bl_observlet/lit_num_strat.pdf)

## Timetable changes

All children need to be in school @ 8.30am. Reception time which includes social skills, motor skills & language development, as well as phonics 1 to 1 tuition is now limited to 10 minutes. Formal classes eg. Our News / Station teaching will start @ 8.40am.

Helena will need to be in the classroom from 8.40am. Therefore the office door will be closed & parents will have to ring the bell to gain entrance to the school. Sharon will let parents in &

ask parents to sign the Late Arrival Book.

## Late Arrival Book

We will be starting a "Late Arrival" Book in the office. All parents & children who arrive to the school after 8.40am will be asked to fill in the Later Arrival Book. Parents will write the date, their name, their child's name and time of arrival into the book.

## Collection Book

We will also have a Collection Book for parents/guardians/minders to sign. If, for whatever reason a parent/guardian/minder cannot collect their child or is going to be late, it is important to ring the school in advance.

If a person unknown to the staff collects your child, please let us know in advance & he/she will be required to complete the collection book.

If you do not inform us about this person, we CANNOT release your child until we make contact with you.

If a child is collected after 1.20pm parents/guardians will be required to complete the collection book.

## Thank You

Katie, Lorraine, Sharon and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you very much for your support, hard work and dedication to Powerstown ETNS. We have had a fantastic first term, and have really enjoyed getting to know you and the children. We would like to wish you all a Happy Winter & wish you happiness & joy for 2012. Helena

## Dates to Remember

School Re-opens @ 8.30am on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2012.