



# Powerstown Educate Together NEWSLETTER 18

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012

## PTA MEETING

Thanks to all who attended the PTA meeting last night.

The PTA has decided to organise a school photographer. The photographer will come to the school & take individual and group photographs of the children.

A clothes collection will also be organised for May.

The open day for the school will be Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

## GAA

GAA starts TOMORROW (Friday)! Please make sure children wear runners and tracksuits. There is a GAA coach coming to the school EVERY Friday to teach the children a variety of skills. This term they will be focusing on Gaelic Football.



## English

We are making great progress with our blending. We are continuing to blend 2 letter, 3 letter and 4 letter words.

We are developing our emergent literacy skills. We are learning about the front of a book, the back of the book, the title, the illustrations. We are learning to read from left to right, top to bottom. Some of us are starting to recognise that the beginning of a sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop.

## Maths

This week in maths we were continuing to look at patterns. We looked at

patterns by colour, shape and size. We created patterns using 2, 3 and 4 different objects.

Capacity was also introduced this week. We looked at lots of different containers, and started using the words full and empty.

## SAILS READING SCHEME

Next week we will start to introduce the children to the SAILS reading scheme. Every week 8 parents will be invited to attend a brief (10 minute) workshop to introduce them to the SAILS Reading Scheme.

SAILS is an individualised reading programme i.e. your child is encouraged to read the book by themselves.

Inside the back cover of every reader there are some guidelines for you to assist your child in developing their literacy skills.

The books focus on introducing High Frequency Words i.e. words that appear most often in written English such as "a", "the" etc.

There are 2 worksheets per word that the children must complete. These worksheets will be written activities that encourage your child to identify the correct word and to write the word using cursive writing.

Each parent will be given a letter as to when their "workshop" will be on. Any questions in relation to the SAILS reading scheme can be discussed at the workshop.

There will be 3 different workshops.



## Learn Together : Spring

Wednesday marked the first day of Spring. This week the children have been introduced to the season of Spring (the months February, March and April). Children are learning all about how things grow in spring e.g. flowers. Katie made a great powerpoint presentation to help children visualise the changes that occur in Spring. Children are also going to be introduced to animals and their young e.g. sheep and lamb, This week in art we are creating 3D daffodils.

## Frásáí na Seachtaine

Frásáí na Seachtaine this week is  
An bhfuil cead agam dul go dtí an...?  
(Can I go to the...?)

## 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



## January Theme: Transport

We completed some fantastic maps of our route to school this week. Children drew beautiful pictures detailing what they pass in their mornings before they get to school. We are almost finished our space shuttles! We will have a Powerstown Space Expedition Display for all to see on Monday!

## After School Clubs

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS IN FULL SWING!**

20 pupils are now participating in a variety of after school activities. Remember school finishes at 2.10pm on the day your child is attending an After School Club.

## Library

The Mobile Library visited us today! The children really enjoyed going out to the mobile library, picking their own book and speaking to the librarian. The librarian has given us all a library card, which Katie will mind in school for us.

## Strangers

*In the coming days we will be learning about Strangers, Children will learn...*

- That a stranger is anyone they don't know
- That most strangers are nice people
- Never to go anywhere with a stranger or take anything from a stranger.

## Suggestions for Parents/Guardians

Discuss with your child the meaning of the word 'stranger'. It's important to stress that most strangers are nice people and that we sometimes rely on strangers in times of trouble but that, at the same time, there are rules children should always use with strangers. Ask your child what he or she would do in different situations with strangers, such as if a stranger asks your child for directions or offers your child a lift. Stress that it's not rude to refuse to talk to strangers if your child feels unsafe. Discuss with your child the general rules: say 'No' - get away and tell.

## VACCINATIONS

**REMEMBER NEXT  
WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup>)  
CHILDREN ARE GETTING  
THEIR VACCINATIONS!**