



Powerstown Educate Together NEWSLETTER 20

Thursday 23rd February 2012

Moving Building

We have received written confirmation from the Department of Education & Skills that Powerstown ETNS will be moving into the 2 storey building on our current campus over the summer. The move will provide more space for our growing pupil numbers & will improve the facilities that Powerstown currently have on site.

Much help and support will be required from parents and the school community to help with the move. It will be a very exciting and new chapter in the development of Powerstown Educate Together National School.

The department have said that the move is granted under the following conditions:

- We do not seek relocation costs from the department of education.
- We move all existing furniture and equipment from our current building.
- The building is vacated by Mulhuddart N.S.
- We are responsible for our current building until August 31st 2012.

Official Open Day

On Monday, a letter will be sent out to parents looking for volunteers for the Open Day. An action plan for the open day will be displayed in the office. We need YOUR help to make the Open Day a success so please help out as much as you can!!!

GAA

Remember GAA is on every FRIDAY. Please make sure the children are wearing runners and appropriate clothing.



English

We are continuing our blending, early reading skills and handwriting

in English.

We have started to introduce the letter names to the children to correspond with the letter sounds. The children have a lovely alphabet song that they sing in class to help them remember the letter names.

We have also introduced the Dolch words to the children. Dolch words are a list containing 100 of the most common words used in text. The dolch words will become part of our sight vocabulary (words we recognise by looking at rather than sounding out the letters). We are starting to recognise the words by sight and are putting them into sentences.

Children are making good progress with their handwriting. We are encouraging the children to hold the pencil correctly. See picture below: The pencil is held by the thumb and the pointer finger & is supported underneath by the long finger.



Here is a link to a YouTube video that may help you support your child at home.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM_dia8QGr0.

Please encourage your child to use a PENCIL in their handwriting copy.

We have noticed that some of the children are continuing to write in block capital letters, especially when writing their name. Please encourage your child to use cursive (joined) writing.

Our individualised reading programme is going well. It is important to encourage your child to read their book to you every evening. This will greatly support their literacy skills. *Please remember that your child's book must be brought into school EVERY DAY.* A teacher will listen to each child's reading at least once a week therefore the book must be in school.

Maths

This week in maths we were looking at counting and number games. Children are practising counting between 0 and 6. We have been playing number games with dice. Games include: **Sweets in the Jar** - children roll the dice; the number rolled is the amount of sweets they can put in the jar. Each jar has a different number of sweets that can be placed into it. **Snail Trail**: Children roll the dice, the number rolled is the amount of snails they have to find. When they match the number on the dice to the right number of snails they put a counter on the snails. They continue until they have a counter on all the snails.

These activities are very good for promoting children's sight recognition of numbers / patterns on the dice. For example children see 6 dots - they

recognise that it is 6 without having to count each dot individually. It also promotes counting of objects on board games.

MATHS FOR FUN

Maths for fun starts on MONDAY February 27th. Parents are invited to come into the class for 10 - 15 minutes EVERY MONDAY to play some simple board games and counting games with the children.

We need your help to make Maths for Fun a success so please stay for at least one Monday morning. Thanks ☺

Frásáí na Seachtaine

Frásáí na Seachtaine this week is

Cá bhfuil... (Where is...?)

Tá sé ar an / sa / faoin

(He is on/ in/ under)

Field Trip

On Thursday March 8th we have our first Field Trip. We are going to an Air Rockets Workshop in Imaginosity as part of Engineers Week.

You all received letters during the week about the trip. We are charging the children €7. This covers the €6 charge into Imaginosity and a €1 contribution towards the bus. The school will cover the remaining costs.

The workshop is age appropriate to the pupils and each child will get the opportunity to design and make their own air rocket. They will also get time to explore and interact with Imaginosity exhibits.

Please return permission slip and €7 charge ASAP. Thanks ☺

MOBILE LIBRARY

Please return ALL LIBRARY BOOKS on TUESDAY March 28th as the Mobile Library is coming next week.

Learn Together: Children's Rights

We have introduced the rights of the child to the children. Every child was given a different right to bring home. The Parent & Child Project was to draw a picture symbolising the right. Thanks to all who have returned their completed pictures. They look great & should make a fantastic display.

In the coming week, we will be learning

- About Emily Logan, the Ombudsman for children & her job
- That when we have something to say it is important to be heard. Sometimes another person can help a child to be heard. Adults and children have a role in supporting children to be heard.

Fair Trade Fortnight Starts Feb 27th

Next week we will take our first step towards Fair Trade!

Why take a step? Because trade isn't working for the world's poorest...

Millions of people in developing countries depend on farming. But they are trapped in poverty by the rules of world trade, keeping those at the start of supply chains powerless to earn enough to cover their costs and with nothing to save for their families

But with just one step you can be part of changing this...

Choosing Fairtrade offers farmers and workers a better chance to work their way out of poverty, through fairer wages, safer conditions at work and a little extra, called the Fairtrade premium, to invest in projects to improve life for their whole communities.

What is Fairtrade? Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

Dates for Diary

Thursday March 8th:

Field Trip: Work shop in Imaginosity

Friday March 16th:

@12.30pm

Seachtain na Gaeilge Shó

Monday March 19th:

SCHOOL CLOSED - Bank Holiday

Tuesday March 20th:

School Photographs.