



Powerstown Educate Together NEWSLETTER 28

Thursday 3rd May 2012

SCHOOL CLOSED

MONDAY MAY 7TH &
TUESDAY MAY 8TH

Thank You!

Clothing Collection Week:

Thank you to all who participated in our clothing collection. A total of 197.5kg of clothing was collected!



REMINDER School Tour:

When: Thursday, May 17th

Cost: €15

Time: Normal day
8.30am - 1.10pm

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU RETURN THE PERMISSION SLIP WITH €15.

Library:

The mobile library will be in school on Thursday May 10th. Please RETURN BOOKS on Wednesday 9th of May.

After School Clubs

All after School clubs are now FULL! We have limited the numbers of pupils attending to 12. Places were allocated on a first come first served basis. This will allow for all children to maximise their participation in the after school activities.

After school activities start on Wednesday May 9th from 1.10pm - 2.10pm.

Learn Together: May Day

May Day (*Lá Bealtaine*), is the first Monday of May. It is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland. It is a

traditional Celtic festival and a time to campaign for workers right.

What do people do?

Fairs or communal meals are held in some villages and often see children or young people dance around a maypole. Some people attend Labour Day parades, demonstrations and celebrations in large cities, such as Dublin.

Background

The beginning of May is associated with the Celtic festival *Lá Bealtaine*. This marked the start of the season of blossoming flowers and fruit trees. Traditionally, bonfires are lit on the evening before May Day. Bonfires are large bonfires burning wood from a range of types of trees. The different types of wood had different spiritual meanings and were thought to play an important role in the fertility of the land and cattle in the coming year.

Symbols

The maypole is a symbol of May Day and fertility in the Republic of Ireland. A maypole is generally three or more meters (ten or more feet) tall and is decorated with colourful ribbons. Children and young people dance around the maypole on May Day. Each person holds one or more ribbons during the dancing. After the dances are completed, the ribbons are arranged to make a decorative pattern on the pole. The May Day dances traditionally signified the beginning of the courting season for young people.

English:

Our English stations are making great progress. We are continuing to develop our handwriting skills. We are reminding the children to hold their pencils correctly (using their thumb and their first finger, & only supported using middle finger). We are making great progress with our dolch words and are able to recognise the first 8 words & put them into our own sentences. We are also learning how to write words, by listening carefully. For example, the teacher says the word "tiger". The children are encouraged to listen to the sounds in the word and write the sounds in sequence to make the word.

We are continuing to develop our Report Writing Skills. This week we focused on the Zebra. We discussed what it looks like, what it likes to eat, where it lives and what it likes to do.

Maths:

This week in maths we are more than, less than and the same. Focusing on quantities between 1 and 10 the children are encouraged to recognise which groups have more than/less than or the same. Children were encouraged to create groups that had "more than/less than/same as" a specific quantity.

We also developed our understanding of money. Focusing on 1c, 2c and 5c coins, we are able to recognise and identify them and understand their values. We took turns playing the shopkeeper & shopper. We purchased a variety of items at different costs between 1c and 5c.

Irish

We are looking at different types of clothes and learning the Irish words

from them. We are learning different poems and rhymes all about clothes.

Frása na seachtaine: (Phrase of the week)

An bhfuil...ar (is...wearing...?)

An bhfuil geansaí ar Mamaí

(Is mammy wearing a jumper?)

Tá/Níl ... ar (...is/isn't wearing a....)

Tá/Níl geansaí ar Mamaí

(Mammy is/isn't wearing a jumper)

Dath na seachtaine: (Colour of the week)

dearg (red)

We have finished all the colours so we are now revising them.

Food Dudes

The children have been participating very well in our Food Dudes programme. Prizes will be given to all children to eat ALL their fruit and vegetables.

Aistear:

This week in Aistear we are focusing on mini beasts and living and non-living things. We have started sorting and categorising living and non-living things. We have also started describing the characteristics of living things such as spiders, ladybirds etc. We are in the process of creating our very own mini-beast habitats.

Danone Big Tuddle

We have decided to participate in the Danone Big Tuddle. This is a sponsored walk, with all proceeds going to Barnardos. We will do the "Big Tuddle" on 24th / 25th of May, weather permitting. We have sent home an information pack, with some danone vouchers for parents. The sponsorship form is included in the pack and also is a permission slip (on the back cover). Children can collect as much or as little sponsorship as parents wish.