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|  November 2020 Newsletter |
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Castleblayney HSCL



# Upcoming Parents Classes

## Cookery Classes

Tutor: Jacinta Carragher (The Honest Pantry)

Venue: Iontas

Time: Wednesday 2nd & 9th December 10-12

## Christmas Flower Arranging

Tutor: Martina Quinn

Venue: Castleblayney Enterprise Centre

Time: Tuesday 8th December 10-11am

**To book any classes please contact me on 087 - 1603973**

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Sinéad Mc Ardle 087-1603973

Email: castleblayneyhscl@outlook.com

Convent Junior School, Scoil na gCailíní, Scoil Mhuire na mBuachaillí

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| **HSCL Activities during Covid 19**Dear Parents/Guardians,I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some of the HSCL activities that have and are taking place since schools returned this year. Unfortunately due to Covid 19 the way we approach parental activities has had to be completely revisited to keep in line with HSE guidelines.  |
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##  Parents Classes

After careful consideration and in consultation with School Management I hope to operate a couple of Christmas themed classes for parents in the month of December. Spaces in each class will be limited, parents will be asked to wear face coverings and to maintain social distancing at all times. As DEIS schools we are very lucky to receive funding to pay tutors for these classes – therefore classes are all free of charge (excluding a small fee for materials e.g. Flower Arranging class). Please find a list of proposed classes on the right hand side of this page. Parent classes are a fantastic way to get to know other parents and to have fun learning a new skill – you can sign yourself up to a class by contacting me on **087-1603973.**

**Phonics Webinar Workshop**

Our Jolly Phonics workshop for Junior Infant & Senior Infant parents went virtual this year – thank you to all the parents that attended and also those that took part in one-to-one zoom meetings. If for any reason you couldn’t attend and would like to be taken through the presentation please do not hesitate to contact me! Phonics plays a huge part in how our children learn to read and write. The workshop gives parents an insight to the Jolly Phonics scheme and outlines activities a parent can do with their child at home to enhance their phonic knowledge.

# Cuddle & Read

# This year our Cuddle & Read initiative is taking place under a new format. Every Monday in November myself, the Junior Infant class teachers, and Support Staff read books to a small group of children. Each child takes a book home for Cuddle & Read time at home. The children are absolutely loving this special story time. We have loved seeing all your photos of families Cuddling & Reading at home. Please continue to send them in! We hope to run Cuddle & Read in senior Infants after Christmas as they missed out last year due to school closures.

World Children’s Day November 20th

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| Having a warm connected relationship with your children is definitely one of the most enjoyable aspects of parenting. Doing fun activities together, sharing experiences and having good conversations all make for creating deeply satisfying relationships between parents and children. Positive parenting expert John Sharry has suggested five practical ways parents can  build a warm relationship with their children: 1. Maintain a connection
2. Get to know their special interests
3. Try to have a daily “chatting” time with each of your children
4. Build shared hobbies together.
5. Take an interest in their friends and schoolwork.
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**Accelerated Reader**

Thank you to all the parents in the senior schools that attended the Accelerated reader webinar. Please feel free to contact me if you need assistance in accessing quizzes at home or would like AR explained in further detail.

## If you would like to know more information about anything in this newsletter, or have any ideas/suggestions/questions, do not hesitate to contact me on 087-1603973

Warmest Regards,

Sinéad.