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November 2022

Volume 26 Issue 3



Principal's Desk

Dear families,

Welcome back to school after our midterm break. I hope you all had a lovely week off and enjoyed the Halloween break. We had a very busy half term and we are looking forward to the coming weeks and the lead up to Christmas. (Is it too early to mention it??)

Over the last 2 months we have seen our U11 footballers, hurlers and camogie players representing our school in the Cumann na mBunscol competitions. The boys and girls played so well and I would like to say a big well done to them all. Our girls football team were narrowly beaten in a replay final and losing by 1 single point after extra time. A Big Thank You to all the teachers who got involved and gave up their time to train and bring the teams to matches. We will focus on Basketball for the coming months and in the Spring the U13 and U10 competitions will begin. It has been great to see the return of this vital part of school life.

We also had our 6th Class Guitar concert before Halloween and it was lovely to welcome parents back to the school for such an event. Thanks to Mr Don Nea for all his work with the two classes and Mr Corkery & Mr Rogers for preparing the children for the concert.

We had a lovely Maths week also organised by Mr Dunlea, Ms Duggan and Ms Naughton. This year we have also started some 'Lunchtime Clubs' for children from 3rd to 6th. These include Photography, Coding, Lego and Games clubs. Thanks to the teachers involved for giving up their time to provide other options for the boys and girls at lunch time.

There are some important updates in this Newsletter for you about the coming weeks and we'd ask that you read through this Newsletter to stay up to date with all that's going on in our school. It's a busy place.

Well done to all the boys and girls in the Infant classes who are making their way into school each morning from the gates on their own.

Regards

Alan Hobbins

Calendar

Dec. 2 nd	Children go home at 12 noon. (See below)
Christmas Break:	Closing 21 st Dec. Reopen 5 th Jan.
Feb. Bank Holiday	Monday Feb. 6 th
Feb Midterm:	Thurs. 16 th + 17 th Feb.
St Patrick's Day:	Friday 17 th + Mon. 20 th Mar.
Easter Break:	Closing 3 rd April
May Bank Holiday:	Mon 1 st May
June Bank Holiday Week:	June 5 th – 9 th
Summer Closure:	Friday 30 th June

Please Note: Children go home at 12 noon on the 2nd Dec. This is to facilitate teachers attend the Primary Language Curriculum Day as requested by the DES.

SWIM ROTA 2022 – 2023

DATES

Ms O'Connor 3 rd + Ms. Duggan 5 th 9/11, 16/11, 23/11, 30/11, 07/12, 14/12
Mr. Fitzgerald 5 th + Ms Troy 3 rd 11/01, 18/01, 5/01, 01/02, 8/02, 15/02
Mr. Dunlea 4 th + Ms. Naughton 4 th 22/02, 1/03, 8/03, 15/03, 22/03, 29/03
Ms. Hanly, Ms. Jennings, Ms. Ryan 2 nd 19/04, 26/04, 3/05, 10/05, 17/05, 24/05

Buses leave at 9.40 - Classes extended to 6 for €45.

Payment can be made online – the link will be forwarded on to you.

Swimming is part of the school curriculum



A big thank you to all who made up shoeboxes for the Christmas Shoebox appeal over the mid-term. The last day for us to receive boxes will be this Thursday. Thank you for the great support for this wonderful charity.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

As is our custom in Caragh school, we conduct our Parent Teacher Meetings in November. We complete these meetings for 1st to 6th Class. We allow the children in infant classes to settle further into the school year before completing their meetings at February time.

Over the last few years due to Covid we have conducted these meeting over the phone. This year we will offer parents the option of an in person meeting or a phone call. We understand that with work commitments a phone call may suit some parents, however we still want to provide the opportunity to come into school if preferred. To this end we will conduct:

**in person meetings on Tuesday 22nd November only
phone calls on Wednesday 23rd November only.**

We are trialing this year and we will learn from it going forward. We are not in a position to offer phone calls or in person meetings to everyone so we will do a mix of both. By the end of the week slots will become available for booking on the Aladdin App. A limited number of slots are available for each day. **If booking a phone call it will be necessary to indicate which parent is to be contacted and please add the correct phone number in the text field.**

You can make your booking from Monday 14th Nov. at 12 noon until Friday 18th at 3pm.

Witch/Monster Walk + 5K

As is our tradition we held our yearly 5K and Witch Walk before the Halloween. On Thursday our 6th class and some of the teachers ran the 5K run around the Parish field. It was a great achievement to see the boys and girls complete such a run after weeks of training with Ms Banks, Ms Doyle and Mr Rogers. Thanks to all the teachers for getting involved.

On Friday we all dressed up and walked the Parish field and through the village. It was lovely to see so many parents out to see the boys and girls. There was great excitement around the school.

As mentioned before the Witch Walk is one of our main fundraisers in the calendar year. We hope to use the money to pay for some new features on the yard and activities for the children at break times.

We have been so surprised and thankful for the generosity shown to our school. We are so lucky to have raised just under €10,000. Thank you all so much.



We are delighted to welcome back our Intel Judges this year as they question the 6th class on their scientific investigation and discoveries. This is always a great opportunity for the children to carry out an investigation of their choosing and then be thoroughly questioned by members of INTEL staff. The winning project this year was Electromagnetism by Danny Gilbride. They will now go forward to the regional competition later in the year.



Cumann na mBunscol

Our attention now turns to boys and girls' basketball. They have been in regular training during their lunch breaks and begin their competition this week with away games to Prosperous.

Our hurling, camogie and football teams have completed their competitions for the year. Our u/11 camogie competed in a 1-day blitz in E.O.C.C. Thanks to E.O.C.C. for making their facilities available to us.

Senior Hurlers were very competitive in Division 1 and were unlucky to lose out a semi-final position.

Under 11 Boys footballers, improved after a tough start and went on to give very good performance.

The hard luck and well-done story has to go to our u/11 girls who after a replay and 2 periods of extra time lost an outstanding final in Kilkullen.

Special thanks to our staff members who give up so much free time to give the children an opportunity to wear their school jersey.

Carol Service

We are delighted to be back with the Carol Service this year.

The date is Tuesday 20th Dec.

More details later

Green School

Green Tip: A 10-minute shower uses 60 litres of water. A 1-minute reduction will save 6 litres of water.

Did you know: Barn owls have very long legs, toes, and talons to catch prey hidden under long grass.

Our Green School continue to monitor our light and energy usage.

Save Stamps and Save Bogs

Don't throw away your old stamps – We need them!



Gold bracelet found the day of the witch walk. Collect in the school office.

Watch this space!!! From the Parents' Council



Fun family event
coming in
December



More details
to follow

Caragh Parish First Communion Programme

2022- 2023

September	24th & 25th
October	15th & 16th
November	12th & 13th
December	3 rd + 4 th
January	7th & 8th
February	25th & 26th
March	First Confessions: TBC
March	25th & 26th
April	22 nd & 23 rd
May	First Holy Communion Masses: TBC
June	10 th & 11th

Contact Orla in the Parish office for more details 045/875602

Memorial Service for babies, who passed away through miscarriage, Still birth and Neo Natal deaths

Our Lady & St. Joseph, Caragh:
Friday, November 28th @ 7pm. All are welcome

Caragh NS Homework Club

A reminder that there is a Homework Club in Caragh NS.

Caragh NS is running a Homework Club this year aimed at children from 1st - 6th class and will take place Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for an hour after school.

Under the supervision of teachers, Homework Club provides children with the opportunity to complete their homework in a quiet environment free from the distractions of home.

Cost €7 per day paid half termly

To book your child's place or for more information please email: cns homeworkclub@gmail.com

Before & After School Care

Limited Places Available

Before and after school child minding for a small pod of children attending Caragh N.S. in my home - Caragh, Naas.

Open 8am to 6pm.

- Garda vetted.
- Fully insured.
- Member of Child Minding Ireland.
- HSE 'Child First' certified.
- Paediatric First Aid trained.

CONTACT: Dee - 087 289 8368
deirdre@iserve.ie

SANTA VISIT TO CARAGH CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR 4th Dec.



**WHO'S BEEN NAUGHTY AND
WHO'S BEEN NICE!!**

Santa has added a visit to Caragh and will visit the Christmas Craft Fair once again at approx. 1.30pm with a helper or two to meet and greet as many children as he can (and adults too of course). Whether you've been naughty or nice, Santa will be delighted to see you and of course have a treat for all boys and girls who visit. He will collect any letters or lists ready on the day to ensure everything in the North Pole is ready for delivery on Christmas Day.



The annual Christmas Craft Fair takes place on Sunday 4th December from 12-4pm in Caragh Community Centre. The Craft Fair is noted for its wide array of stalls so you are sure to find a gift to suit everyone's tastes.

It is home to 30 exhibitors, filled with brightly decorated wooden stalls selling an array of unique yuletide gifts, festive food, Christmas decorations, hand made arts and crafts, seasonal treats and other unusual stocking fillers.

The Craft Fair has been running for 18 years and it's sheer size and popularity means you will probably want to visit us again to make sure you haven't missed anything.

The ambience and layout offers visitors the opportunity to seek out and visit every stall.

The Craft Fair is a wonderful experience and a great community day out for meeting family, friends and neighbours.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Naas Flower and Garden Club Christmas Gala Night 2022
Supporting Friends of St. Brigid's Hospice, Curragh Demonstration by Christopher White
"Christmas My Way"
Thursday 24th November at 7.45pm
In St. Mary's College, Sallins Road, Naas
Admission €15 including refreshments

