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May 2023

## Principal's Desk

Dear families,

Welcome to Term 3. I hope our latest Newsletter finds you well and that you are casting an eye towards the Summer months. This our latest Newsletter is packed with plenty of important information for the coming weeks and also for next year.

Yes we are already looking ahead to next year.

Term 3 is always a very busy time of the year and while the next few months will fly by, there is much going on in the school. Below are details of school tours, school events, matches, sacraments and much more.

We are looking forward to celebrating our Communion and Confirmations this month. Ms Hanly, Ms Glendon, Ms Jennings and Dymphna are working very hard with 2<sup>nd</sup> class while Mr Corkery and Mr Rogers are preparing the 6<sup>th</sup> classes for the sacrament of Confirmation. A big thank you to Ms McNulty, Ms Jennings & Mr Dunlea who have the choir nicely tuned and ready for the ceremonies also.

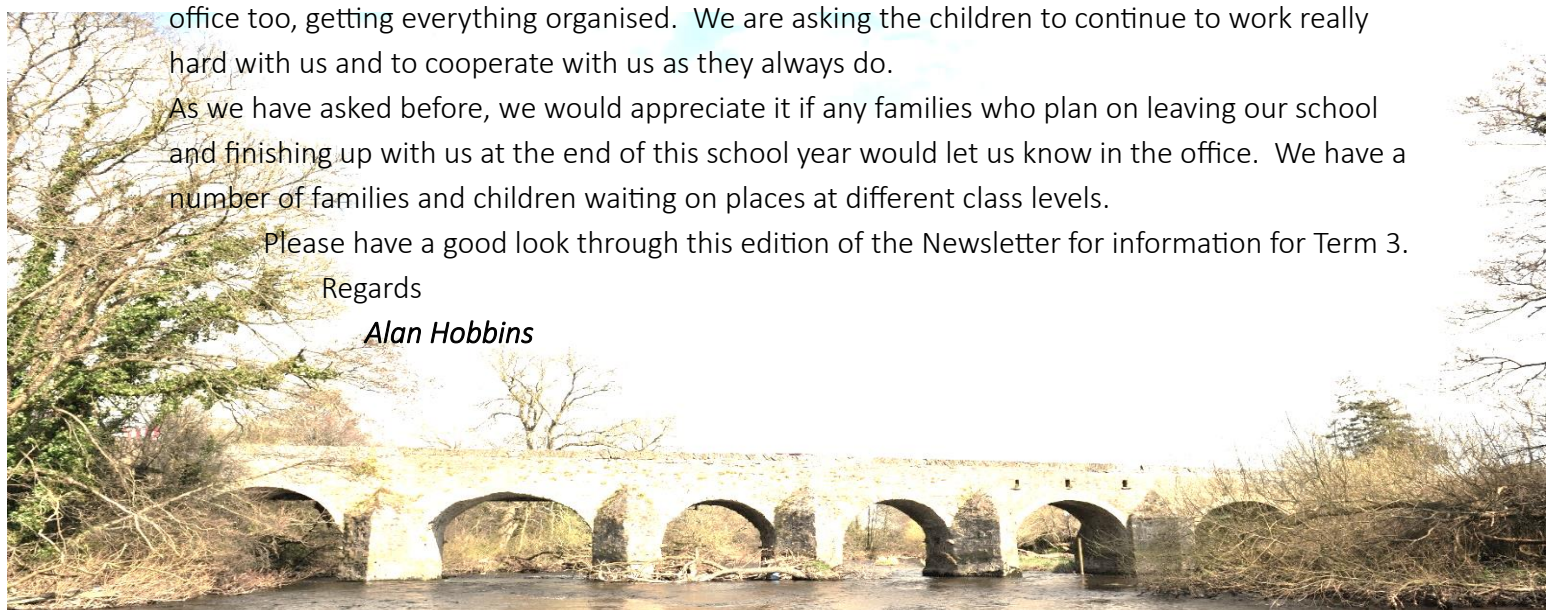
Term 3 is an excellent time to consolidate all the year's work and celebrate all that is good about Caragh school – a great opportunity for the whole school community to work together to see out the year – some 7 weeks to go. It is a very busy time for teachers and SNAs and everyone in the office too, getting everything organised. We are asking the children to continue to work really hard with us and to cooperate with us as they always do.

As we have asked before, we would appreciate it if any families who plan on leaving our school and finishing up with us at the end of this school year would let us know in the office. We have a number of families and children waiting on places at different class levels.

Please have a good look through this edition of the Newsletter for information for Term 3.

Regards

*Alan Hobbins*




# Trim Trail





We are delighted to have opened our newest addition to Caragh School this week. We now have a Trim Trail on our Astro. This has balance beams, bridges, swing bridges and a climbing wall, plus much more. A trail of this nature is an excellent addition to break times for the children. Teachers and SNAs can also use it for movement breaks, sensory circuit times and during PE or active breaks from the class. The children know now that they can only use the trail when teacher is with them – and not on the way in or out of school each day. Additions of this nature are only possible through the dedication of our parent body who contribute so generously to our school year on year. Last year our Witch Walk raised €10,000 alone. The parents' council have held a wonderful bingo event at Christmas, and they are now planning a 'Speed Quiz' night in the coming weeks. This proves to be a great night out for Mums & Dads.

The Trail has cost the school €25,000 and with your continued support we will pay this back over the coming years. We cannot thank you enough for the continued support you all show to our school year after year. Every child in our school will benefit from such an addition to school life. We hope you can make it to the quiz night on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be purchased through the Parents Council - €40 per table.



**Caragh National School**  
*Parents' Council*



**SpeedQuizzing**  
*With Keith Shanley*

**Have fun and a drink while fast thinking with friends.**

Where: Ryston Sports and Social Club Newbridge

**On: May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8pm**

**Table of 4 ticket is €40.**  
Raffle and prizes on the night

All done through Wi-Fi and phones.

**All funds raised will go towards the school Trim Trail.**

**PLEASE SUPPORT**

**PLEASE SUPPORT**

## **Standardised Tests**

At this time of year in every school in the country, standardised testing is conducted. It is a requirement to carry out these tests in the month of May. 1<sup>st</sup> class to 6<sup>th</sup> class will complete Literacy, Numeracy and Spelling tests. Such tests are a snapshot of the children's progress. We use many forms of assessment during the year and this is just one such method. We know how hard the children have worked during the year and are proud of all their efforts.

## **New Book Scheme**

The Department of Education along with the Government have recently announced a new scheme for books for primary schools. This new scheme and funding will pay for all school books, workbooks and copies and a certain amount of stationery. €96 per child has been granted to the school. Over the coming weeks we will purchase books and copies for all the children for next year.

Therefore, there will not be any pressure on families to purchase schoolbooks for next year, and the coming years please God. Of course we welcome this decision. All books will be on a 'rental' basis from now on. They will be given to the children during the year as they need them, should be looked after and returned to the school at the end of the year.

This new grant while very welcome covers schoolbooks and related items only. Schools still have the day to day running costs, photocopying, art supplies, equipment and resources to purchase for the children which is not covered by the scheme. As a result, the school will ask parents for a donation of €60 to cover this expense. This is a reduction from the €90 we have traditionally asked for. Further details of this will issue next month. We will not be sending you a booklist.

## **Healthy Lunches**

On a previous Newsletter we mentioned about Healthy school lunches for all the children. Children should not come to school with bags of sweets, packets of biscuits in their lunch boxes. We fully understand that children may be given some money to spend in the shop. However, some children are visiting the shop before school and buying treats for lunch. We would encourage parents to chat to their children about this and remind them that the visit to the shop should take place after school. We will review our healthy lunch policy at the start of the new school year with a view to discussing this further with the children.

We would also encourage families not to send sweets/treats into school on the day of their child's birthday. Parties and celebrations might take place at the weekend and time does not really allow for the giving out of sweets to children in the class. Again, this is our approach to healthy food in school. We do not want anyone disappointed.



# Calendar



International Day May 8<sup>th</sup> - see elow  
 Fun Day Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - See below

June Bank Holiday Week: June 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

Summer Closure: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June  
**School Closures 2023-2024**

- Aug 31<sup>st</sup> School Reopens
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Halloween Break
- Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 Christmas Break
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> (Mon) 2023 Feb Bank Holiday
- Feb 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Bank Midterm
- March 18<sup>th</sup> (Mon) Bank Holiday
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Apr 8<sup>th</sup> Easter Break
- May 6<sup>th</sup> (Mon) May Bank Holiday
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June Closure
- June 28<sup>th</sup> School Closure



**Well done** to all those who ran the Cross Country in Rathcoffey on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Congratulations to the girl's team who came 1<sup>st</sup> in the team event and to Sarianna Hannick who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the individual race.

## SWIM ROTA 2022 – 2023

Please see below our Swim Rota

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

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

DATES	
Ms. Hanly, Ms. Jennings, Ms. Ryan 2 <sup>nd</sup> 28/04, 05/05, 12/05, 19/05, 02/06, 16/06	



The annual Book Fair visits the school starting **on 8<sup>th</sup> – 12 May**. Children can view and buy books

during school time. Books can be viewed, browsed and purchased each evening by parents from 2.40 – 3.15 pm. All welcome



Class	Date	Where	Price
J.I.	June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Caragh Farm + Playball	€10
S.I.	June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lullymore	€24
1 <sup>st</sup>	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sea Life Bray	€22
2 <sup>nd</sup>	June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Castlecomber	€32
3 <sup>rd</sup>	June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Rockfield, Kells	€30
4 <sup>th</sup>	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Red Hills, Kildare	€36
5 <sup>th</sup>	June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tayto Park	€32
6 <sup>th</sup>	June 16 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Delphi	

Price includes bus and entrant's fee. Please bring a lunch, drinks and sun cream. Payment to be made on Aladdin. **By paying you are giving consent for your child to go on tour. We will need a disclaimer signed through Aladdin for 4<sup>th</sup> class parents to allow their child to go to Red Hill.** We are aware of the price increase in tours this year and we have tried to keep it to a minimum where possible.

**The lost property is piling up again. Please make sure to label all items of clothing.**

**Kilmainham/Glasnevin /6<sup>th</sup> class**  
 As part of their curriculum work 6<sup>th</sup> class will visit Kilmainham and Glasnevin on Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> May. This is always a worthwhile visit. **Please Pay €15 which includes permission for your child to go on the Aladdin App.**

**Please remember** to always check your Aladdin App for important messages and updates.



The annual Fun Day/Cake Sale and Rag Day run by 6<sup>th</sup> class to fund raise for their tour to Delphi Leisure Centre takes place **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**. Children will get the opportunity to participate in a range of fun

### BAKE SALE



activities as well as to indulge in some treats. We would greatly appreciate spot prizes, unwanted gifts, good quality toys, cakes – buns, breads, jams, eggs etc.

### Don't miss our Cake Sale

Adults can indulge themselves at the 1.45pm cake sale. We are always very fortunate to have so many parents who bake delicious cakes, bread and tarts for this.

**Tickets for spot prizes will be on sale on Friday morning**



On **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May** we are holding an International Day to celebrate the many different countries and cultures represented by our school community. Over recent weeks each class has researched and

compiled a project on one of these countries which they will present to their fellow schoolmates on the day. In addition, several parents have kindly volunteered to partake in the celebrations by visiting different classes. A language wall featuring some common phrases and a world map noting where different students originate from will also be created. We are also looking to celebrate the different foods enjoyed by our pupils compiling a recipe booklet to send out to parents. If you would like one of your international recipes to be included, please email [office@caraghns.ie](mailto:office@caraghns.ie).

Many thanks to all who have volunteered to get involved for what we know will be a very special occasion.

### SCHOOL INSURANCE FOR 2023/24

As usual, Caragh NS will be offering families the option to purchase Pupil Personal Accident Insurance for the school year 2023/24. The policy covers 24 hours/365 days for school activities, social, domestic and leisure activities (including school holidays).

The policy will be available in the coming weeks on Aladdin payments page, cover starts as soon as school reopens in August. Closing date for application will be Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.



### Fundraising – Student Council

Before Easter, the Student Council were involved in two big fundraisers. These fundraisers were both very successful. We, here in Caragh N.S. are extremely grateful to all who donated and participated. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

### Easter Egg Collection – Dining Room

A thank you to all involved in the Easter Egg Collection on behalf of the Pastoral Council: I would like to thank you most sincerely for organising this year's Easter egg collection. Fidelma from the Dining Room was overwhelmed and overjoyed when we delivered over 300 eggs! I was honoured to get a tour of The Dining Room facility and hear about the amazing work which they do every week to help those in need. Fidelma pointed out that they could not continue this work without the support of the community. She was in awe at your efforts and guaranteed me that each egg would be delivered to a very grateful child. Julie Carville, Pastoral Council secretary.

### Blue for Ben Day

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated or participated in the recent "Blue for Ben Day". We raised an amazing 837 euro for the children and families of Barretstown.

"To have Ben remembered in Caragh N.S., a place he loved to be in, is special indeed. Our gratitude knows no bounds." From All the Wallace's and everyone at Barretstown.

**Ben for BARRETSTOWN**  
Celebrating the life of Ben Wallace

**THANK YOU!!**  
to all staff, students & families involved in: **BLUE FOR BEN**

**MARCH 2023**

Bringing fun, laughter & confidence to children with cancer & serious illness.

raising an amazing **€ 837**

@benforbarretstown  
Email: benforbarretstown@gmail.com

“Barretstown just gives you this confidence. I don't know how they do it, but that's the magical thing about Barretstown. It gives you a piece of yourself back – the piece you lose during your illness.”

Ben Wallace

In aid of **BARRETSTOWN**  
a cancer care centre

## Darrell Farrell Cup



A trophy in memory of past pupil Darrell Farrell is presented to a 6<sup>th</sup> class pupil who is held in high regard by the school community. This year Tadhg Murphy is this year's winner. Congratulations Tadhg.

## Gradam Uí Luineacháin



Comhghairdas to our Gradam Uí Luineacháin winners Aisling Gallagher, Fionn Brownen, Elouise Linnane and Killian Carey. The competition was very keen and reflective of the caighdeán ard sa Ghailge i rang a sé. Go neirí libh sa Ghailge as seo amach.

## Science Day

A special word of thanks to the school community who turned out in huge numbers to support our Annual Science Day. There was a great buzz around the school as we welcomed a huge number of visitors back into the school. Science Day has been a long-standing tradition in our school for close on 20 years. Thank you to all who visited the school, spoke to the children and showed an interest in their Science work. Thank you to our staff for putting in a huge effort to make the day a great success and finally to the children who worked really hard all year on Science in order to present so confidentially on the day - thank you.

## Cumann na mBunscol

**Competitions are currently in full swing.**

U/10 Boys will play a blitz on Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup> in Raheens GAA beginning at 10.30am.

Senior Boys are playing the round robin section of their competition against Conleth's and Mary's, Kilcullen, C.S. Cill Dara and Ballymany.

Senior Girls are being coached by Mr Dunlea and Ms O'Connor and are playing in Div. 1.

Our Senior Camogie players who are coached by Ms Glendon and Ms Nolan begin their competition on May 9<sup>th</sup> v Straffan

Ms. KIELTY and Ms. CUMMINS are training our U/11 hurlers who begin their games on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Thanks to our staff who give up lunch breaks and after school time to coach the children.**

## Punchestown Art Competition



Congratulations to Emily Cramer O'Meara in Ms. Troy's 3rd class who was the overall winner of the primary schools Punchestown Art competition this year.

Emily's winning art featured in the racing programme on

Family Day on Saturday and was displayed on screens in Punchestown. Emily was delighted to be presented with a rosette, a hamper of art supplies and some vouchers as her prize.

**Well done, Emily!**



**In the interest of safety.**

**Please keep the Bus Bay free in the morning and evening.**





## Green School

Keep sending in batteries and used stamps for recycling.

**Top tip for the garden:** Be water-wise. In hot, dry weather, water the garden early in the morning or late in the afternoon, always watering the soil and not the foliage. If you can, install a rainwater butt.

### Did you know?

The swallow is one of Ireland's migrating birds. It spends the winter in Africa. From April to October, it lives in Ireland. Swallows usually return to the same nest year after year.

**Date Change:**  
Now taking place  
from Monday  
10th - Friday 14th  
of July

**Let's Go!  
Registration now  
open!**

**Time and date**  
9.30am - 2.00pm  
July 10th - 14th

**Pricing**  
€80 per child  
€70 per sibling  
Age: 4 - 12

**Location:** Caragh National School  
Sign Up: [cnsummercamp@gmail.com](mailto:cnsummercamp@gmail.com)

**Caragh NS  
Summer Camp  
2023**

Arts and Crafts    Teddy Bears Picnic  
Building            Lego  
Baking              Outdoor Games  
Sports               Storytime

And much much more...

**2023**

**DEE'S  
DAYCARE**

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE - NOW!  
REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SEPT '23

**ENROLL NOW**

**HOME  
COOKED  
MEALS**

**HOME WORK  
- DONE!**

Junior Infants to 6th class

Dee's Day Care    087 2898368

CARAGH N.S.

**Summer Baking Camp.**

**Gingerstown Caragh.**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June & Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

**10.00am to 2.30pm each day.**

**Lunch provided.**

**€90**

**Phone Liz: 0857116785**



**21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June.**

More information in the next newsletter.

**KIDS SUMMER CAMP**  
Fun - Informative - Structured

**Now Open for  
Registration**

Weeks commencing:  
24th July,  
31st July,  
7th August,  
14th August.

**Limited Places  
7 to 12 years old**

**Program Includes**

- ✓ 4.5 hours of daily activities
- ✓ Pod of only 6 per camp
- ✓ Cooking, Baking, STEM
- ✓ Arts, Crafts, Movies & more...

CALL DEE: 087 289 8368  
[summer@iserve.ie](mailto:summer@iserve.ie)

Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare



# HOME FROM HOME Childcare

♥ A home away from home experience ♥

Before & Afterschool Care  
Junior infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class  
Spacious home with dedicated Playroom  
Homework Supervision  
Fresh & Healthy Food  
Limited Places Available

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
*Contact*  
Karen 086 3961918





## NEW PLAYERS WELCOME

Éire Óg Corra Choill Hurling Club

Sundays 10am - 11am	u13 / u14
Sundays 11am - 12pm	u8/u9/u10
Mondays 7pm - 8pm	u12
Mondays 7.30pm - 8.30pm	u15 / u16
Tuesdays 7pm - 8pm	u11




f i s t



## CONCEPCIONISTAS SUMMER SCHOOL

### HOSTS WANTED! Spanish Summer School, Naas

I am contacting you as the local Coordinator for the 2023 Concepcionistas Summer School. The annual transnational school has been taking place in Naas for 45 years, bringing over 70 students and their tutors to our town in July of each year. Students (aged 14 – 17) will attend St. Mary's College Monday – Friday.

We are seeking host families in Naas and surrounding areas (Sallins, Johnstown, Caragh, Clane) for our programme this July, students will arrive on June 30th and depart on July 28th. So what's required of families:

- Collection of student on 30/6 (central location, Naas) & welcome
- Provide breakfast, packed lunch and dinner daily
- Students attend School / excursions 9-5 Monday – Saturday
- Payment: €860 (If you can host two students payment will be €1720) – by cheque, last week in July.
- Subject to Garda clearance & home visit

Interest / queries: ph. 087 6577957 or by email to:

[summerhostnaas@gmail.com](mailto:summerhostnaas@gmail.com)

Would love to hear from you!

**Grace Hill**



# Spring Serenade

## THE BIG C CHOIR

welcomes

### La Nervilloise

Choeur de Village (France)

featuring

### Suono Ladies Choir

MUSICAL DIRECTORS  
DAMIEN FERRIER/OWEN C LYNCH

**Church of Our Lady & St. Joseph, Caragh**  
**Sunday 7th May at 4.30pm**

**Admission Free**

RAFFLE IN AID OF THE BIG C CHOIRS  
CANCER SUPPORT & RESEARCH FUND





