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Volume 26 Issue 5

January, 2024

## Principal's Desk

Dear families,

Happy New Year to you all and best wishes for the coming year. I hope it will be a positive year for you and your family. I hope all the boys and girls are settled back into school now after the Christmas break. We have some very important updates for you in this month's Newsletter that Ann Marie has put together for you.

I would like to thank you all for your very generous donations to the school during the Christmas concerts. We were delighted to have the opportunity to see all the boys and girls up on the stage having such great fun. They were excellent!!! A huge thank you to all our staff for the mammoth effort to put the plays together.

We are getting back to 'normal' now here in school after the concerts and asking the children to work hard with their teachers with much to do.

As the children have returned to school over the last few weeks we have noticed an increase in seasonal illnesses as well as some tummy bugs. As always we would ask you to err on the side of caution if sending children to school with concerning symptoms.

Our school girls basketball team are doing very well at present and our boys are into a semi final at present. We wish them all and their coaches Ms McCormack & Ms Hamill the very best of luck. We are looking at entering the FAI 5 a side soccer competition which will be held in March. This is for senior classes.

On these cold mornings, I'd like to remind people to please take their time coming to school. Please show extra care on the roads and pathways. We don't want any unnecessary accidents on the way to school in the mornings.

You might have noticed a fabulous new addition to the reception area in the school. We would like to thank Mr Tim Dunleavy for the new altar in the reception. We hope to create a lovely new sacred space in the school.

Enrolment period has begun, and I would urge parents to ensure all the relevant application forms are returned to us as soon as possible and in good time before the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. Over the coming weeks as we look towards our applications to the school, we would ask families who may leave our school during the summer to make contact with the school as soon as possible. We receive applications for many classes not just Junior Infants.

Kind regards

Alan Hobbins



# School Calendar

## School Closures 2023-2024

- |                                                |                            |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Feb 5 <sup>th</sup> (Mon) 2024               | Feb Bank Holiday           |
| • Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>      | Feb Midterm                |
| • March 8 <sup>th</sup>                        | Referendum – School Closed |
| • 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             |

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

**When they're gone,  
they are gone!!!!!!**

Few copies left €15 from the office or  
online with Aladdin.

**Cookbook!**  
2023

## SWIM ROTA 2023 - 2024

DATES
5 <sup>th</sup> class – Dec.20 <sup>th</sup> – Feb. 7 <sup>th</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup> class – Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup> – Mar. 20 <sup>th</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup> class – April 10 <sup>th</sup> – May 15 <sup>th</sup>

**Price includes bus and 6 lessons for €45.**

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

**Swimming is part of the school curriculum.**

## Lost Property

**We have a lot of lost property at the moment. Coats, jumpers, and tracksuit tops. Please come in and check before it goes to recycling at the end of the month.**

# PARENT TALK

**'Raising Resilient Children:  
Approaches from Positive Psychology'**

with  
**FIONA FORMAN**  
*M. Sc. Applied Positive Psychology*  
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February**  
**7.30pm – 8.45pm**

Resilience means being able to cope with life's disappointments, challenges and problems. Children have faced so many challenges over the last number of years, so it is now more important than ever to support & equip them. In this talk, Fiona, who is the author/co-author of the *Weaving Well-Being & Welcome to Well-Being* programmes, will share ideas on ways to empower our children with the support and skills they need to feel resilient, strong and confident.

## Enrolment

We wish to remind all our parents that our Enrolment period is currently on going. Applications for Admission for Junior Infants and all classes are being accepted at present and will be until the first week of February. All relevant forms and information are available on our school website [www.caraghns.ie](http://www.caraghns.ie)

## Grandparents' Day



**Catholic Schools Week 2024**

Catholic Schools: Communities of Service

As part of Catholic Schools Week, 3<sup>rd</sup> class will be celebrating Grandparents' Day on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**. Father Joe has invited both 3<sup>rd</sup> classes and their grandparents to a special mass in Caragh Church at 11am. The children will be preparing some songs and prayers for this special mass and we hope that grandparents will be able to join us on the day. If Grandparents are unable to make it in person they can watch online:

<https://mcnmedia.tv/camera/caragh>.

Following the Mass, we would like to invite the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Grandparents to join us in the school hall for some refreshments and for a tour of our classrooms.

Ms. Troy and Ms. O'Connor

## Infant Parent/Teacher Meetings.

As is our tradition we will hold Parent Teacher Meetings for Junior and Senior Infants in February. These meetings will be in person meetings held in school on February 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> before we break for the mid-term. The meetings will be held from 2pm-5pm. You can book a suitable time to meet with your child's teacher from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. (12 noon) on Aladdin.



Thanks to Caragh School from the St. Vincent de Paul for the recent donation of €600 collected during the Christmas Concerts. This money will be used to help and support members of our community who are experiencing difficulty and request help. Thank you.



As we start the new year we would like to once more promote our healthy approach to school lunches. On any given day children should

have a healthy lunch; sandwich, fruit, pastas, rice etc. While it is important that your child is happy with their lunch, we all know that a healthy lunch boosts energy and concentration. Children should also have a drink of water and not bring chocolate flavoured or sugary drinks to school.

We are lucky to have the facility of the Lunch Bag and Centra shop across the road. However, if children are to visit the shop in the morning, packets of biscuits or bags of sweets should not be brought to school for lunch. Such items will be confiscated and returned after school

## Basketball NEWS

The girls' basketball team are having a great season and are currently contesting the semifinals against Kildare ETNS. We wish them the best of luck. The boys unfortunately did not make it out of the group stages. Both teams will play in a blitz towards the end of Term 2.

## School Attendance Reports

Twice each year every school is obliged to submit 'School Attendance Return' to TUSLA the child and family agency. We submit a report at this time of the year based on the attendance from September to December and again at the end of the school year for the period from January to June.

We must notify TUSLA of the list of children over the age of 6 who have missed over 20 school days for any reason during these two periods. The submitted report can be followed up by the Education Welfare Officer and they will ask if the absences were explained. Such explained absences due to illness etc are not a cause for concern. A large number of unexplained absences may lead to further involvement from the Education Welfare Officer. Generally, the report is not something to be concerned about and as a school we fully understand that a child may be absence for a number of very valid reasons. We encourage good attendance, and we know that this can help children settle into school and will really help with their overall attainment in school. Should you have any concerns please contact the school office.

## Absence

From time to time children can be at home sick for one reason or another. Generally this might be for a day or two. In these situations, when a child is sick, our school policy is not to provide school work for them to complete at home. The focus should be on getting better and ready to come back to school. Of course if the child is out on a longer term illness we will do our best to support them. Please make contact with the school office and we will arrange what we can.

If some of the boys and girls are going on a family holiday during term time, it is also school policy not to provide work packs or school work to be completed while away on holiday. Again please contact the office if you'd wish to discuss this matter.

When your son or daughter is absent from school, please use Aladdin to fill in the reason or you can send a note into the class teacher explaining the absence.



## Credit Union Quiz

We will have 2 teams participating in the annual Credit Union Quiz to take place in Toughers on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>.



6<sup>th</sup> class recently visited the BT Young Scientist Exhibition and were treated to wonderful show on Outer Space and The Human Brain as well as visiting the hundreds of projects on show.

## Green School ...

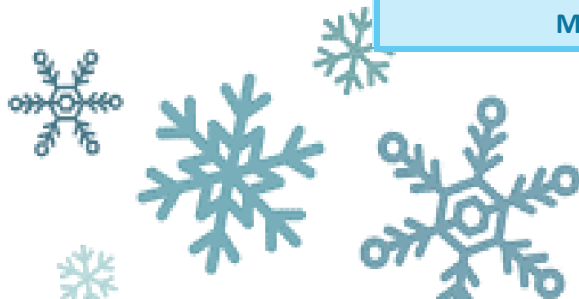
### Did you know?

A cold snap will improve the flavour of crops by turning starches into sugars. It will kill off pests and diseases or at least stop them in their tracks for a while. It will break down soil, and improve it.

*Don't be lazy, don't be mean, we're all here together to make our school green.*

By: Bobby Lavin 5<sup>th</sup> class.

If you're walking your dog, please



### CARAGH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024

**Hope Meeting**  
November 21st: 7pm

**Enrolment Mass**  
November 25th: 6.30pm

**Cuan Mhuire Talk**  
February 2024

**Ceremony Of Light & Pledge**  
March 13th 2024: 7pm

**Mass**  
April 14th 2024: 10am

**Retreat**  
April 2024

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
April 20th 2024: 11am - 12noon

**Sacrament of Confirmation**  
April 25th 2024: 5pm and 6.30pm

WWW.CARAGHPARISH.NET

HEJA APP TEAM  
CODE  
JM-906884

### CARAGH FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024

**Grow In Love Masses**  
(Attend one Mass each weekend)

September 30th at 6:30pm & October 1st at 10am

October 21st & 22nd

November 11th & 12th

December 2nd & 3rd

January 13th & 14th

February 10th & 11th

March 9th & 10th

April 20th & 21st

June 2nd

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
TBC

**Sacrament of First Holy Communion**  
May 2024  
(Dates to be announced in January)

WWW.CARAGHPARISH.NET

HEJA APP  
Team  
Code  
EI-323057

### First Communion Dates:

May 18<sup>th</sup> Ms, Hanly class  
May 25<sup>th</sup> Ms. Ryan's class

Join us for a  
**Valentine's  
Baking camp**

Cakes  
Chocolate  
Cupcakes  
and so much more!

Thursday February 15th  
Friday February 16th  
10am - 2.30pm  
Lunch included -€60  
Contact Liz- 085 711 6785  
*See you there!*

**Caragh NS**  
**Easter Camp**

**Time and Date:**  
Mon 25th - Thurs 28th  
March  
10am - 2pm

**Pricing:**  
€80 per Child  
€70 per Sibling

Age: Junior Infants - 6th Class Inclusive

Arts and Crafts - Building - Baking - Sports - Lego  
Outdoor Games - Storytime - Easter Egg Hunt

**Location: Caragh NS**

Sign Up:  
Application forms available in the school  
office.

Any Queries: Please contact [cnssummercamp@gmail.com](mailto:cnssummercamp@gmail.com)

A Sports camp for all. Activities include multi sport activities(age appropriate), mini matches, games, mini Olympics, parachute, relays, water activity and much more.

Easter camps(4days)

- 2<sup>nd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> April (Tuesday to Friday)

Summer Camps 2024(5 days)

- 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July
- 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> August

Book online at [www.playballkids.com/franchise/216](http://www.playballkids.com/franchise/216)  
For children 4-12  
if you have any questions please contact Jodie on 0861619245

**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

**KILDARE ACADEMY OF COMMUNICATION**

is pleased to announce the celebration this year of  
20 years of **Speech and Drama** in Caragh.

Classes take place on **TUESDAY** afternoons in Caragh School.

For information, please contact  
Eunice Lavelle on  
087 275 0418 or [eunice.lavelle@gmail.com](mailto:eunice.lavelle@gmail.com)



Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chill Dara  
Kildare Library Service



## Online Irish Classes – Various Levels

Cill Dara le Gaeilge in conjunction with Kildare Libraries Service are pleased to offer an 8 week online Irish course, beginning the 17<sup>th</sup> January. With a class level to suit everyone, from beginner classes to upper intermediate classes, why not take the opportunity to learn Irish this year! Please check the website.

# THE BIG NIGHT OUT



**The Osprey Hotel | 24th February 2024**

Devoy Quarter, Naas West, Naas, Co. Kildare W91 X40K

**Doors open 6pm**

*The night includes:*

Dinner (2 course meal) | Fashion Show  
Mandy Maher Catwalk Models

Late Bar and Live Music by: **AFTER DARK**

DIAMONDS  
& pearls

Fabucci

LOGO



**Ticket Price €69.00**

Tickets can be purchased on [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie)  
(search the big night out) and can also be purchased in  
**Diamond & Pearls, House of Logo or Fabucci stores,**  
all located on the Main Street of Naas.

**All Profits on the night donated to**  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/flinn-the-warrior>

