



CNS NEWS

December 2022



Principal's Desk

Dear families,

I hope this latest Newsletter finds you well and the Christmas buzz is taking hold in your house these days. With only a short few weeks to the holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the best of wishes for 2023.

There is much activity going on over the coming weeks and I would ask you to please pay particular attention to this Newsletter and alerts that come from the school over the next few weeks.

The last few weeks have been very busy here in our school as we welcomed parents back to the school for our traditional Parent Teacher meetings. It was lovely to welcome you back to the school in this manner and perhaps the option of a phone call suited you better with work commitments. Such meetings take a lot of planning and organising and I would like to thank all of our teachers for their work and time.

Once again, I would like to thank you all most sincerely for your donations to the school for our Witch Walk. We have surpassed €10,000 overall. This is our greatest amount ever raised. As mentioned, it will go towards yard activities for the children. We are coordinating this at present.

As outlined below we are organising contributions to the Dining Room charity in Newbridge again this year. I'd like to thank Ms Hanly for coordinating these worthwhile donations. A big thank you to those who have donated food items.

Well done to both of our basketball teams at present who are currently in the throws of their league matches. Both teams are going well with a few more matches shortly. Thanks to Mr Rogers, Ms Brady, Ms McCormack & Ms Hamill.

We are very much gearing up for our Christmas Carol Service which we are delighted to hold once again this year. Much work is being done in all the classes and our choir are working very hard. Thanks to Ms McNulty, Ms Jennings and Mr Dunlea for all their work with the choir, who are in fine voice. The Carol Service will be held in the church on **Tuesday 20th December**. More details below.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Le gach dea-mhéin

Alan Hobbins



Christmas Carol Service

We look forward to holding our Carol Service once again this Christmas. It will be a first Carol service for our infant classes and first class children. We are excited to welcome you all to the church once more on **Tuesday 20th December**.



Group 1 11:00am

Junior Infants
First Class
Third Class
Fifth Class
School Choir

Group 2 12:30pm

Senior
Infants
Second Class
Fourth Class
Sixth Class
School Choir



Each service should last approximately an hour. We will hold our annual St. Vincent de Paul charity collection at both services. We would like to thank Fr Joe McDermott for facilitating the Carol service in the church and sacristan John for all his help.

The pupils will be taken back to the school, and accounted for before any can leave.

Children can not be collected from the Church.

Christmas Party for Pupils – 21st Dec.



The classrooms are ideally set-up for videos/movies. Party bags and drinks will be provided.

If your child has any dietary requirements please contact the office or send in suitable foods.

Children should dress in their Christmas gear and a wonderful morning is guaranteed for all.

A cover charge of €2 per child Or maximum of €5 for family is requested

Children will go home at 12 noon (21st Dec.)

School reopens on 5th January, 2023

Communication

We very much welcome communication with the school at any time and when necessary. Should you need to contact the school please phone Ann Marie the office 045-903091. Emails can be sent to the office to principal@caraghns.ie. Messages can then be sent onto the class teacher in this way also.

Absence notes or reasons for absence can be inputted on Aladdin App, or a simple note can be sent to teacher. Please do not message teacher through Seesaw for example.

Hoodies

As is now tradition, our 6th class boys and girls were presented with their Hoodies this week. There was great excitement from the children as this is now a rite of passage almost for the 6th class students. I'm sure you will spot them coming to and from school, proud as punch with their fabulous new gear.

A huge thank you to Joanne Britton Milner from AYS Embroidery who gifted the Hoodies to the children this year. A lovely gesture.



Enrolment

It is coming to that time of year again when we start accepting Applications for Admission to our school. Please keep a close eye on our school website. Our Admissions Notice will be posted on the website on **5th January 2023**. We will accept applications from **12th January to 9th February 2023**.

There have been some minor changes to our Admissions Policy at the request of the Department of Education as some areas of the Admissions Act are now being enacted. The Policy will be available on our school website in the coming days.



Each year our 6th class pupils enter the Intel Mini Scientist competition. This is a great opportunity for the children to work on a project of their choice. They complete research and conduct some tests on issues that affect us everyday of the week. Some children work in small groups or on individual projects. Then we host a showcase in the hall for the rest of the school and the parents and a winner is chosen.

This year Danny in Mr Corkery's class will go forward to represent the school in DCU. We wish him all the best when he represents us next week.



Calendar

Dec. 2nd Children go home at 12 noon.

Christmas Break: Closing 21st Dec. Reopen 5th Jan.

Feb. Bank Holiday Monday Feb. 6th

Feb Midterm: Thurs. 16th + 17th Feb.

St Patrick's Day: Friday 17th + Mon. 20th Mar.

Easter Break: Closing 3rd April

May Bank Holiday: Mon 1st May

June Bank Holiday Week: June 5th – 9th

Summer Closure: Friday 30th June

Please Note: Children go home at 12 noon tomorrow.

SWIM ROTA 2022 – 2023

Please see below our updated 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 O'Connor 3 rd + Ms. Duggan 5 th 9/11, 18/11, 25/11, 02/12, 09/12, 16/12 ,
Mr. Fitzgerald 5 th + Ms Troy 3 rd 06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, 10/02,
Mr. Dunlea 4 th + Ms. Naughton 4 th 24/02, 03/03, 10/03, 24/03, 31/03 21/04,
Ms. Hanly, Ms. Jennings, Ms. Ryan 2 nd 28/04, 05/05, 12/05, 19/05, 26/05, 02/06

Basketball

6th class boys and girls took part in the group stages of the Cumann na mBunscoil Basketball Tournament. Both teams played very well and the boys team have made it through to the semi-final in January. All 6th class will take part in an in school tournament this December.



This year the Student Council will be formed by children from 4th, 5th and 6th class.

Thank you to class teachers who have given the children an opportunity to put themselves forward for the council. The council will be formed this Friday December 3rd.

The Student Council will work with the teachers in the school to give the children a voice.

We hope to be involved in some fundraising locally as well as improving aspects of school life for all the children in Caragh N.S. In the next newsletter, we will introduce our Student Council members and outline their plans for the year ahead.

Green School

6 green tips for Christmas

- Make your own gifts
- Buy gifts made locally
- Buy recycled wrapping paper or make your own
- Make your own wreath from plants in your garden.
- Buy plastic free Christmas crackers or make your own
- Switch to LED lights or solar lights outside.



Did you know the river Liffey got its name from the word 'Liphe'. This was the word used long ago to describe the flat land the river flows through.

Don't forget to bring in your used batteries and stamps for recycling in the school. Have a happy green Christmas.





Tickets available from the school office
Tickets can be bought on the day also



THE DINING ROOM

There are many people in our community who are suffering this year due to rising inflation. At Christmas time families feel the squeeze more than ever. They will struggle to put Christmas dinner on the table and to buy gifts for children and family.

The Dining Room is a community organisation which combats food poverty in Newbridge and surrounding areas.

The Dining Room is asking for donations so that families can celebrate Christmas this year.

Some of the donations they are requesting include:

- New toys for younger children
- Gifts for teenagers and adults
- Treats for Christmas
- Vouchers for food shops
- Perishable goods
- There will be a donations box in your child's classroom for the next two weeks. The final date for donations is Thursday December 8th

All help will be gratefully received



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



Please remember that the local conference of St. Vincent de Paul is available to help during the present difficult economic times and throughout the year. As usual Christmas time puts extra pressure on families and individuals. Requests for help should be made by phone to 01 8848200 or by e mail to info@svp.ie and these requests will be forwarded to local volunteers. We will respond and help in any way we can. All help is given without judgement and confidentially. Should you need financial help please remember to contact the local MABS office or St. Vincent de Paul . MABS Helpline 0761072000.

For the past two years instead of a Church Gate Collection we organised to be present in the Church after Mass to accept donations . This seemed to suit people better and as always the collection was very generously supported.. Should you wish to contribute to the local conference , members will be available in **The Church of Our Lady and St. Joseph Caragh after 10.00a.m, Mass until 12.00 on Sunday December 11th to accept donations. Alternatively, you may leave your donation in the parish office during the coming weeks,** The conference thank you sincerely for your ongoing support as we try to assist those in our community who need a little help in these challenging times. Please be assured that all help is given confidentially. Wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas.



Speech and Drama classes take place in Caragh School on Tuesday afternoons. For information contact Eunice Lavelle at Kildare Academy of Communication on 087 2750418.

Don't Forget.....



Come along to the Community Centre to see Santa and visit our Craft Fair this Sunday. 4th Dec. from 12 – 4pm.

Please look out for:

Our 6th class pupils who will have a stand selling candles. All proceeds go towards their end of school year trip to Delphi .

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.

*Christmas with
The Big C Choir*

Join the Big C Choir & friends for an evening of festive favourites

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
OWEN C LYNCH

Church of Our Lady & St. Joseph Caragh
Friday 9th of December 2022 @ 7.30pm

There will be a raffle for some fabulous Big C hampers on the night and a special collection in support of Sensational Kids, a Kildare-based charity changing the lives of children with additional needs.

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Sensational Kids
Eating Differently. Together.

