



Email: [principal@caraghns.ie](mailto:principal@caraghns.ie) ----- Tel: 045 – 903091

**November 2023**

**Year 27 – Issue 3**

## Principal's Desk

Dear families,

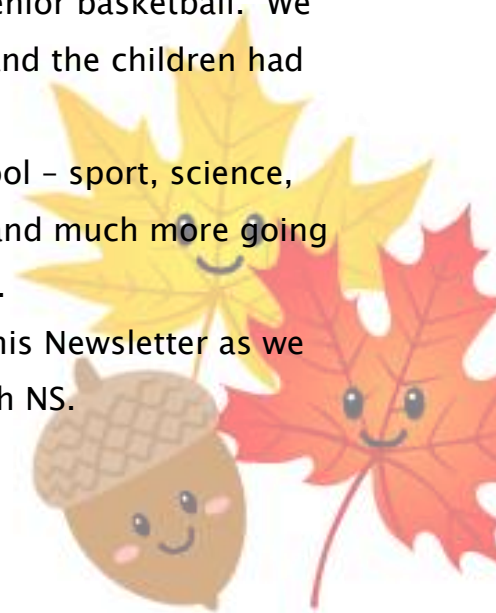
I trust this Newsletter finds you well and I hope you all had a lovely Halloween break. It is hard to believe that the first half term is behind us and we are now looking towards Christmas (too soon??). It was a busy few months and we are delighted with how all the children have settled back into school over that time. We were delighted to welcome Music Generation to 3<sup>rd</sup> class as they started learning the ukulele. On the sporting field our boys and girl's hurlers & footballers did really well in their respective competitions. Huge congrats to the girls in their amazing victory in the Camogie final yesterday. Well done to their inspirational coaches Ms. Cummins and Ms. Jennings. I would like to thank all the teachers involved in all areas of sports. The focus for the coming months will be on senior basketball. We also enjoyed Maths Day in school before the Halloween break and the children had many opportunities to visit other classes.

We have a busy few weeks ahead with lots going on in the school – sport, science, drama etc. Intel science, Engineers visits, Christmas concerts and much more going on in the school keep the children engaged in all their learning.

There is much information for you about upcoming events in this Newsletter as we hope to keep you up to date with everything going on in Caragh NS.

Kind regards

*Alan Hobbins*



# School Calendar

## School Closures 2023-2024

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| • Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Jan 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2024, | Christmas Break  |
| • Feb 5 <sup>th</sup> (Mon) 2024                     | Feb Bank Holiday |
| • Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>            | Feb 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   |

## Smartphones & Snapchat

As I am sure you are aware there is much news in the media regarding smartphone usage for children of primary school age. Of course, phones are a family choice but as a school we do agree that children in primary school are too young for a smartphone and all that they bring with them. Recently we met with 6<sup>th</sup> class parents and discussed the affects Snapchat & TikTok are having on the young children in our school. We asked parents & children in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class to sign up to an agreement to stay off Snapchat while in primary school. We had a very positive response to this. We have noticed in school that some children in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> class are also discussing Snapchat & TikTok activity. We would strongly advise against children of 7,8,9 accessing content on these social media platforms or having accounts of that nature also.

## 5 Km Run

A great event for participants and supporters recently took place in Fr. Kinsella Park. Congrats to 6<sup>th</sup> class and their coaches on a wonderful occasion. Topped off with a rousing rendition of Tommy K!!!

## SWIM ROTA 2023 - 2024

DATES
4 <sup>th</sup> Class – Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup> – Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>
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.**

## Parent Teacher Meetings

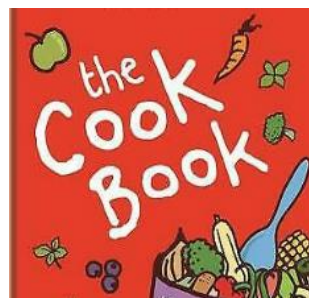
Nov.22<sup>nd</sup> + 23<sup>rd</sup> for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class

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

You can book your meeting slot on Aladdin from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon until Friday 17<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Please ring the office on 045/903091 if you have a problem with it.

## PARENTS COUNCIL

*It's on its way ....*



*and will be going on sale soon.*







There has always been a fantastic culture of parental involvement in our school towards different events and initiatives that take part in our school. From nights at the dogs, speed quizzing, bingo, hoodies for 6<sup>th</sup> class and clothes swaps, our families have always pulled together for the good of the school for all our children. The last few years has been exceptional and as a school we would like to acknowledge your continued support



to the school.

Our Trim Trail has been a fantastic addition to the school yard and break times for the children. The €10,000 last year, the €11,000+ this year and from parents' council donations we have now covered the cost of the Trim Trail. We never expected the Witch Walk alone would cover the cost of this lovely addition to our school.



Recently our Sensory Garden got an overhaul. The stones got a much needed clear out from the Astro and a wet pour compound replaced them.

A new wall was erected so that a full class can visit the garden together with teacher to enjoy some outdoor learning or a talk from a visitor to the school. All this costly work was completed at a fraction of the price by Mr Andrew McGough (parent) and his company Redlough Landscapes.



Through another generous donation to our school by a parent we managed to get some much-needed yard markings done around the school yard. Not only does this brighten up the yard but also gives some nice activities for the children at break times.

We also completed some nice planting outside the front of the school. This has also brightened up the place and followed a donation to the school from Wilton waste company.

We are extremely grateful for all these donations to our school. Our goal here is always to make our school the best environment we can for all our children. Your donations and support help us in this endeavour and we are so lucky to have such a dedicated, inclusive and supportive school community.

### **Board of Management**

As was previously mentioned, the current term for our Board of Management will come to an end at the end of November. At a recent Parents Council meeting, Ms Philly Cassells and Mr John Gallagher were proposed, seconded and voted in as the Parent Nominees on our Board for the coming 4 years. I thank them both on your behalf for their dedication to the school community.



As mentioned previously we will be embarking on Christmas Concerts this year instead of the traditional Carol Service. We are looking forward to this new Christmas show. Each class will put on a short performance on an evening after school. We hope every child (if they are willing) will get a chance to perform on the stage. This is a bit of fun for all the children and the school community. **The concerts will take place over two evenings, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.** We will send out information in plenty of time with details of dates and times for particular classes.



We were delighted to welcome a panel of judges from INTEL to cast a “scientific eye” on questions asked and investigated by our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils. The judges were extremely impressed by the standard of the scientific approaches and most especial with the oral presentations give.



The judges awarded prizes to:

- 1) **Renewable Energy** by Sariann Hannick, Sarah Nestor, + Cara Curran.
- 2) **Water Filtering** by Hannah Waugh, Aoife Malone + Katie Jane Kinahan
- 3) **Which Fertiliser is best** by Conor Morrin
- 4) **Hamster Hazards** by Robyn Curran

## Credit Union Art Winners

### Category A

U/7 Lily Monahan(3<sup>rd</sup>)  
U/10 Emily Morrin (3<sup>rd</sup>)

### Category B

U/7 Donal Kelly (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
U/13 Charlie Walsh (3<sup>rd</sup>)



Well done to all who entered.

## Green School

**“Why litter when you can make Caragh glitter!” - Orla Sweeny 6<sup>th</sup> class**

### Did you know?

You don't need to rake up fallen leaves from your lawns. The layer of leaves provides shelter and food to insects & earthworms which in turn provides larger mammals and birds with an important source of food over the winter months. If you must rake leaves, put them on your compost heap or place them on flower beds and at the base of trees and plants around your garden. This will enable leaves to return their nutrients right to the roots of these plants.

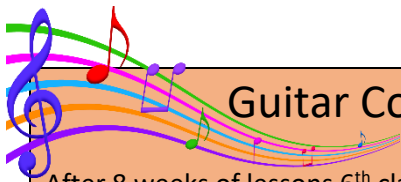


Thank you to all who donated shoe boxes for Team Hope. These will certainly bring a smile to children affected by poverty in Eastern Europe and Africa.

**The last day to drop off your shoe boxes is Monday 13<sup>th</sup>.**







## Guitar Concert

After 8 weeks of lessons 6<sup>th</sup> classes will perform their "Guitar Concert" on Friday. They have really enjoyed the experience under the guidance of Don Nea.



## Student Council



To Caragh NS Student Council, "A gift from heaven" is how the workers of The Dining Room described your extremely generous donation recently. We were delighted to deliver two cars full to the roof with food, which was the largest donation received in over a year. This would not have been possible without your hard work and the generosity of the school community. We continue to be overwhelmed by your dedication to helping those less fortunate. Keep up the good work!! Julie Carville.

## Kidstuff – have moved

Our school uniform shop is moving to a new location from 1/11/23. Find us at Kidstuff, Unit 4, Block D, Courtyard Shopping Centre, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, W12 NW96. (Formerly Gamestop, adjacent to TK Maxx). We can't wait to welcome you there! [www.schooluniforms.ie](http://www.schooluniforms.ie)



**NO  
PARKING**

**No parking in the Bus Bay. Please be mindful of residents in the local housing estates when parking. Thank you.**

**WELL DONE!**

## Cumann na mBunscol Senior Camogie Final



What a great win for our Senior Camogie team in the Div 2 final. Under the watchful eye of Miss Cummins and Ms. Jennings they completed a 4 game winning sequence to play Ardlough in the final. They proved what a skilful and hardworking team they are to capture the title **Well Done**

### BASKETBALL

November is basketball season and our boys and girls teams will participate in the round robin with the hope of making the semi -final.

## Caragh Parish Family Mass

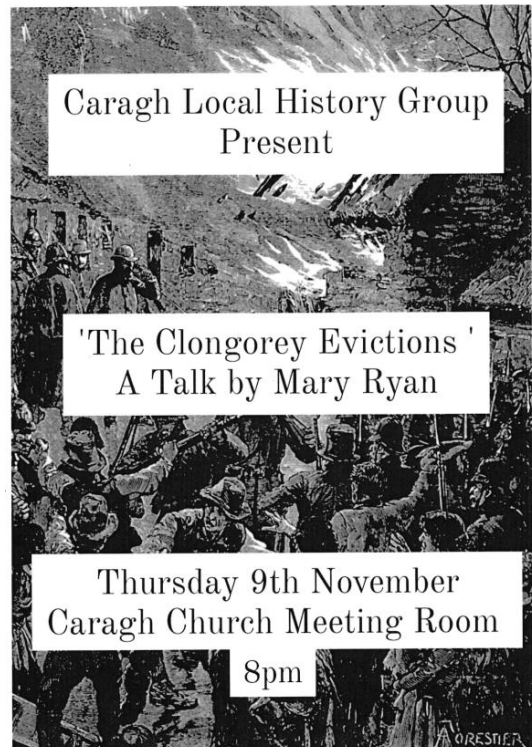
Our next family Mass will be on Christmas Eve at 5pm. Any family interested in being involved either in the mass or choir can contact me on my mobile please. Philly 0876269244

Caragh Local History Group Present

'The Clongorey Evictions'  
A Talk by Mary Ryan

Thursday 9th November  
Caragh Church Meeting Room

8pm



GINGERSTOWN BAKING  
CAMP FOR KIDS

# CHRISTMAS BAKING



**4 DAY CAMP -**  
**FRIDAY 1ST DEC 3PM - 5:30PM**  
**SATURDAY 2ND DEC 10AM-2PM**  
**FRIDAY 8TH DEC 3PM - 5:30PM**  
**SATURDAY 9TH DEC 10AM-2PM**

**MAKE YOUR OWN PUDDING & BAKE & DECORATE YOUR CHRISTMAS CAKE.**

**PHONE/TEXT LIZ @ 0857116785**

**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

A FUN BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH A DIFFERENCE

# A BAKING PARTY!

BAKING, GAMES, FOOD, FUN AND CAKE

## 3 HOURS OF FUN

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO CHECK AVAILABILITY FOR YOUR CHILD'S PARTY -

PHONE LIZ - 085 7116785