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## Principal's Desk

I hope this Newsletter finds you well and that everyone had a nice Halloween break. It was a well needed rest for everyone and it came at a good time. While it wasn't the usual Halloween, I'm sure it was just as enjoyable for all.

We had a lovely few days on Thursday and Friday before we broke for the week off. We had our 5K run and our traditional Witch Walk. It was great to see all the children and staff dressed up and there was a lovely air of some much needed fun around the school. You can check out the video on our school website.

I'd like to say a huge well done to the boys and girls in 6<sup>th</sup> class for completing the 5K run. It was a fantastic achievement. Thanks so much to Ms Banks and Mr Rogers for organising this and for running with the children on the day. Congratulations to Ms Monica Shally who completed the Dublin Marathon also during the Halloween break.

I would really like to thank you the parents and school community who contributed so so generously this year to our Witch Walk. You have donated €5,130 to our school and this is greatly appreciated.

This money will fund some lovely new resources for our children. We have a lovely movement trail in the Infant corridor, we purchased Mud kitchens which are outside in the sensory garden and we have some lovely new outdoor Aistear equipment. We also hope to get yard markings put down on the yard for the children to use at break times. This is a great opportunity to get some lovely new resources for the children.

As we get ourselves ready for the Christmas season, unfortunately at this stage we will not be able to host our usual Christmas Carol Service as normal. But we plan to do it in a different way and we will keep you posted.

As previously mentioned, we cannot facilitate Parent Teacher meetings this month as usual but we have moved them to February. This will give us more time to get a plan in place to ensure we keep you updated with your son/daughter's progress in school.

I'd like to ask you to continue with all the measures we have in place at the gate in the mornings and evenings. Your continued support on this is so greatly appreciated and has really helped to keep our covid cases at zero and our school community safe and healthy.



## **Deputy Principal**

I'd like to inform you and congratulate Mr Seán Corkery who has been appointed Deputy Principal here in our school.

## **Enrolment**

There have been small changes to Enrolment procedures in all schools this year. A new enrolment form will be available on our website after Christmas and our enrolment period for next year will happen in the new year. Further information will be passed on and a formal notice will be made in the new year regarding enrolment for 2021 school year.

## **Ventilation**

A necessary measure as part of Covid is ventilation in the classrooms. As a result the windows need to be left open for longer periods during the day. The classrooms can become quite chilly as a result. With this in mind, wearing an extra layer or two to school might be worthwhile. If 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class children would rather wear the school tracksuit more often this would be fine also.

## **Healthy Lunches**

Our school operates a nut free zone and a healthy school policy. So we would impress on parents the need to ensure that children have a healthy lunch each day for school, without sugary treats or drinks, or chocolate spreads or such like.

## **Contacting the School**

It is difficult these days to keep in touch with class teachers as we can't come in and out of the school as before. However if for any reason you might need to make contact please email the office [principal@caraghns.ie](mailto:principal@caraghns.ie) and the message can be passed on to the class teacher. Also please note that absent day reasons can be updated on Aladdin App. Please don't use Seesaw or Google Classroom for these purposes.

## **5k run**

Despite Covid 19 the 6<sup>th</sup> class were delighted to be able to complete the annual couch to 5k. Each class ran in their own class groupings on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Once again the couch to 5k was a fantastic success and enjoyed by all. Well done to each and every participants.

## **Students Council**

This year will see the 3<sup>rd</sup> student council established in Caragh National School. This year it will consist of children from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class. The children in these classes are asked to put themselves and their ideas forward for election. We hope to form the new council next week. We hope the council will support the children in the school with various initiatives and the wider community.

## Aistear Amuigh San Aer

Thanks to the generosity of you the parents at Caragh N.S., infants are now engaging with their Aistear amuigh faoin aer. Lots of outdoor equipment has been purchased to facilitate this necessary play in the early years. Pupils are wholeheartedly enjoying the process of building, writing, inventing, cooking and painting outside.

The Dining Room Newbridge, (a local charity) providing hot meals and hampers to those in need is now accepting offers of non-perishable goods and Christmas treats. We in Caragh N.S. are encouraging pupils to be part of the "Giving Process" and bring one item of non-perishable goods to the donation box in their classroom. (Tins of beans, chocolates, biscuits, pasta etc). Many thanks to parent Ms. Shinkins for facilitating the programme at Caragh N.S.

## Holidays 2020/2021

December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas Holidays
January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Return to school
February 18 <sup>th</sup> + 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mid - Term
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's Day
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holidays
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Return to school
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bank holiday + holiday
June 7 <sup>th</sup> + 8 <sup>th</sup> +9 <sup>th</sup>	Bank holiday + holiday
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Holidays

## Eire Og Corra Choill

Kelly Perkins, Games Development office with Kildare County Board is continuing with the development of hurling/camogie based skills programme in the school.



### **Build a Christmas Shoe Box online**

The Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal Week  
You can do your shoebox any time up until 23rd December but from 9th – 15th November, we are running the Christmas Shoebox Appeal Week. During this time we will be encouraging schools, families and communities to celebrate the Christmas Shoebox Appeal by building and donating their shoeboxes online, sharing pictures on social media using #TeamUpForTeamHope, coordinating fundraisers to purchase shoeboxes, and learning about the Appeal and the importance of giving.

Although this year may be different, the need for shoebox gifts is more important than ever. Help us spread the word and continue to bring joy to children affected by poverty. Each gift-filled shoebox is €20.  
<https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/>





## **Caragh Green School Committee 20/21**

Our Green School Committee for 20/21 has commenced work on the application process for our 6<sup>th</sup> Green Flag “ Global Citizen – Litter and Waste.” We need to recreate an awareness of recycling and energy conservation around the school. To that end Green School Committee members have been informing their classes on what needs to be done.

- Proper Recycling.
- Crisp bag collections
- Turning off lights
- Battery Collections.



### **Caragh Green School Committee 20/21**

Oisín o Brien , Lola Connolly , Jack Morrell [ 6<sup>th</sup> ]

Oliie Kelly, Ross Delaney , Erin Stoute , [ 5<sup>th</sup> ]

Harry Robinson, Éanna O Connor. [ 4<sup>th</sup> ]

Petra Dunne, Sophie Cawley [ 3<sup>rd</sup>]

Colin Moran, Ava Waugh.[ 2<sup>nd</sup> ]

Sophie Byrne , Violet Fahy [ 1<sup>st</sup> ]

