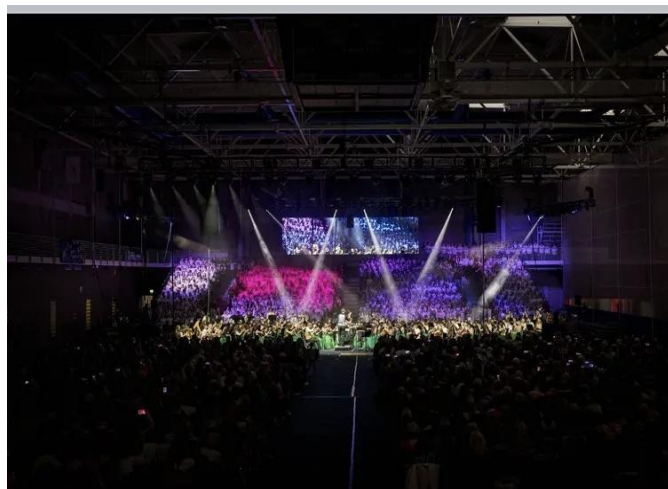
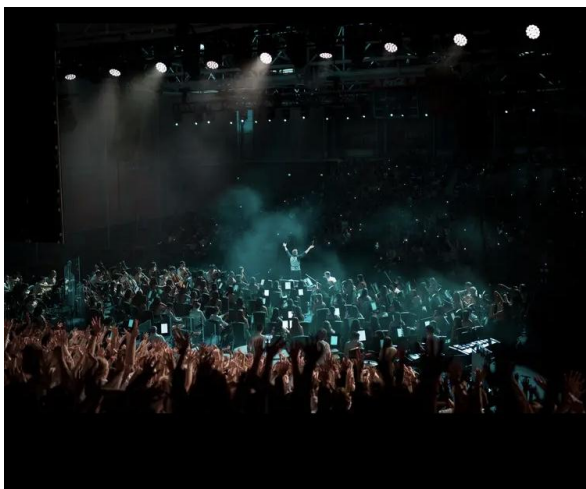

Caherelly NS

February 2023
NEWSLETTER



School Activities

- **Peace Proms:** *on Jan 21st we took part in the Peace Proms in the UL arena. The experience was absolutely electrifying. A night to remember for pupils and parents alike. Such an amazing opportunity to sing in such a large choir of 1200 children, accompanied by a live orchestra in front of an audience of parents and family. Absolutely amazing! Thanks to the teachers involved in the preparation for this event. The way our pupils sang and also how they conducted themselves made us so proud on the night. They are a credit to their families and our school.*



- **Rugby Blitz:** *In early January, Bruff Rugby Club hosted a blitz for local schools. Our pupils had 6 training sessions in school before Christmas with Danny Keogh. Many thanks to Danny for his work with our pupils and for organising the blitz, our pupils really enjoyed the experience.*
- **Art Blast:** *Classes from 3rd to 6th are rolling up their sleeves and getting to experience new art techniques with our artist in residence, Yvonne Edmonds this spring. Our theme is Lough Gur and its legends, history and culture. Our children aren't wanting in their enthusiasm and have already created some great pieces.*
- **Accelerated Reading:** *AR is proving to be very effective, with some of our (formerly) reluctant readers now very motivated to pick up a book and read. Sincere thanks to all staff for their involvement in its*

promotion. We have just invested in more books for our class libraries, many thanks to our Parents Association for their pledge of funding for this.

- *Green Schools*; Pupils on Our Green Schools Committee meet on Wednesday evenings after school. This group will have a trip to Mungret Recycling centre on 08th February 2023 . They are an enthusiastic bunch of pupils who are never short on ideas on how to make our school greener. Many thanks to Ms Conway for driving this initiative.
- *Breakfast with Mrs McGuinness*: this is a lovely initiative which allows us to come together and get to know one another again after such a long period where we were not allowed to mix class groups. Each child will get a chance over the coming months to come to the staffroom with a piece of class work they are especially proud of and chat and share breakfast with pupils from other classes. They are also getting to put their housekeeping skills to use as there is the expectation that they clean up after themselves too!!
- *Confirmation Enrolment*: there was a great turnout to the Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony on Saturday 28th in Ballybricken Church.

Upcoming Events

- *Seachtain na Gaeilge* 1 - 17ú Márta: We have lots of activities planned to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge including a St Patrick's Day Parade & ceilí.
- Book week-we will celebrate National Book Week in March. More information to follow.
- Sacramental classes, First Holy Communion is on Saturday 13th May 2023. First confession this year will be in school.
- Confirmation for 5th & 6th classes is on March 10th. **School will remain open for all other pupils on the day.**
- *Swimming lessons* will recommence at UL arena pool for children from 2nd to 5th classes inclusive from . It would be advisable to take your child/ren to the pool in the weeks running up to this to familiarise them with changing, packing, etc.

*Payment details will be put on Aladdin closer to the time.

New Enrolments for September 2023 and beyond

We have a healthy number of enrolments for September 2023. At a recent BOM meeting it was proposed that we have an Open Day to promote our school to prospective parents/pupils. We plan to do this in the autumn. We will be looking for parent volunteers on the day, more information will follow on this later. If you know anyone interested in enrolling their children, please advise them to call the office. Also, they can be invited to join us on our school walk in May. It is a good opportunity to meet other parents and staff in an informal setting and is always an enjoyable evening.

News from our Classrooms - (a little sample of what's going on in our classrooms)

Junior Infants are learning their sounds and are very busy blending. They are fantastic at reading their decodable readers.

Senior Infants are learning a lot of Irish and are practising it every day in the classroom. They are talking about the weather, days of the week and things in the classroom.

First and second class have worked very hard on Procedural writing . The children planned, created multiple drafts and finally wrote their procedure for display. They also orally presented them to fifth and sixth class. They learned lots about how Chinese New Year is celebrated and about Chinese culture in general. They have created some beautiful Chinese dragon art and are learning about colour, tone and texture through collage!

3rd and 4th class have been invited to participate in indoor hurling in Caherconlish. Training has been very competitive and great fun during lunchtimes. Well done to the boys team on last week's performance. The date for the girls games is yet to be announced.

Pupils from 3rd - 6th are continuing their creative process with our Artist in Residence, Yvonne Edmonds . They have already created great pieces of batique. Thanks to parents for sending in supplies.

5th Class are working on their typing skills and narrative writing based on their class novel Wonder. They have all enjoyed creating their own characters to input into the story

5th & 6th classes made St Brigid's crosses to celebrate St Brigid's day. It's tricky but nice to keep the tradition alive.

Uniform and appearance

Please ensure that your child is in full uniform each day.

We have several unclaimed uniform tops in various sizes in the office waiting to be claimed by their owners. Please give Trish a call if your child is missing a top.

Headlice

Due to a number of recent reports of headlice, it's very important to check your child's hair and scalp. Whether your child scratches or not or regardless of the length of their hair they still need to be checked.

Policy updates

Many thanks for your contribution to our policy review by answering our recent questionnaire on Child Safeguarding. We also conducted a student questionnaire in school. While the information gathered is not scientific, as only a portion of parents replied etc, it is nevertheless very useful. Our pupils, in particular, gave

us some great insights on how to enhance our playground. It was very beneficial to get the student voice and hear their perspectives.

We are also in the process of revising our Attendance Policy. With this in mind, please ensure your child attends school regularly and avoid taking family holidays during term time where possible. Be mindful that children miss out on valuable learning when absent and there is also a period of readjustment when they return.

Policies updated were Anti-Bullying, Child Protection, Split Class Policy & Job Sharing Policy. These will be uploaded to the school website in the coming weeks.

Please continue to check Aladdin and your email for other important updates and information.

Caherelly NS School Closing Dates 2023

<u>Staff Inhouse PDST Training</u>	<u>Wednesday 15rd February 2023</u> *School closed for pupils on this day.
<u>Midterm Break</u>	<u>Thurs 16th February & Fri 16th Feb 2023</u>
<u>St Patrick's Day Bank Holidays</u>	<u>Friday 17th March</u>
<u>Easter</u>	<u>Mon 3rd April - Fri 14nd April 2023</u> <u>Note early closing 12.00 on Fri 31st March</u> <u>School reopens Monday 17th April</u>
<u>May Bank Holiday</u>	<u>Monday 1st May</u>
<u>June Bank Holiday</u>	<u>Monday 5th June</u>
<u>School Holidays</u>	<u>Monday June 26th</u> <i>Note: Early closing on this day 12:00</i>

Many thanks, as always, for your continued support.

Niamh McGuinness

School Principal