

# *Caherelly NS January 2022*

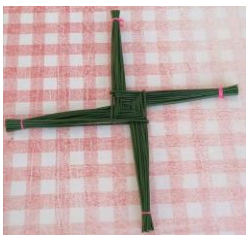
## NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had a restful break over Christmas and that you are now settled into routines again. January can be a long and tiring month for us all and this year, of all years, children have found it hard to keep the momentum going. Children and adults alike are weary from Covid restrictions, anxious about the future and generally exhausted, whether or not they had Covid or other illnesses. On a positive note, we can feel a lift now that the days are longer and the weather brighter. Children are happy to come to school every day and little by little getting their 'Mojo' back!

We have lots of things to look forward to in the coming term in Caherelly NS.

### **School Activities**



- Next Tuesday is St Brigid's Day. On the day we will make St Brigid's Day crosses with rushes in classes from 2nd to 6th. If you would like to help supply us with rushes, please help your child to

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cut them. They should be cut at the base and weed out the brown, brittle ones as it will really help on the day. The fresher they are the better so leave the cutting as close to Tuesday as possible.

- *Swimming lessons* will recommence at UL arena pool for children from 3rd to 6th classes inclusive from March 25th. Swimming is part of our National Curriculum in PE and it's a great opportunity for our pupils to get back to the pool. Due to Covid restrictions since 2020 our pupils have missed out on this opportunity to learn to swim, for example, children in 6th class have not taken part in school swimming since 3rd class. \*swimming is for 8 weeks starting Friday 25th March for 3rd - 6th class pupils, excluding April 8th/ 15th/ 22nd April for Easter Holidays and Friday 13th May (event being held in UL) so finishing Friday 10th June 2022.

\*Payment and other details will follow shortly.

- *Heritage in the school*: Geoff Hunt will be leading field trips with some classes to Curragh Chase and Lough Gur in the coming months. More details will follow.
- *Sean Nós Dancing* and *Tin whistle* lessons have commenced after school for interested children. Both classes are well attended and popular with pupils.
- *Seachtain na Gaeilge*: we have planned a St Patrick's Day Parade again this year on March 16th during school hours. More details to follow.
- *GAA Training*; A decision has been made by Cumman na mBunscol that football and hurling competitions will not take place until after Feb 28th. We will have a GAA coach coming to the school in conjunction with Limerick County Board later this term.
- *Scholastic Book Fair*: Our book fair will be held on the week of March 2nd. It's a great opportunity to promote reading in our school and generates great excitement for Book Week. The added benefit is that our school will get a percentage of the takings to spend on books for our school libraries.
- *Accelerated Reading*: Our school has just signed up for the Accelerated Reading programme. This will be rolled out for pupils from 2nd to 6th class and we have currently signed a contract for 3 years. It is a proven way to promote reading and comprehension for children. It comes at a cost, of course and your contributions to recent PA fundraisers are going towards the funding. The cost is approximately €2,000 per annum so I am sure parents will appreciate the opportunity afforded by the amazing fundraising efforts of the PA. More details on AR will follow.
- *Green Schools*; We are on the quest for another Green Flag for our school. A pupil Green-school committee has been formed and work has started towards this award.

## **Covid news**

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Any person (staff or student), with symptoms should not come to school. A note was sent earlier from HSE on vaccination for children, please review for your own information. This link has the latest guidelines on what to do if your child has a positive test or is a close contact.

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/contact-tracing/if-your-child-is-a-close-contact/>

## **Cycling to school**

With some children cycling to school we must remind everyone of the following;

- Only children from *4th class up* are to cycle, unless accompanied by parents on both journeys, i.e. to and from school.
- All cyclists must have hi-vis jackets and helmets while cycling.
- The school is responsible for our pupils when they are inside the school gate only, we do not take any responsibility for the journey to and from school.
- We will ensure they are safely away from the school parking area in the evenings and encourage them to arrive at the school at **9am sharp**, before the school bus and the main traffic arrives in the morning.
- Please be patient on the road if driving, our pupils are doing their best to stay safe.

\*For parents who collect their children from the Parish Hall, please be on time. We cannot take responsibility for children who wait at the hall.

## **Pastoral News**

Our school Chaplain and Parish Priest, Fr James Walton, recently underwent surgery and is recuperating in his home county of Kilkenny. He is making good progress and will be back to the parish in a number of weeks. We wish him the very best.

A provisional date of Saturday 21st May 2022 is set for our First Holy Communion. This is subject to change, as you will understand and will be confirmed as soon as practicable.

We will celebrate St Brigid's Day in school with the making of crosses.

## **Parents Association**

Thanks to our PA for helping to fund the Gymnastics classes that are currently being held. They have also agreed to fund some other projects which are in the pipeline, as outlined in this bulletin.

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We would encourage all new parents and parents who may not have had a chance in the past to get involved. The PA is a great way to meet new people and be part of the school community. Due to Covid-19 restrictions many of our traditional events have been cancelled over the past two years but hopefully we can get back to normal this year and maybe even start some new traditions! Keep an eye out for events, meetings, etc.

## **School Grounds**



We have continued to work on our grounds with some new playground furniture installed and upgrades to our little walking trail at the rear of the school. Planting will take place in the coming weeks and new equipment will arrive in the near future. Many thanks to the PA and all who contributed from the school community and local area for the funding for this. Without the continued support and fundraising projects like this would not be possible.

## **Uniform and appearance**

Please be aware of the correct school uniform. As we agreed at the start of the year, pupils are free to wear the school tracksuit every day or their formal uniform Mon-Wed and Tracksuits on Thursday and

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Friday. *\*As we currently have Gymnastics class on Mondays they need tracksuits on Mondays also for the time being.*

As a staff we are doing our best to ensure our pupils are as active as possible and therefore tracksuits are more practical. Ensure your child is wearing shoes suitable for running on tracksuit days.

Please ensure that the bottoms are **navy** and *not* branded. Shorts can be worn again in May and June (plain navy shorts are available in Dunnes, M&S, Tesco & Pennys at certain times of the year, keep an eye out for them, they are inexpensive).

### **HEAD LICE**

Nobody wants to hear about these little pests but in the interest of keeping them at bay, please regularly check your child's hair (even if short). Inform us if there is an outbreak as we need to control it quickly if they come into the school. There is no shame in it, they usually appear at some stage during the school year and generally prefer clean heads!!

*\*Please ensure all long hair is tied back neatly.*

Please refer to our Code of Behaviour on our website if you are unsure as to our BOM policy on hairstyles and general appearance.

### **Aladdin**

All school notices will appear on Aladdin. Children will be reminded of events etc in school but may not always remember to tell you so please keep notifications on for the app so that you or your child will not miss out.

### **Seesaw Platform**

We are delighted to be up and running with Seesaw. It provides a secure online journal where students can document and reflect on what they are learning in class. Your child will be able to add the lessons & activities we work on (including photos, videos, worksheets, drawings and voice recordings) to their Seesaw journal and we can share them privately with you to view and comment on throughout the school year.

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## **School Calendar**

### **Caherelly NS School Closing Dates 2022**

<b><u>Staff Inhouse PDST Training</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday 23rd February 2022</u></b> *School closed for pupils on this day.
<b><u>Midterm Break</u></b>	<b><u>Thurs 24th February &amp; Fri 25th Feb 2022</u></b>
<b><u>St Patrick's Day Bank Holidays</u></b>	<b><u>Thurs 17th March &amp; Fri 18th March &amp; Monday 21st March 2022</u></b>
<b><u>Easter</u></b>	<b><u>Mon 11th April - Fri 22nd April 2022</u></b> <b><u>Note early closing 12.00 on Fri 08th April</u></b>
<b><u>May Bank Holiday</u></b>	<b><u>Monday 02nd May &amp; Tuesday 03rd May 2022</u></b>

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<b><u>June Bank Holiday</u></b>	<b><u>Monday 06th June 2022</u></b>
<b><u>Last day of school</u></b>	<b><u>Wed 22 June 2022</u></b> <b><u>note early closing 12.00 on last day</u></b>

Many thanks, as always, for your continued support.

***Niamh McGuinness***

School Principal