

Caherelly N.S.
Ballybricken
NEWSLETTER

October 22nd, 2021

Lots of teaching and learning has taken place since the beginning of the school year. Well done to all. Our staff and pupils are working hard with our classrooms buzzing with activity every day. Parents of course too are playing a huge part, getting our pupils back into routines of school runs, lunches, homework and earlier bedtimes, etc!

Some news on work taking place so far this year is laid out below;

Please follow us on Twitter for more news on activities @CaherellyNS and visit our website www.caherellyns.com for recent photographs of our busy school.

Literacy

Since returning to school a lot of effort has gone into developing literacy and reading levels with hourly sessions of station teaching taking place in Seniors to 3rd class several days per week. Station teaching or Literacy Lift-off explained: pupils are grouped based on reading age after being benchmarked by the AEN (additional educational needs) teaching team. Groups are made up of up to 5 children and each group or station works on an area of literacy for 10 minutes with a teacher or SNA. When the 10 minutes is up an alarm sounds and the staff rotate to a new group. Each staff member has a different task to complete with the groups so it means that in the hour the class have worked for 10 minute blocks in small groups in areas such as; reading, word attack skills, phonics, phonological awareness, oral language and spelling. This takes place 3 or 4 times per week and children have been bringing home their PM readers to practice reading and retelling of stories at home with a parent. Careful planning and timetabling is involved in running these sessions. They are quite labour intensive and we are very lucky to have enough staff to cover the stations currently.

Maths

Team teaching takes place from 2nd class to 6th classes for maths several times per week. Team teaching can take many forms but the most common kind that we use is parallel teaching. This in simple terms means that there are two teachers in the class. The class may be split into two groups with both groups working on the same material, meaning that the teachers can give more individual time to pupils.

This week was Maths Week and every class took part in maths activities for example, maths trails & maths stations. There are lots of interesting and engaging home activities online if you'd like to take part! <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2019/maths-at-home/>

Gaeilge

Nathanna cainte (everyday phrases in Irish) are being emphasised again as with school closures our pupils have forgotten many they would previously have learned.

We will send home a list of phrases to use at home after mid-term and are making a whole school effort to improve our gaeilge cómhra in the coming months in the build up to Seachtain na Gaeilge, Márta 2022.

School Activities

Cycling

Cycling with Cycle Right has now finished. It was a great success and we have a good number of children regularly cycling to school. Please keep up all the good work in this as safety is of utmost importance. We gently remind our cyclists to arrive at school by 9am in order to avoid traffic.

Zumba

Our Zumba classes with School fitness Ireland were very popular with our pupils. We will be doing gymnastics after Christmas with the same company and look forward to building on previous skills.

Swimming

We have made a provisional booking for swimming lessons for April to June next year for 2nd to 6th class inclusive. More news to follow on this.

Halloween dress-up

This Friday children are invited to dress up in Halloween costumes. Individual teachers will have plans for their classes during the day. Please do not send swords or similar accessories with your child on the day. Look out for the spooky photos on Twitter throughout the day!

Goal Jersey day

Thank you to all who contributed to Goal on Friday 8th of October. We collected a total of €240.

Shoebox Appeal

Shoeboxes will be collected from the school after Halloween. More information available here <https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/>

Music lessons/dancing lessons

We are planning to begin trad music lessons after school for 2nd - 6th Class in the New Year. We are currently gauging interest, therefore please email the office if you are interested, stating if your child is a beginner or if they have previous musical experience.

Christmas Concert

Given the current situation with Covid, a decision has been made by the BOM not to have a Christmas concert this year. All classes will take part in Christmas themed activities which will be uploaded for you to view at home.

Other News

Board of Management

As planned, Fr Walton has recently stepped down as Chairperson of our board. At our last meeting of the BOM, Brigid Teefy was officially appointed as Chairperson of the Board. Brigid has served on our board in the past and has a vast amount of experience. We are looking forward to working with her. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Walton for his support and dedication to our school in his many years of service as Chairperson of our Board of Management.

Student Teachers

Welcome to our student teachers Ciara Ryan and Jacquelyn Breen who will be with us until the end of November in various classes. They are a great addition to the school and contribute to many school initiatives, we are lucky to have them.

Parent Association

It is hoped that there will be a Parent Association meeting in the week following midterm. Please do your best to attend. There will be plenty of volunteering opportunities for all as there are great plans afoot for the coming weeks in the leadup to Christmas and beyond. It would be great to see a few dads there too, don't be shy!

Parent/teacher meetings

Parent/teacher meetings for children who are in receipt of School Support Plus tuition took place this week. Many thanks to the parents involved. These meetings are informative and productive and help all involved in caring for the educational needs of our pupils.

Regular Parent/teacher meetings will take place in November. Meetings will be over the phone as was the case last year. Booking slots will be available on Aladdin after midterm.

Building Works

Work continues on our roof and painting will be completed over the break. We are also having retractable netting erected between the school yard and the pitch, another great addition to the Parish.

Enrollments

We are taking enrollments for Junior Infants for Sept '22. Please ring the office to enroll your child if you have not already done so. Please pass on our details to any interested parents who may not know our school, leaflets are available from the office for more information.

Covid

Thank you all for your support and collaboration during this time. Recent updates to policy mean that contact tracing and isolation rules have changed. Please continue to act responsibly as you have done all along. We value your openness and continued communication to ensure we can do our best to keep our pupils and staff safe.

In remembrance

Today is the first anniversary of the death of our dear friend and principal, Fionnuala Allen. We will pause for prayer this morning in her memory.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.