

Caherelly NS September 2021

NEWSLETTER



Welcome back everyone! We hope you are all well rested after a beautiful summer. We extend a warm welcome to our 14 new Junior Infants! They are settling in well with their teacher Ms Ryan.

Welcome also to our newest permanent staff members, Mr Darragh Keane who is teaching 2nd and 3rd class this year; and also to Mrs Caroline Ward our new part-time SNA.

Congratulations

The latest addition to the Caherelly family is Baby Sam Ryan born on August 31st, to Ms Karen Cunniffe and her partner Dave. Warmest congratulations to them and their little girl Anna.

Congratulations also to our past-pupils who sat the Leaving Cert this year. As they start out on the path to future careers, we wish them all the very best of luck.

School Activities



Zumba with School Fitness Ireland is very popular so far. It gives our pupils the opportunity to experience a new activity.



Cycle right for 5th and 6th classes is part funded by the County Council and our BOM.

*CYCLE RIGHT is the National Standard for Cycle Training and provides practical cycle safety and skills training to promote competent and confident cyclists. CYCLE RIGHT is an inclusive programme.

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

- Only children from *4th class up* are to cycle unless accompanied on both journeys, i.e. to and from school.
- All cyclists must have hi-vis jackets and helmets while cycling.
- The school is responsible only for our pupils when they are inside the school gate, 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.

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- Please be patient on the road if driving, our pupils are doing their best to stay safe, it is the responsibility of our road users to drive extra carefully also.

So far it is working out very well and our pupils are doing their best to adhere to rules of the road. Well done boys and girls!

Heritage in the school: Geoff Hunt will be leading a field trip with 5th and 6th classes to Curragh Chase in October. More details will follow.

GAA Training

A decision will be made after Halloween on whether or not to run the Cumman na mBunscol football and hurling competitions this academic year. In the hope that it does take place we hope to begin after school football training in the coming weeks one evening per week, weather permitting. This will be for boys and girls from 4th class upwards. All are welcome, it doesn't matter whether children play with a club or not.

Pastoral News

Feast of St Ailbe September 12th - 5th and 6th class did some research on the Patron Saint of our parish and diocese, St Ailbe. Their work is on display in the corridor and has taught us all a thing or two about our Patron Saint!



Confirmation for last year's 6th class and the current 6th took place on August 28th. Many thanks to Ms Jane Conway for preparing our pupils for the occasion. We were honoured to host Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly who officiated the ceremony. Ours was the first Confirmation he celebrated this year.

First Holy Communion will be this Saturday, September 18th in our parish church. Eight children from Third Class will receive the Sacrament and I'm sure they are all looking forward to the long awaited celebration!



School Grounds

We had some painting and powerwashing work done over the summer and it has enhanced the appearance of our school. More will take place over the Halloween break.

Work has been started on our school garden with the bulk to follow in the coming months. Updates will follow in due course.

Thank you to Joe Teefy who keeps our grounds looking so well.

Roof Works

We have several leaks in our school roof which will be repaired in the coming weeks. Information on health and safety will be issued once plans are fully in place. Rest assured all precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of our students and staff during these works. School will continue as normal during these works. There may be extra traffic on the road at this time.

Parents Association

Thanks to our PA for helping to fund the Zumba classes that are currently being held. They have also agreed to part fund the next set of classes in the spring. Our PA is very supportive of all we do and without the financial support some of these activities would not be possible.

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.

Savings Stamps

Due to Covid restrictions we can no longer facilitate the sale of savings stamps in the school. All books will be returned to pupils who have them in school by Halloween.

Staffing:

Junior Infants Ms Ryan

Seniors & 1st Ms Laura Williams (Substitute)- Ms Cunniffe (Maternity leave)

2nd & 3rd Mr Darragh Keane

4th class Mr Denis Kennedy

5/6th class Ms Jane Conway

SET teachers: Mrs Niamh McGuinness, Mrs Tara O'Malley & Mr Brian McMahon (Part-time), Ms Grainne Fitzgibbon (Part-time)

SNA Staff: Mrs Geraldine Fitzgerald, Mrs Aly O'Curry, Mrs Caroline Ward

Secretary: Mrs Trish Fitzgerald

Uniform and appearance

Due to the unseasonably good weather since our return to school, pupils have been free to wear **navy** shorts with their tracksuit tops. Now that the weather is changing please revert back to the regular

tracksuit bottoms. As a staff we are doing our best to ensure our pupils are as active as possible and therefore tracksuits are more practical. Children are free to wear **school** tracksuits every day from now on. If children wish, they may wear the grey formal uniform on Monday and Tuesday but from next week on tracksuits should be worn Wed, Thurs and Friday. 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 next 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).

Gentle Reminder: 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 App Payments:

Thanks to all families for paying bills promptly. As you can imagine September is a busy month in the office and we appreciate your effort in this respect.

Payments to school for all expenses are to be through Aladdin online payments only from now on. Paper receipts will not be issued as an email will automatically be sent to the payee as a record of payment. As usual, if you have any problems setting it up, please contact the office and Trish will be more than happy to help you.

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 and you or your child should not miss out.

Seesaw Platform

We are delighted to share with you that this school year our class will be using Seesaw (<http://seesaw.me>), 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 things we work on (including photos, videos, worksheets, drawings and voice recordings) to their Seesaw journal and we can share them privately with you and other family members to view and comment on throughout the school year.

Goal Jersey Day

GOAL Jersey Day takes place this year on 8th October 2021. WEAR your favourite jersey on October 8th, show you CARE by making your donation to GOAL €2.00 per child.

Your donations to GOAL make a huge difference to the lives of so many in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

Parent Teacher meetings

Parent teacher meetings in November with SET meetings taking place before mid-term. Regular class meetings will be held in November and will be over the telephone as was the case last year. More details to follow.

Covid news We've got off to a great start this year and both teachers and pupils are really enjoying life back in the classroom. The department has sent us the following bullet points in their update this week:

Any person (staff or student), with symptoms should not come to school. 'If in doubt, stay out!' We need to keep schools safe. Please see attached a useful information graphic.

Advice for parents during Covid-19:

Symptoms to look out for

If your child has any of the following symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school and contact your GP:

- A temperature of 38 degrees Celcius or more
- A new cough
- Loss or changed sense of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has become worse
- Fatigue
- Aches or pains
- Sore throats
- Headaches
- Diarrhoea
- Runny or stuff nose
- Feeling sick or vomiting

For more see gov.ie/backtoschool

Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Many thanks for your continued support.

Niamh McGuinness

School Principal