

October 2023

Scoil Ailbhe Caherelly NS



Dates to Remember

Halloween Break: 27th October

Open Morning: 11th November

Panto: 18th December

Cake Sale: 10th December

Christmas Show: 13th December

Christmas Holidays: 22nd December

Date for communion: May 11th 2024

Welcome to Caherelly!

This September we welcomed 15 new Junior Infants to our school. Two new boys also joined, one in 5th class and one in 4th. We also welcome two new staff members, Ms Siobhan Byrne and Ms Órla McGrath. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all and wish them many years of happiness in our school.



*What a sweet picture of our Junior Infant class!
Thanks to our resident photographer
Keith Wiseman .*

Sports News

Our boys and girls have been very busy this term with football and basketball. Jordan is a popular coach with our pupils and will return for after school classes for 3rd to 6th class pupils after Halloween.



Cumman na mBunscol and Allianz Mini-7s competitions have taken place in football with children from 4th to 6th taking part. Our teams had several days out on the playing field and lots of training sessions with Mr Keane and Ms Ryan. Our boys team are through to the 9 a side final in November.



Congratulations to 6th class pupils Aidan Bonar, Ciara Teefy and Vivienne Garry who have all been selected for the East Limerick football teams.

News from our Classrooms

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Our Parent/Teacher meetings for 1st to 6th classes will be held on the week of November 13th. Parents can choose to have a phone or in-person meeting.

Music Generation

Every wednesday we are joined by Aoife and Chloe, two qualified musicians from MG. Our pupils learn about all musical elements.

After Christmas they will be learning an instrument, the ukulele, which will be provided by MG.

Accelerated Reading

3rd to 6th Class are using the Accelerated Reading program again this year to encourage them to read and to help in their comprehension & vocabulary skills. So far this term they have read a total of 513 books between them! Our first target is due to be met on November 13th so there is plenty of time in the next few weeks for every child to achieve their reading goal.

Maths Day

We celebrated Maths Day last week. Children from all classes took part in a fun centred activity day. We started with group activities and games and finished off with a Maths Quiz. Did you know that the combined age of our staff is 509, our average age is 42?

Occasions like this are a wonderful learning experience in so many ways, from mathematical to social and lots in between.



Trip to Lough Gur

Our classes from Junior Infants to 2nd Class visited our favourite local public amenity last Friday. After all the rain it was a lovely day and our pupils had such a great time. They explored the area for leaves and sticks, making leaf kebabs. Following that, they marched on to the Pigeon house identifying leaves, berries and seeds on the way. At the Pigeon House it was time for some mindful meditation followed by leaf and bark rubbings. The playground was probably the highlight for most of our pupils. Days like this can nurture the quest for knowledge of our natural world and also teach our pupils how to relax in and appreciate nature and to value what we have in our locality. There are so many benefits to learning in the open air; not all classrooms have 4 walls!



Trip to Kilmallock

In October, classes from 3rd to 6th went on a trip to one of the oldest towns in Ireland, Kilmallock. We split into two groups, one beginning at the library where they met Denis and Rosie from Animal Magic with a selection of animals, they browsed the library and got subscription forms if they weren't already members. While that group was at the library the other group was exploring the Dominican Friary with Maureen, our guide for the day. We swapped over at lunchtime so both groups got to get to visit the two locations. Maureen was a fantastic guide and gave us so much information on the town and its ancient history.



Read all about both the Lough Gur and Kilmallock trips in the children's recounts at our open morning on November 11th where their model walled towns will also be on display.



Marine Science Workshop

Brendan Joyce visited the school with his Discover Science STEM workshop. The theme was an introduction to Marine Zoology and Benny arrived with a hoard of

treasures from the sea. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day with his explanations, interesting facts and the regaling of his adventures as a marine biologist.

Gardening

Our 6th class girls did an amazing job weeding and tidying up our sensory garden. Well done to them for the hard work. They are a group who are not afraid to get stuck in and get their hands dirty! Fair play to them.

Goal Jersey Day

We collected €200 for Goal Jersey Day, thanks to all who contributed.

Fr Walton

As I'm sure you will by now be aware, our Parish Priest, Fr James Walton was redeployed to the parish of Gortnahoe in Co. Tipperary during the summer. He will be greatly missed by our school community. Our PA will be making a presentation to him on the occasion of his farewell celebration. Date TBC.

Extra Announcements

Hot Dinners coming up!

We have been selected as one of the schools to start receiving hot dinners for our pupils. In the spring we will get more details of this but it looks like the days of the ham sandwich are over and our pupils will be provided with a hot lunch of their choice at school each day, free of charge. It's fantastic news!

Free Book Scheme

The Department of Education this year funded free books for all pupils in Primary Schools. This was a huge benefit to parents as I'm sure you will agree. Many thanks to Trish and all our staff for the additional organisation involved.

Extra support hours

We have been allocated additional support hours as of September '23. This is an opportunity to give extra support to pupils who may need additional help in the areas of maths or English. Great news for our school!

Autism Class

Our BOM, with the support of our staff, has made an application to open a new Autism class in September '24.

Our school is a safe and welcoming place. We have a fantastic team of dedicated teachers and support staff, parents who support us and a BOM who value and support the work that we do. Our school values and recognises the diversity of our pupils, for example, those with additional learning needs, English language learners, and pupils from different cultural backgrounds. The school fosters an inclusive environment where all students can achieve their full potential and reach their goals. When sanctioned, our new class will double down on ensuring that all students feel valued, supported and included socially, emotionally and academically.

Board of Management

Our current BOM will finish its term of office on Nov 30th and our new Board will take up on Dec 1st. Thanks to all outgoing board members and our parent members, Jean Hartigan and Matt Ward for the time put in over the past 4 years. It is a voluntary position and we are very grateful for the effort put into supporting our school and staff.

The board's function is to manage the school on behalf of the patron (St Senan's), for the benefit of the students and to provide an appropriate education for each student at the school. The board is accountable to the patron and the Minister for Education. The school principal is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school and is accountable to the board.

Thank you to the parents who have put themselves forward as parent nominees for the new board. All parents, please see your email for an important update.

Curricular News

All schools are required to have a self Improvement plan in place. Part of our current focus is on Wellbeing. The whole school is implementing the Weaving Wellbeing programme.

It is very important too that our parents know what strategies and tools we are using in school to help with Wellbeing. Please take time to go over the wellbeing workbook with your child when they bring it home.

Life is very busy and we appreciate that parents may be under pressure at times. Please be assured that we are sympathetic and understanding when problems arise for your child. Never be afraid to ask for help or

raise a concern if needed. We do our best to send out information on parenting and other relevant courses, webinars etc. There is a lot of help available so please avail of it if you feel you need it for whatever reason.

New Maths Curriculum - staff attended an information session on the new Maths Curriculum recently. There will be a school closure day for training in the coming term, date TBC. Please check the following link for more information on the new curriculum

<https://ncca.ie/en/primary/resources-for-parents/>

Primary Language Curriculum

Our school is fully engaging with and implementing the new primary language curriculum. This year our teaching staff are availing of 'sustained support' from an Oide consultant which is a fantastic resource.

After School Activities

Traditional Music lessons with Laoise

Lessons were held on Friday evenings from September. They were very well attended. Ms Fitzgibbon has other commitments for the remainder of the term but will return after Christmas, subject to enrolment to the class. More information to follow in January.

Irish Dancing with Melissa

This takes place on Wednesday evenings. Parents have requested that lessons continue and numbers are very healthy currently. New enrolments welcome, please contact the office for details.

Basketball with Jordan

We have had a huge uptake of the after-school Basketball classes. We are currently full and not taking any other names. They will begin after mid-term and run for 6 weeks. The class will run from 3 - 4pm. Pupils will go directly to the halla after class and prepare for basketball at 3.

School Open Day

We are now taking enrolments for 2024 and beyond for pupils in all classes.

If you have any friends or family who wish to enrol their child/ren, please advise them to come along to our open morning on November 11th to see our school and meet some of our staff and students.

On the same morning we are also holding a sports gear, uniform swap in the halla. Items such as boots, jerseys, hurleys, helmets, uniform tops, etc (in good condition) can be donated and in exchange parents are free to take other items on offer. There will be a voluntary donation box for anyone who would like to contribute to school funds.

Refreshments will be provided.

ALL ARE WELCOME



Parent Association

Our PA held its Annual meeting earlier this term. Claire Connolly is Chairperson, Kele Fitzgerald, Treasurer and Threse Kennedy, Secretary.

As a school we are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated group of parents willing to give their time and energy to fundraise for our school and organise events such as our Christmas Cake Sale and School Walk. New members are always welcome.

Our PA fundraising helps to reduce the cost to parents of a multitude of items including; Accelerated Reading, Music Generation, buses to events, Christmas panto, school exhibits and many more.

School Calendars and pupil Christmas cards will be available to order in the coming month, the proceeds of which go towards school funds.

Reflection

O God, of Creation, you have blessed us
With the changing of the seasons.

As we embrace these autumn months,
May the earlier setting of the sun

Remind us to take time to rest.

May the crunch of the leaves beneath our
feet

Remind us of the brevity of this earthly life.
May the scurrying of the squirrels

And the migration of the birds Remind us
that you call us to follow your will.

We praise you for your goodness forever and
ever. Amen.

On behalf of myself and all our staff, we wish
you all a safe and restful break.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Niamh McGuinness

Principal