

Newsletter – November/ December 2020



Cahergal N.S.
Scola Náisiúna An Chathair Sheal



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Principal's message

Dear parents, how time is flying! We are fast approaching the end of our first term in the academic year, and what a busy one it has been. Despite the restrictions that affect all our lives, our school continues to be a hub of activity and a safe haven of distraction and learning fun for our wonderful pupils. I continue to thank you for the spirit of cooperation and understanding. Although we cannot have the same face to face daily interactions, we are here at the end of the phone or by email should you need to discuss anything.

Wishing all our families good health and happiness as we approach the festive season, **Mr. Beegan**.

Drop off/Pick up of children

Can we gently remind all of our parental body to be extra vigilant towards safety when dropping off/collecting children. It only takes a split second for an accident to happen. Please use the roundabout and parking areas provided and ensure pupils do not have to leave the security of the school grounds if at all possible. If there is a parking space available in the staff area in the evening, please avail of this.

School Closures to note:

Christmas Break – Closing Tuesday 22nd December @12.30 – Re-opening on Wednesday 6th January

Covid-19 Reminder

We remind all parents that if your child is displaying any of the symptoms relating to Covid-19 (*cough, high temperature, shortness of breath, loss or change to sense of smell*) or feeling generally sick/unwell, then we ask that they not attend school.

October/November ~ Look Back

Trick or Treat for Temple Street – What fun we had dressing up and raising funds for Temple Street Hospital for Children. We raised a grand total of €229.

Credit Union Art Competition – Congratulations to Millie Ross, 6th Class, who won First Place in the St. Jarlath's Credit Union Art Competition, 11 – 13 age category. We are very proud of Millie's wonderful achievement and we wish her well at the regional level of the competition.

Pearse Stadium Art – Well done to pupils from 3rd to 6th Class who created beautiful posters and good luck messages for the Galway team as they played Mayo in the Connacht Football Final. Their work was displayed on seats in the stand of Pearse Stadium along with pupils from many schools around Galway.

Design-a-Card – Well done to all of our pupils on the super Christmas Card designs they created. Huge thank you to Evelyn Carr from our Parents' Association for her great work coordinating this initiative. Orders can still be placed online.

Literacy Lift-Off – Our 1st and 2nd Class pupils are enjoying a 5 week block of Literacy Lift-Off. This is a fun and focused initiative aimed at boosting children's reading interest and ability. Thank you to 1st and 2nd Class parents for your cooperation.

Congratulations – Huge congratulations to our own Ms. Duddy on the birth of her baby girl, Hannah. All the boys and girls (and staff) were delighted to hear the good news and send our best wishes.

December

Christmas Raffle – Our annual Christmas Raffle Draw will be held in the school on Thursday, 17th December. We appreciate whatever contributions people can make. In these uncertain times, it's lovely to keep this school tradition going. A big thank you to all who have donated prizes and the best of luck to everyone that enters.

Crazy Christmas Jumper Day - We invite all our pupils and staff to wear their favourite Christmas jumpers (socks/hats/gloves) on Monday, 21st December and help raise our festive spirits ahead of our holidays!

Notice regarding Christmas Cards/gifts – As per Department of Education guidelines, the giving of cards between pupils must be strictly limited to pupils within their own Pod. This year we ask that pupils who want to give a gift to their teacher, donate to a charity of their choice instead.

Amber Flag – We are now taking on the challenge of obtaining an Amber Flag. This Flag is awarded by Pieta House and is focused on promoting awareness and positive attitudes toward mental health and wellbeing. The initiative builds upon work already being done in our school along with some extra activities and learning. Our Amber Board is up and looking beautiful. This month we are focusing on the theme of Kindness throughout the school.



Christmas Greetings to Brooklodge Nursing Home – Well done to all of our pupils who created and wrote such lovely letters and cards to each resident in Brooklodge Nursing Home in Ballyglunin. It is these simple acts of kindness that make such a difference in the world.

Special Visitor – Correspondence from the North Pole tells us that we can expect a special visitor to Cahergal N.S. before our holidays! All the teachers are delighted to hear this as we all agree our pupils have been so good and kind this year.

January ~ Look Ahead

Parent/Teacher Meetings – This year we will hold Parent/Teacher Meetings in late January and early February by phone. Times and dates will be communicated through email in January. We look forward to chatting with parents about their child's progress.

'Cycle-Right Course' – 5th and 6th class will partake in this cycling safety course in January. Instructors will visit the school and provide a blend of practical and theory focused cycle safety lessons. It is supported by An Taisce and Galway County Council.

Condolences – The Board of Management and staff of Cahergal N.S. would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Moggan family on the passing of Pat. The Moggan family have a long and close connection to our school and all of Pat's five children are past pupils. Our heartfelt sympathies to his wife Fiona and to Dylan, Jade, Lana, Aaron and Jake. *Go ndéana Dia a mhaith air.*



Our new Astro Turf pitch is nearing completion. There has been great excitement in school watching the carpet being laid.

Merry Christmas and best wishes to all our pupils and families as we look forward with hope to 2021