



Oíche Shamhna
Shona Daoibh!

Newsletter – September/ October 2020



Cahergal N.S.
Scott. Náisiúna. An Chathair Sheáil

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Midterm Message

Thank you to all of our parent body for your support and cooperation over the past two months. Our wonderful pupils are happily settled back into school life and doing what children do best; learning, laughing and growing together. All the staff and B.O.M. of Cahergal N.S wish you a safe Halloween Break.

School Closures to note:

Mid-Term Break – Closing Friday 23rd October – Re-opening on Monday 2nd November



September/October ~ Look Back

First Confession and Holy Communion - Big congratulations to our super Third Class pupils who made their First Confession and Holy Communion recently. This group have waited a long time to receive these sacraments so it was wonderful that Fr. Mitchell could assist us and we are very grateful to him. Well done to Meaveen, Megan, Dara, Katie, Seán, Donnacha, Noah, Isabelle, Cathal and Clodagh for their exemplary conduct during both ceremonies and thank you to their parents for the help, understanding and support. Thank you to Ms. Kelly for all her work last year with this group and to Mrs. McGrath for ensuring everything ran so smoothly on the day of the Communion. Special thanks to Ms. Duddy who prepared the class so well and coordinated both events at short notice before going on maternity leave. Thank you to members of our Parent Association and B.O.M. for providing such lovely treats for the celebration party.



First Holy Communion Class 2020



Mrs. McGrath on her retirement

Mrs. McGrath retires from Cahergal N.S. - 2nd October marked a bittersweet occasion for the pupils and staff of Cahergal N.S. as we said farewell to one of our wonderful teachers, Mrs. Eileen McGrath. Eileen had spent the past 27 years teaching in our school, serving as Deputy Principal along with our previous principal, Mrs. Flynn, and Mr. Beegan. Her final day was a very special one where she visited each class group, telling stories and having fun with the pupils. Every child contributed to a beautiful book of memories which was presented to her by our eldest pupil, Sorcha Ryder. The children formed a guard of honour and sang 'May the Road Rise to Meet You' to Mrs. McGrath. She planted an oak tree on the school grounds as a lasting testament to her time in the school. The oak tree had been sown as an acorn by our present 6th Class pupils when they were in 2nd Class. Presentations were made on behalf of the staff, Parent Association and Board of Management to Eileen as tokens of the gratitude and appreciation felt for the generous professional and personal contribution she has given to the school since 1993. Mrs. McGrath gifted the school a beautiful piano keyboard and stand. All of the pupils, staff, B.O.M., and wider community wish Eileen good health and happiness as she embarks on this next chapter of her life. A special teacher and lady, her legacy of kindness, diligence and care is embedded in Cahergal N.S.

Welcome Mr. O'Neachtain and Mr. Mahoney - A warm Cahergal welcome is extended to Mr. Robert O'Neachtain who joins the permanent teaching staff and to Mr. Daniel Mahoney who will cover Ms. Duddy's maternity leave absence. Mr. Mahoney takes up the shared Special Education Teacher post with Cummer N.S. We hope both teachers will be very happy with us.

Irish Dancing Classes - Unfortunately, we are unable to allow classes with Ruth to go ahead in the school presently. This decision was taken following advice from our school insurer, Allianz, in light of the current pandemic.

GAA Football Training - Gaelic Football training is currently taking place with Darren from Galway GAA. As this training takes place strictly outdoors and pupils remain in their class Pods, we are delighted to allow the children avail of this.

Maths Week Ireland – We really enjoyed Maths Week Ireland 2020 along with thousands of other registered schools across the country. All classes left the books behind on Wednesday and engaged in fun maths activities. You can see some pictures from the week on our website and twitter feed, www.cahergalns.ie

Parents Association A.G.M. - Thank you to all who attended the online Parents Association A.G.M. on 15th October. New members are always welcome and we thank the group for their hard work and dedication. The officers for the coming year are, Chairperson – Yvonne Tully, Secretary -Maria Noone, and Treasurer – Ursula Stephens.

Clothes Collection – Big thank you to everyone that supported the clothing collection organised by our Parent Association.

Bingo Fundraiser – The Parents Association are in the process of issuing refunds to families who purchased tickets for the school fundraiser that was to be held last March. Refunds will also be issued to businesses who sponsored prizes. They will be in touch with all concerned after the mid-term break. The P.A. would like to express their sincere gratitude to all who contributed and look forward to organising an event when it is safe to do so.

Design-a-Card – Our P.A. are organising the Design-a-Card initiative ahead of Christmas this year. We look forward to getting creative after mid-term break, as pupils will design their own Christmas card for families to use to enjoy.

Astro-Turf - It is fantastic to see our new astro-turf pitch under construction. While it can be used as a sporting amenity, it will not be limited to this and we welcome the opportunities for fun and enjoyment it will provide the school. Due to poor drainage and wet weather, we have only been able to use our pitch space for a few weeks at the beginning and end of each school year. Having an astro-turf pitch will free up our tarmac areas, allow plenty of exercise space and ensure that all pupils can avail of a bigger playground throughout the whole year. Funding for this project comes from monies raised and saved by successive Boards of Management since the 1990's for the purpose of improving the school's building facilities. As our new building was fully funded by the Department of Education, the B.O.M. felt that the saved funds should be used to enhance the school's overall facilities and in doing so, honour the original intentions of its collection. These monies along with more raised through the 'Night at the Dogs' event in 2017, will ensure the project will be fully covered.

Pupil appointments during school - Having recently reviewed some of our procedures regarding Covid-19, we will no longer be asking parents to keep children at home should they have an appointment during a school day. This practice was requested with the best of intentions for the safety and health of all pupils and staff. We realise that this may have incurred inconvenience for parents and interference with learning. Pupils are welcome to return at any time of the day. **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.**

Condolences to staff members - Deepest condolences are extended to Helen O'Grady, S.N.A., on the passing of her mother, Mrs. Mary Ward, and to Jason Carr, our caretaker, on the death of his mother, Bernadette Carr. *Go soilsí solas na bhflaitheas orthu.*

November/December ~ Look Ahead

Fri 23rd Oct – Halloween Fancy Dress Day – in aid of Temple Street Children's Hospital, €2.00 pls per child. Fancy Dress and children are allowed to bring two treats & a drink on the day.

10th – 17th Nov – Science Week 2020 – www.sfi.ie – to check out some events to visit in your local area.

Annual Christmas Raffle – Thursday 17th December