



Cahergal N.S.
Scoil Náisiúna An Charraí Sheol

Newsletter – December 2023

Nuachtlitir – Nollag 2023



Dear parents/guardians,

It is hard to believe that our first term of the year is drawing to a close. A huge amount of learning, fun and laughter, has happened in Cahergal N.S. since we started in late August, and as we conclude this important educational period, I wish to acknowledge the continued goodwill, support and cooperation of our parental body. Our team in the school have worked incredibly hard to ensure everything runs smoothly and that Cahergal N.S. continues to be a warm and welcoming environment for all. A massive word of thank you to our Parents Association, Board of Management and all in the local community, who assist and support us in so many ways. On behalf of the Board of Management and school team, I would like to wish all of our pupils and families a happy, healthy and peaceful

Christmas.

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir
Alastair Beegan (Príomhoide)



School Closures to note:



Christmas Break – We finish the term with a **half day closure at 12pm** on Friday, 22nd December.
The second term commences on **Monday 8th January**.

Christmas News

Christmas Concert – We are looking forward to holding our Christmas Concert on **Tuesday, 19th December, at 7pm** in the school Halla. Junior and Senior Infants will perform ‘Whoopsy Daisy Angel’ and Third and Fourth Class will deliver ‘Brian the Christmas Tree’. Fifth and Sixth Class will form our school choir and First and Second Class will be treating us to a song or two on the night also. A great night of Christmas fun for all the community is promised and there will be a cuppa afterwards.

St. Vincent De Paul Food Collection – We are running a small food collection in each classroom for St. Vincent De Paul. If any of our families have spare non-perishable food items that they would like to contribute, pupils can bring them in and place them in the dedicated boxes in each classroom until Wednesday, **December 20th**. As always, there is no pressure on any family to participate. Small items make a big difference to the lives of those less fortunate at this time of year, so please give what you can.

Christmas Raffle – Our annual Christmas Raffle Draw will be held in the school on **Thursday, 21st December at 11.30pm**. A huge thank you in advance to everyone who supports our raffle and a word of sincere appreciation to the generous groups and individuals who donated so many fantastic prizes. This school tradition is such an important fundraiser each year and as always, the kindness and generosity of our school community is something for us all to be proud of. We ask our pupils and families to remember neighbours near them who may have had children attend Cahergal N.S. in the past and may like to support the raffle.

Design-a-Card – Well done to all of our pupils on the beautiful Christmas Card art work. A massive thank you to Evelyn Carr from our Parents’ Association, for coordinating this initiative. €256 was raised for the school.

Special Visitor – The North Pole elves have been in contact to let us know that we can expect a red-suited visitor to Cahergal N.S. very soon!

Christmas Party in each room - We invite all our pupils and staff to wear their favourite Christmas jumpers on Friday, 22nd December and help raise our festive spirits ahead of our holidays. Pupils can bring two treats and a drink and there will be a small party in each room. This year we ask that pupils who want to give a gift to their teacher, donate to a charity of their choice instead.

Gymnastics – All classes have enjoyed gymnastics lessons with ACE HIGH Gymnastics Tuam every Tuesday for the past 6 weeks.

Trick or Treat for Temple Street – On Friday, 28th October, we raised €263 for Our Lady’s Hospital for Sick Children by taking part in the Trick or Treat for Temple Street initiative.

Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal – We were overwhelmed by the tremendous response to the Shoe Box Appeal. Our pupils sent off over 74 boxes filled with practical gifts and tokens to children living in poverty or areas stricken by war. Wonderful to see such generosity.

Multicultural Week – What a fantastic time we had celebrating the cultural diversity in our school during Multicultural Week. We were blown away by the enthusiasm and generosity of our families who hold another country dear to their hearts. Presentations, photographs, language, food and wonderful stories, were shared with such a tremendous sense of kindness and goodwill. Our pupils had a special week of learning and exposure to new cultures. An immense word of thank you is due to the parents who gave of their time and put such huge work into their contributions and to Ms. Keady for coordinating a special week.

Connacht GAA Football Blitz – Well done to the girls and boys in Third and Fourth Class who represented the school at the Connacht GAA Football Blitz in the Dome in the Bekan on November 16th. Thank you to Mr. Mahoney and Anna for accompanying the children, a great day was had.

Hurling Training – Fifth and Sixth Class really enjoyed learning the skills of hurling with Ian from Abbeyknockmoy Hurling Club during October and November. This was a first for our school to have a hurling trainer visit the school and we are very grateful to Abbeyknockmoy Hurling for coordinating. Ian will be back in the new year to work with Third and Fourth Class.

Tag Rugby – We were delighted to welcome Sean from Tuam Rugby Club who worked with Third to Sixth Classes during October and November. Again, we were very fortunate to be one of the few schools in the area to receive this training.

Board of Management 2023 – 2027

The following will serve on our Board of Management for the next 4 years.

Patron Representatives	Teacher Representatives	Parent Representatives	Community Representatives
Ronan Stephens (Chairman) Bernie Forde	Alastair Beegan (Secretary) Aoife Moran	Marie Comer Billy Hamilton	Marie McHugh John Wilson

A sincere word of thanks to all of the parents who so kindly allowed their name to go forward in the Parental Representative Election. Huge thank you also to the outgoing members of our Board; Ms. Fileas Keady (Teacher Representative), Danny Ahern and Lorraine Hynes (Parent Representatives) and Fr. Heraty (Patron Representative), all of whom gave outstanding service and commitment to the governance and smooth running of our school. We welcome our new Board members and wish them well in their term.

January News

Parent Teacher Meetings – We will hold Parent/Teacher Meetings on Wednesday 24th and Wednesday 31st of January. Time slots will be circulated to families on our first week back after the Christmas holidays.

Swimming – Fifth and Sixth Class will begin on a 6 week block of swimming lessons on Friday, 12th January.

Open Day/Evening – we will hold our Open Morning/Evening on Wednesday, 17th January 2024. The Open Morning will be held between 10 am and 11am and our Open Evening between 6pm and 7pm. Please encourage any prospective parents who might be interested in enrolling their children with us, to come along. Any parents who cannot make either morning or evening sessions, are welcome to contact us to arrange a visit.

Hip Hop – We are delighted to welcome back Fun2beFit for a 6 week block of Hip Hop classes, starting on Tuesday, 9th January. The classes cost €2 each week.

Catholic School's Week – We will celebrate Catholic School's Week from January 22nd to 26th.

Policy Review – We will ratify our updated Internet Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP) and Administration of Medicine Policy, at the next meeting of our Board of Management. Changes to the Internet Acceptable Usage Policy requires consent from parents (we usually gain this consent upon enrolment). The newly ratified policy will be emailed to parents in the coming days, along with a Google Form for parents to indicate their consent. I would ask parents to please read this policy carefully as we will be establishing a Facebook and Instagram pages for the promotion of our school, and the AUP outlines acceptable protocols for use of these platforms.

Merry Christmas and best wishes to all our pupils and families as we look forward with hope to 2024.