

Ruairí's Story

By Claudine McGonigle

Ruairí was 10 years old when he was diagnosed with cancer. His life was turned upside down and he spent a lot of time in hospital. He missed months of school and missed just being able to do the normal day to day things. We applied for Ruairí to go to Barretstown for a week. We were surprised he was able to go during treatment but he was and was able to take part in every activity from canoeing to horse



riding. He wasn't too sure about staying for the 7 nights but he loved every moment of it. It gave him back his self confidence and he got to meet other children who were sick. Barretstown was a place where being sick was normal.

Not only was it beneficial for Ruairí but for his brother and us as a family. We got to go to family camp for a weekend and then his brother went to sibling camp for a week and together the boys went to Brother and Sisters camp for 3 nights.

Barretstown means so much to us as a family. They look after everyone and I think it is so important that siblings are acknowledged and get to go to camp. We all come home much happier after being to Barrestown. From grooving for your food to canoe football, it's a time of laughter and fun. It shows that despite being seriously ill you can still have fun and do all the normal activities in the most amazing environment with Caras and activity leaders who go above and beyond to make your time there so special.

Ruairí is in 2nd year in Naas Community College and doing great. Both he and his brother plan to start volunteering at Barretstown once they are old enough!

BARRETSTOWN
a seriousfun camp