

Daingean National School

Daingean, Co. Offaly, R35AH95

Roll Number: 16620T

Phone: (057) 9353337

Email: office@daingeanns.ie



June 23rd 2021

Dear Parents,

As another unusual school year draws to a close, I hope you are all well, I thank you for your support all year and I wish you a safe and happy summer.

End-of-Year Reports

All school reports were sent to parents via Aladdin Connect on **Wednesday June 16th**.

School Book Lists for 2021/2022

Children have all received copies of their booklists and these can also be viewed on Aladdin.

Book Rental /Arts and Crafts

The cost of Book Rental will be €30 for the coming year for junior infants to second class and €30 for third to sixth classes. We have purchased new Maths books and a new SESE scheme *Explorers*. We have also invested in some new sets of PM readers for all classes and new novels

Arts and Crafts will be €20 per child for the coming year. We would really appreciate payment of these fees by September 25th.

Class Allocation 2021/22

It is not possible to confirm teachers assigned to all classes at this point. Medically vulnerable and pregnant teachers were instructed to work from home from March to Easter. This arrangement was subsequently extended from Easter to Summer. Currently, schools have not been informed whether this arrangement will remain in place in September. If known, you will find the teacher's name at the bottom of your child's booklist

Sixth Class Retreat: Bishop Denis hosted a virtual Retreat for sixth class pupils on Friday 18th June. All sixth-class pupils in the diocese were invited to participate.

Sixth Class Graduation

Our Graduation Ceremony for 6th class pupils took place on Wednesday June 23rd in the church. While we would love to have been able to welcome the 6th class parents to this special occasion, unfortunately due to Covid -19 guidelines, this was not possible this year. We are very proud to have had the pleasure of teaching this group of pupils over the past eight years and we wish them the very best of luck as they transition to their respective secondary schools. They have been excellent role models for the younger members of our school community. Go n-éirí go geal leo go léir!

Daingean National School

Daingean, Co. Offaly, R35AH95

Roll Number: 16620T

Phone: (057) 9353337

Email: office@daingeanns.ie



Sacraments

Pupils in second and third classes received the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** on May 4th and 5th.

Confirmation will take place on July 1st and July 2nd with half the class receiving the sacrament at 7p.m. each day. As per Fr. Declan's letter to parents, each child can be accompanied by only 4 people.

The provisional date for **First Holy Communion** is Saturday 11th of September. Further details later.

Sport

All classes have enjoyed **GAA coaching** with Shane Cummins over the past six weeks. Second to sixth classes were very lucky to have a six-week **Athletics training programme** with Pauline Curley in May and June.

Offaly Sports Partnership – We applied to Daingean Sports & Physical Activity Hub Grant Scheme and received €1,000 towards basketball coaching in 2021/22.

Internet Safety

On May 24th Ger Brick delivered **Internet Safety and Anti-Cyberbullying workshops** to pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th classes over Zoom. Unfortunately, the parent talk on the same date was not as well attended as we would have expected.

Lunches

There will be no school lunches on Thursday June 24th.

Our school was selected for the **Hot Meals programme**. As with the current lunches, all children may receive a lunch. Parents will place orders weekly. Fresh Today (our current provider) will set up an oven in the kitchenette in the school hall and will deliver lunches around to the classrooms. Children will still receive a snack at little break- fruit, yoghurt etc. You will use the same login details and select from the menu.

School Photographs

County Photos were in school on Wednesday May 26th. Covid-19 protocols were strictly followed. Photographs were distributed this week.

Creative Schools:

All classes celebrated Creative Schools Week from March 10th to 14th.

In 2019/20 our school was selected to participate in the Creative Schools Programme. At that time, we carried out parent, pupil and staff questionnaires and as a result a creative outdoor space became our agreed project. Offaly based artist; Caroline Conway worked as our creative associate. She linked in with all classes through Zoom meetings. Kay Synott (Heritage in Schools scheme) delivered workshops to classes over Zoom and we are now on track to make our outdoor classroom a reality.

Daingean National School

Daingean, Co. Offaly, R35AH95

Roll Number: 16620T

Phone: (057) 9353337

Email: office@daingeanns.ie



Science Workshops

We are very lucky to be involved in a pilot scheme with Anyone4Science. Every week, our two SONAS classes plus one mainstream class participates in FREE science workshops. This year the weekly workshops have been adapted for online delivery. Every week we receive a pack of all the materials needed for each child in the class to participate. At the pre-arranged time teachers sign into the Zoom meeting and the scientist leads the workshop. All pupils in the school have benefitted greatly from these classes. We are participating in the Discover Primary Science and Maths Awards this year. Our participation in the above Science workshops will certainly help.

There has been fantastic work undertaken in all classes. Thanks to Ms. O'Rourke who is currently compiling the digital log of the pupils learning in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

Offaly Libraries:

- As part of their Healthy Ireland and Tech Week programmes, Offaly Libraries offered [CyberSafeKids](#) Virtual Bootcamps to Offaly schools. Sixth class participated in this from May 10th to May 14th for half an hour each day.
- Fourth class participated in a Character Creation Workshop with Offaly Artist Marta Boniakowska on Friday 21st May (As part of our Cruinniú na Nóg celebrations).
- Junior Infants took part in *Spring Into Storytime* on Thursday April 22nd. (This is a national story-time initiative which took place in libraries throughout April and May).
- Third and fourth classes took part in **Bricks4kidz** workshops on June 2nd. During these workshops, children learned about engineering through LEGO and built along with Bricks4kidz via zoom. They watched a short presentation on the engineering behind the item being built and all LEGO needed was supplied beforehand.
- **The Summer Stars reading programme** has started and will run throughout the summer. There are small prizes for reading books throughout the summer. There will be a Kindle Fire for one lucky child if they complete their reading card. There will also be 'golden tickets' hidden in books in the library! The children can call into the library to get their reading cards. If they are not already members, a parent/guardian needs to bring proof of address & photo ID.

Daingean National School

Daingean, Co. Offaly, R35AH95

Roll Number: 16620T

Phone: (057) 9353337

Email: office@daingeanns.ie



The Primary Speech and Language Project.

Since September our school has been involved in a Speech and Language Project. The aim of this project is to support students with Speech, Language and Communication Needs in Primary School. Marie Halpin (Senior SLT) worked with the teachers all year

- providing training to teachers, including advice and coaching.
- supporting teachers to complete activities within small, targeted groups
- Making links with local health services and supported referrals.
- Developing and delivering a Whole-school CPD training session on vocabulary
- Setting up of the Core Communication Team. This team will choose strategies as a step to making our school a more 'Communication Friendly Environment' and to support SLCN school wide.

Based on testing carried out over the past weeks, the project is very successful.

School Tours

All the Junior classes visited the playground

Third and fourth classes walked to Ballycommon- one way

Fifth class walked to Ballycommon and back.

Sixth class had a guided tour of Croghan Hill.

The Grand Canal Greenway is a great success

Sports Day

Our Sports Day on Tuesday 22nd was great fun! All Covid-19 protocols were followed.

Summer Provision

We will run a two-week school-based summer programme for pupils in our SONAS ASD classes from June 28th to July 9th.

Parents of pupils who are eligible for a home-based programme have been notified.

We will not run our DEIS camp this year.

Buildings

We have been granted approval to build another classroom and SEN room. An architect for this project has just been appointed.

Mountlucas Community Gain Scheme

We applied for funding for a sound system for the school hall and were granted €2,500.

Last year we received €3,000 towards the cost of stage curtains.

Daingean National School

Daingean, Co. Offaly, R35AH95

Roll Number: 16620T

Phone: (057) 9353337

Email: office@daingeanns.ie



Míle Buíochas

I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for helping to keep our school as safe as possible. You have all shown such support and cooperation in helping us to successfully implement our Covid -19 Plan - dropping and collecting children at the arranged times, making appointments before calling to the school, keeping your children at home if they had symptoms etc. and for all of this that we are extremely grateful. Our school has done really well in keeping everyone safe and you should be very proud.

I would also like to thank all the staff for their dedication and hard work throughout what has been a very challenging year. Their compliance and vigilance have contributed hugely in keeping everyone safe.

I would particularly like to thank all our pupils who coped so well with all the Covid-19 new protocols.

But it's not over yet and the virus hasn't gone away!

August/September 2021

All schools received a letter received from the Dept of Education on June 17th stating:

It is expected that schools will continue to operate with the current infection prevention and control measures in place to support their safe operation during Covid-19 when they reopen in August/September. Schools should therefore plan to reopen in August/September and continue to operate in line with their Covid-19 response plans.

Final arrangements for September will be communicated via an August Newsletter.

Staff News

We are delighted to **welcome** Mr Kelly as a permanent staff member and look forward to lots of music and sport in the coming years!!

We say **farewell** to Miss O'Meara who has been with us for the past two years and was an excellent team member. Our loss is Limerick's gain and we wish her all the best in her move south!

Congratulations to Miss Healion and her fiancé Darragh who are getting married on Thursday June 24th. On behalf of the entire school community, I wish them both every happiness in their future lives together.

Summer Holidays:

Please note that the teachers will not be contactable during the holiday period.

The principal can still be reached by email at office@daingeanns.ie.

Daingean National School

Daingean, Co. Offaly, R35AH95

Roll Number: 16620T

Phone: (057) 9353337

Email: office@daingeanns.ie



The school will close on Thursday 24th June at 12 noon and I look forward to welcoming you all back on August 26th

Go dtí sin, tabhair aire agus bíodh laethanta saoire aoibhinn agaibh.

Kind regards,

Eileen Moynihan

School Calendar 2021/22

The arrangements for the 2021/22 school calendar are as follows.

School will reopen on Thursday 26th August.

October Mid Term Break: Mon October 25th to Fri 29th inclusive.

Christmas Break: School closes on Wednesday December 22nd and reopens on Thursday January 6th

February Mid Term Break; Monday Feb 21st to Friday Feb 25th

Extended St Patrick's Day Closure; Thursday March 17th & Friday March 18th

Easter Break: School closes on Friday April 8th and reopens on Monday April 25th

May Bank Holiday: Mon May 2nd

June Bank Holiday: Mon June 6th

School closes for Summer break on Friday June 24th, 2022.

★Extensive/ prolonged closures may have to be made up at Easter.