

# Daingean National School

Daingean, Co. Offaly, R35AH95

Roll Number: 160T

Phone: (057) 9353337

Email: [office@daingeanns.ie](mailto:office@daingeanns.ie)



22 December 2021



Dear Parents,

First term is almost over! and we are all looking forward to our Christmas holidays.

Thank you for your continued co-operation regarding Covid 19 procedures and particularly for keeping your children at home if they had symptoms.

## **Annual Admission Notice for the intake of Junior Infants 2022/23**

It is a requirement of the Admissions to School Act 2018 that the Board of Management prepare an Annual Admission Notice outlining specific information in respect of the application process for admission to the school year in question. The notice for admissions for 2022/2023 is on the school website.

If you wish to apply to enrol a child in September 2021, please note that



- We will begin accepting applications for enrolment from the **13th January 2022.**
- No applications for junior infants will be accepted prior to this date and any received will be returned.
- Application forms will be posted on our website on January 6<sup>th</sup> or can be e-mailed directly to you on request.
- The closing date for Junior Infant applications is **January 28<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

It is important that parents read the Admissions Policy on our website before making an application to understand how places will be allocated in the event of oversubscription.

## **Parent Teacher Association (PTA) 2021-2023**

Our new Parent Teacher Association committee has been elected. The members are as follows:

Junior Infants: Mary Farrelly and Karen Garton  
Senior Infants: Evelyn Brophy and Tommy Sheeran  
First Class: Carolann Lowndes and Mairéad Scally  
Second Class: Cleo Dunne and Emer O'Rourke  
Third Class: Orla Canton and Declan Kilmurray  
Fourth Class: Mark McLachlan and David Walsh  
Fifth Class: Gwynn Rogers and Craig Slattery  
Sixth Class: Pauline Gallagher and Sandra Smyth

The committee held its first meeting on Monday November 15th and the following officers were elected.

Chairperson – Cleo Dunne

Vice- Chairperson – Craig Slattery

Secretary – Sandra Smyth

Assistant Secretary – Máiréad Scally



The PTA provides an important link between home and school.

Parents have an important role in formulating school policy and practice. Membership of the PTA provides a great opportunity for parents to get to know one another and get to know their child's school and teachers. We look forward to working with the new committee.

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## **Child Safeguarding Statement**

The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Eileen Moynihan

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is Aileen Rutledge

## **Anti-Bullying**

In our school we are welcoming and friendly to one another. We encourage kind hands, kind feet and kind words. We have recently reviewed our Anti-Bullying Policy and the reviewed policy is available to view on our school website.

During the month of November, all teachers completed awareness raising lessons regarding anti-bullying and all pupils complete monthly sociograms. We encourage you to read through our anti-bullying policy with your child.

## **Face masks for pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes**

Well done to all the children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class who have been so good about wearing their masks to school. We know it is not normal for children to have to wear masks, but it is a necessary response to the very high case numbers currently among older primary school-age children.

You are playing your part to keep everyone safe.

We would like to thank parents for their cooperation with this public health measure.



## **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

We thank all parents for their participation in recent parent teacher meetings over the phone. If you have a particular concern at any time regarding any aspect of your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher.

## **Aladdin Connect**

All our parents are now using the **Aladdin app**. It is making the organisation and sharing of information much easier for the school.



## **Attendance & Absence Reporting:**

Should your child be absent from school, please fill in the attendance section of your Aladdin App. Please report absences under the following categories: Illness, Urgent Family Reason, Holiday, or Other.

## **Student Council**

The Student Council for 2021/22 has been elected and is now up and running.

The following are the 21/22 representatives:

3rd Class: Leah Mooney and Freddie Walsh

4th Class: Maeve McGuinness and Dylan Walsh

5th Class: Farrah Delaney and Kelly Kilmurray

6th Class: Anna McDonald and Ronan Heffernan



The aim of the Student Council at primary level is to provide students with greater involvement in the decision-making procedures of their school and to help them learn about how democracy works. It's a brilliant way of representing and contributing to Pupil Voice in the school. Students are elected to represent the views of all pupils and also to improve their school.

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## Car Park /Safe Crossing

Safety of the children entering and leaving the school is of the utmost importance. We must continue to be vigilant as we can never predict what a child will do and we need your cooperation to make sure the children are safe.

The carpark is a one-way system i.e. you come in one way and go out the other way.



We must be mindful of where we park and cannot at any stage block or obstruct the road through the car park. **Parking should only be in marked spaces. It is a DROP AND GO system.**

Adults waiting by the school gates/wall should stand well clear of the marked bus parking spots and be particularly vigilant when buses are reversing in.

We are very lucky to now have a Zebra crossing at our school. Please **DO NOT PARK** on the zebra crossing or in the area covered by the zig-zag lines.

Thank you for your co-operation with all of the above. The health and safety of every member of the Daingean NS community is of vital importance to the school and the Board of Management.

## Science Award

In September we were delighted to achieve an SFI Discovery Science and Maths award. To qualify for this award, we had to provide evidence of children's engagement with STEM in Science/ Technology/ Engineering/ Maths and STEM showcase.

Well done to Miss O'Rourke who compiled and submitted the digital log of learning on behalf of all classes.



## Science Week

All classes engaged in some very exciting, hands on Science Activities during the week November 7<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>

## Offaly Libraries

As part of the 'Children's Book Festival 2021', Edenderry library hosted e-visits with a number of authors. We participated in the following events:

3rd class - A Trip Back in Time with **Judi Curtin**

4th class - The World of Skulduggery with **Derek Landy**

5th class - Read and Write! - talk and tips for budding readers & writers with **Jackie Burke**

6th class - Gordon's Game with **Gordon D'Arcy and Paul Howard**

Junior classes participated in Zoom Story Times.

## Christmas Fun

We purchased the online panto "Little Red Riding Hood" from the Helix Theatre and all classes watched and enjoyed the show in the past week. This was a well-deserved treat for all our pupils following their hard work this term. Every child also received a gift of a Christmas annual.



On Friday December 17<sup>th</sup> children all dressed up in Christmas jumpers and in their bubbles, in the school yard, they all sang Christmas songs. Mr. Kelly put the recordings together and the link is available on the website [www.daingeanns.ie](http://www.daingeanns.ie)

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## **Christmas Raffle**

Our annual Christmas raffle took place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. We are so grateful to all who purchased tickets or donated prizes. €2,700 was raised. Please check our school website for the full list of winners and sponsors.

**St. Vincent de Paul:** Our student council organised a food collection for St Vincent de Paul and were thrilled with the response from parents. All donations have now been passed on to this worthy local organisation and members have asked the school to convey their sincere gratitude to everyone.

## **Masses**

Fr Declan celebrated mass for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes in the church on Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a special children's mass in the church on Christmas Eve at 5p.m. and other masses at 7p.m. on Christmas Eve and at 11.15 a.m. on Christmas Day.

## **Creative Schools**

We are now in year three of this project and plan to start work on our outdoor classroom early in 2022.

**Dance** Junior Infants – 2<sup>nd</sup> classes have had dance every week for 6 weeks (finished 14<sup>th</sup> December)



**Music/ Tin Whistle** – Weekly lessons are continuing with teacher Karen McCormack in school hall.

In term two we look forward to Tag rugby, Dance with Dorinda for senior classes, basketball coaching for all classes, music with Karen Mc Cormack and art classes.

## **Congratulations to:**

Ms Abbott on the recent birth of her daughter,  
Ms Fitzpatrick on the recent birth of her son and  
Ms Purcell on the recent birth of her son.



## **Dates for your diary**

- School closes at 12 noon on Wed 22nd December
- School reopens on Thurs 6th January at 9.20am
- School will be closed on January 25<sup>th</sup> as teachers engage with the Primary Language Curriculum
- Mid Term Feb 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> (Full week).

While we have had a number of positive COVID cases at the school over the last few weeks, over all we are doing really well. Thank you for the part you continue to play in helping keep our school a happy and safe place to teach and learn. On behalf of the BOM and all our school staff I would like to wish everyone in our school community a very happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year

Yours sincerely,

Eileen Moynihan

