



January 2025

Charity number: 20116453



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We have settled back to school in January and look forward to the term ahead with plenty of learning and various activities and events that will surely keep everyone engaged and excited. The Ceremony of Light and First Penance for 2nd and 6th classes are big milestones, and such meaningful moments in the school year.



Catholic Schools' Week

Last week was Catholic Schools' Week, and the theme was "*Catholic Schools: Alive in Christ.*" At our January assembly we were reminded of the gospel values and how we show respect to all people and embrace all differences.

During Catholic Schools Week, we heard about what it means to be fully alive as a human being, living life to the full the way Jesus

taught us. Some of our 2nd class pupils led us in daily reflection and prayer over the intercom each morning.



Grandparents' Day

Grandparents' Day for 6th class was to take place during Catholic Schools Week. The storm threw a wrench into the plans which was disappointing for us especially given the theme of hope, connection and unity in this jubilee year. However, it was nice that we could keep that sense of hope alive, and we marked the occasion on Friday 31st January instead. The grandparents of 6th class pupils were invited into the school for a blessing by Fr. Ultan, some entertainment and refreshments. Thanks to the pupils, Ms. Baxter and Mr. Tubridy for planning the schedule of entertainment, and to the P.A. helpers who hosted and provided the refreshments. It was a wonderful day which gave the pupils an opportunity to think about, remember and celebrate grandparents and all we learn from them.



Safer Internet Day



Safer Internet Day takes place on Tuesday 11th of February. Classes will learn about internet safety through stories, activities and discussion. As part of our SPHE plan, senior classes have also recently been revising the topic of cyberbullying through the DCU FUSE programme.

The majority of time that children spend on the internet is at home, so it is important that parents and guardians understand the potential dangers and what can be done to avoid them. If your child spends time online, using mobile phones, games, social media and online streaming, it is essential that they are safe while doing so. Webwise is running a series of parent webinars for Safer Internet Day 2025.



Webinar Title: What are the new rules that protect my child online?
Date: Wednesday, February 12th at 7pm.
Speaker: Coimisiún na Meán
[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Webinar Title: From misinformation to manipulation
Speaker: Mark Little
Date: Wednesday, February 26th at 7pm.
[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Webinar Title: Guide to creating a family agreement for online safety
Date: Wednesday, February 25th at 7pm.
Speaker: Catherine Cross, Deputy CEO, National Parents Council.
[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Webinar Title: Addressing online bullying and developing healthy digital habits
Date: Wednesday, March 5th at 7pm.
[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
Speaker: Dr Colman Noctor

Stay Safe

The Stay Safe Programme is being taught this term to the pupils of Junior Infants, 1st class, 3rd class and 5th class. Stay Safe is a personal safety skills programme. The overall aim of the programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying, by teaching the children skills and strategies for dealing with potentially unsafe, threatening or dangerous situations. A Stay Safe Parent Guide with more information was recently sent to parents of those classes on Aladdin. All other classes will also be revisiting “safety” as part of the SPHE programme this term.



FUSE Anti-Bullying programme

The 4th classes will be working on the DCU FUSE Anti- Bullying programme in the coming weeks, while 5th and 6th classes will cover the CyberBullying lessons of FUSE as part of Internet Safety this month.

RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education)

RSE is an integral part of the SPHE programme. Later this term, all classes cover the sensitive elements of their class programme, under the strand units “Growing and Changing” and “Taking Care of my Body.”

A note will be sent to parents/guardians in the coming weeks with further details.

The 5th classes and 6th classes will have an RSE talk with an Accord facilitator on Thursday, 13th February, under the guidance of their class teachers. In advance, an ACCORD online parent talk will take place online on 6th of February. This will help with any queries you may have about the pupil talk.

A link to the online parent talk, and further details and consent link will be shared with the 5th/6th class parents/guardians via Aladdin. More information is also available [Dublin Schools' Programme - Accord. Ireland](#)

Bí Cineálta

“Bí Cineálta” is a set of new procedures to prevent and address bullying in schools. Later in the year, we will be updating our school’s anti-bullying policy, for September 2025. As part of this, we will be inviting some feedback through a parent questionnaire later this term.

Wellbeing Wednesdays

All classes will be participating in Wellbeing Wednesdays, on the first Wednesday of the month. This will be an opportunity for different classes to collaborate together on an activity, creating a sense of community and connection. Activities will include buddy systems, creative ideas and physical activities. Our first Wellbeing Wednesday will be this week, 5th of February. Thanks to Ms. Quinn who will suggest an activity each month.



Ethos and Sacraments

Thanks to the Parent Committees who have been helping with the preparation for the sacraments at the Sunday Family Masses in the chapel. Our 6th classes and 2nd classes have attended Family Masses in January and have more scheduled before Confirmation Day and Communion Day. We also extend thanks to Fr. Séamus, Killian and Amanda of the Family Mass.

We will soon be celebrating the Ceremony of Light with the 6th class boys on Thursday 27th of February, and First Penance with the 2nd class boys on Thursday, 13th of March, two important milestones in the sacramental preparation. Fr. Ultan will be celebrating these special occasions with us.



Enrolment 2024

The Parent Talk for new Junior Infants 2025 will take place on Wednesday, 12th of February at 7:30pm.

There are currently no new spaces available for 2025/26 in the specialised class for pupils with autism. However, a waiting list will be in operation should a space become available.

Applications for a place in a specialised class for pupils with DLD (Developmental Language Disorder) for 2025/26, will be accepted until the 28th of February 2025. The applications for the DLD class are led by the child's Speech and Language therapist or psychologist.

Attendance Strategy



The school's policy on attendance and its Strategy for Attendance is available on the school website. A reminder that the school is legally obligated to report to TESS (Túsla Education Support

Services) any child who misses more than 20 days in the school year. When a child is absent, please record the reasons on Aladdin. An automatic reminder will be sent through Aladdin to notify you when your child has missed 15 days, and to notify you of 20 days absence.

Where there is a concern around your child's attendance, you will be contacted by the school.

Punctuality

We place an emphasis on being punctual to school. Our expectation is that pupils **arrive between 8:30am and 8:40am** for yard gathering time. The bells rings at 8:40am, and pupils are brought to the classroom by their class teacher. Pupils who arrive a few minutes late (and whose classroom does not have its own external door) should come in the door by Ms. Bassett's office. Once that door is closed, they should come in the front door at the secretary's office. Lateness is formally recorded by the class teacher on Aladdin **when pupils arrive after 9am**. Being late for school results in pupils missing



out on learning and social experiences, and can impact on the learning time for the rest of the class. While we appreciate there can be reasons for being a little late on occasion, please help ensure this is not a consistent occurrence and that your child arrives on time, organised for the day.

Parent feedback on school uniforms

As notified earlier in the school year, we are inviting feedback on our school uniform. The link to the parent survey is available here: [Uniform feedback survey](#)

3rd and 6th class swimming

3rd and 6th class are attending a six week block of swimming lessons this term as part of the aquatics strand of the P.E programme. The swimming course is an opportunity for the pupils to build confidence, learn and improve skills and learn about water safety.



Chess Tournament

Our school looks forward to again hosting a one day chess tournament in February, run by Féile Fichille with the help of Mr. Moore. This is a non-competitive, meet-and-greet style chess tournament. We look forward to welcoming teams from Christ the King Senior Girls' School, St Laurence O'Toole National School and Gardiner Street Primary School.

Soccer

Trials were held on DCU's astro pitch to select players for this year's senior school soccer squad.

Over forty boys participated and the standard was very high. Thanks to all who attended; they can all be proud of how well they played but unfortunately with such large numbers not everyone can be selected. It is encouraging to see such great sportsmanship and behaviour on and off the pitch, as well as great skill and talent. We wish the successful sixteen boys the best of luck with their matches. Thanks to Mr. Tubridy and Mr. Ryan for their time with the team.

Credit Union Quiz

Well done to the pupils from 5th and 6th class who tried out for the school quiz team. It was great to see such an interest and display of general knowledge - they can all be proud of themselves. The preliminary rounds will take place on 10th of February, and we will have two teams entering the

competition. The pupils representing the schools are: Aodhán Rodgers, Samuel Moore Iarlaith Drew, Leo Jensen, Kevin Ryan, Dylan Bolger, Oliver Higgins and Noah Finucane. Best of luck to our representatives and thanks to Mr. Carey and Mr. Moore for helping with the organisation.



Olympic Handball

Following a fun and successful day at the Group Stages last term, one of our 6th class teams will represent the school in the Olympic Handball Dublin County Final, taking place in the National Indoor Arena, Sport Ireland Campus, on

Wednesday 12th of February. The team includes: Ivan Zadniproviskyi, James Greenan, Oisín McGleenon, Nathan Tunney, Nathan Ryan, Senan Burke, Ryan McDonald, Jack Henry, Aodhán Rodgers and Lee Vazquez. Best of luck to the team, and thanks to Mr. Tubridy for organising.



Hot school meals

This month we had the introduction of the hot school meals scheme. While some children may prefer to bring their regular lunch from home, the option of hot meals provides something warm and satisfying during the day and is an opportunity for children to try new foods.

A reminder to those ordering food, to do so by Friday, for the following week. A default meal will be provided if you forget to order by Friday, for the week ahead.

Peace Proms

The pupils in Ms. Walsh's and Mr. Doyle's 4th classes were busy in recent weeks, polishing their dance moves and rehearsing medleys of popular musicals, dance and pop songs, ahead of the Peace Proms which took place last weekend at the RDS Arena. They joined the internationally acclaimed Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland and a choir of 2,500 children. The Peace Proms is such a special event and it was an incredible experience for our 4th classes to participate. The experience of performing hopefully helped to boost confidence, build teamwork, and create lasting memories. Thanks to Mr. Doyle and Ms. Walsh for all their hard work and giving of their time to make this possible.



Student Council

The Student Council met with Mr. Carey to help design a pupil questionnaire to get feedback on our current uniform since becoming a co-ed school and making a change to the design of the tops this year. The Student Council will be sharing the survey with the classes in the coming weeks.

The Council will also be meeting Ms Quinn later this term as part of the annual review of anti-bullying. They will also be getting feedback on hot meals later in the year.

Active Committee



The members of the Active Committee, with the help of Mr. Skelly, are helping to ensure that yard games run smoothly. It's great to see the committee showing teamwork, and leadership skills.

Green School Committee

The Green School Committee continue to ensure the classes are

following the rota for recycling and litter picking. We hope to soon have some outdoor benches and planters to add to an area of the Junior School, to help promote outdoor learning and biodiversity.



Traffic/parking

A reminder that we are in a "School Zone." In the interest of pupil safety, please be mindful of speed and please abide by traffic and parking rules & restrictions on Milbourne Avenue and on DCU grounds. This includes stopping in the painted "school zone", or in the yellow lined areas of DCU campus. In the interest of safety and smooth traffic flow, please do not park or stop at/adjacent to the school car park gates on DCU grounds and Millbourne Ave. A reminder also to maintain respectful interactions with other drivers in pupils' presence.



Pets

We appreciate that pets are important family members, however for health and safety reasons **we do not allow dogs to come inside the school gates.** Unfortunately, they need to remain at the gate.

Calendar dates



1. Mid-term break is from **Monday 17th- Friday 21st February.**
2. School is closed for St Patrick's Day, **Monday 17th March.**
3. Staff training in Maths Curriculum takes place on **Tuesday 18th March.** school closed for pupils.
4. NCSE staff training on **Friday, 31st March.** school closed for pupils.

Board of Management

The Board of Management met on 20th of January. The Child Safeguarding and Anti-bullying oversight reports were provided by the principal, and correspondence was considered. The Data Protection Policy was reviewed and ratified, and the review of the Policy on the Continuum of Support for Additional Educational Needs will continue at a future meeting. The Board approved a consultation survey to be issued to parents once ready. A Teaching and Learning report, Principal's report and Report by the Treasurer were shared. An update on PA activities was also shared. The Review of the P.A Constitution will be taken at the next meeting, which will be held on Monday, 10th of February.

P.A.

Sincere thanks to the P.A. members and 6th class parent volunteers who helped make Grandparents' Day such a special event by providing refreshments

and helping to prepare the hall. Many commented on the lovely, warm welcome and the wonderful hosting.



Staff

Ms. S Quinn is working in a SET role with Junior infants, while Ms. Morris is helping 4th class each Tuesday. A new SET, Ms. Lane, will work with 6th class over the coming weeks. Our

morning caretaker, Tommy, will be retiring, and finishes this Thursday, 6th of February. Tommy joined the school in 2019, just as Covid happened, and helped keep things running smoothly during and since that time. We will miss his morning cheerfulness when delivering fruit and milk to classes. Tony, currently our afternoon caretaker will remain with us, and we look forward to meeting Dermot, the newly appointed caretaker after mid-term break.



Thank you for your continued support.
Natasha Bassett
(Principal)