



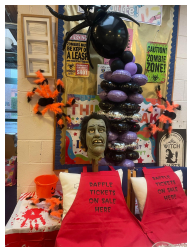
## October Newsletter



Dear Parents/Guardians,

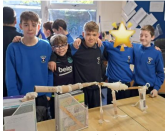
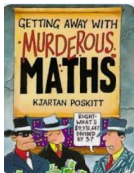
Once again we were overwhelmed by the remarkable support and resounding success of the Halloween Fair. We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all who supported the Fair- the P.A and parents/guardians and families, pupils and past pupils, staff, sponsors, local businesses and all members of our community who helped the committee. We extend a special thanks to Audrey, the P.A Chair, for her role with the organisation and planning. Our school is fortunate to have an amazing team of volunteers who give so graciously of their time. The fair raised over €19,000 and this money will enhance the children's education and environment during the year. We will provide an update on the planned sensory garden and other projects earmarked for the school year, which would not be possible without your support. Míle buíochas!





## Maths Week

Maths Week is a national initiative promoting positive attitudes towards maths and highlighting the importance of maths in our lives. During Maths Week, classes were busy with various fun maths activities, games and puzzles, and looking at maths in the environment. Classes enjoyed maths riddles, memes, art and STEM challenges. The 3rd and 4th classes and senior language class attended a thrilling Murderous Maths show with the world's best-selling maths author, Kjartan Poskitt. Kjartan introduced quirky characters, dramatic stories and amazing maths tricks in many problem-solving adventures. Below are some photos of Mr Lynch's 6th class STEM challenge during Maths Week.



Links to some parent resource pages are below:

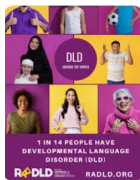
<https://www.mathsweek.ie/2025/maths-in-everyday-household-tasks/>

<https://www.mathsweek.ie/2025/puzzles-for-all/>

<https://www.mathsweek.ie/2025/maths-at-home-activities/>

## DLD Day

In October, we celebrated DLD Day, an awareness day for Developmental Language Disorder. It was great to see the DLD colours of yellow and purple that day. Special thanks to the pupils in our language classes for their wonderful display about DLD, and for sharing some facts about DLD over the intercom.



## Sacraments

Thanks to the parents on the 2nd class and 6th class committees who will be volunteering to help with the Family Masses throughout the year. The Family Masses for 2nd and 6th classes are part of the programme of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We also extend our thanks to Fr. Seamus, Killian and Amanda for their support. Earlier this month, 2nd and 6th classes attended their Masses of Enrolment for Communion and Confirmation, an important first step in their sacramental journey.



## Choir

There are plans to set up a school choir for pupils from 4th-6th class. More information will follow after the mid-term break.



## Links with the local community

A visual guide to our local library can be found here, which some of our new visitors to the library may find helpful:

[Drumcondra Library social story](#)



3rd and 4th classes participated in storytelling workshops with 1st year student teachers this week. We look forward to a follow up workshop with them after the mid term break.

The P.E Elective students of DCU recently worked on orienteering outdoor challenges with the two 5th classes.



Mark from Na Fianna has been working with 1st and 2nd class this term to help develop their GAA skills. Mark will return in November to help coach Junior and Senior Infant pupils. We will also have coaches from Path to Pro working with 3rd and 4th classes to help develop their soccer skills.

## **Sports News**

### **GAA**

Our football season has come to an end. Well done to all our players on the 6th class team, and on the 5th class panel. The 6th class boys made it through to the quarter-finals and despite playing so well, they unfortunately missed out on progressing to the semi finals. Our 5th class panel had a good introduction to team matches. The most recent match report can be read here:

<https://saintpats.ie/2025/09/30/junior-gaelic-match-report/>

All our players can all be very proud of themselves for representing the school so well. Thanks to: Mr Moore, Ms. Cronin, Mr. Comerford and Ms Downey for their help and support and for volunteering their time with GAA.

### **Athletics**

St Pat's entered its biggest ever team in the Clonliffe Harriers Brother Cross-Country races on Wednesday, 1st October and reaped the reward with a rich haul of medals. As well as several outstanding individual performances, St Pat's took the overall best team prize in the fifth-class race. First up was our fourth class team. Despite the blistering pace, all seven boys ran their hearts out over the 1000m course with Odhran Reynolds coming home in an incredible fifth place with the other boys not far behind.

Then it was the turn of the fifth class boys. Halfway around the course, Fionn Coghlan-Smith and Daniel Corrigan were well up with the leaders while their teammates were also doing well in the chasing pack. As the runners rounded the final bend, Fionn sprinted clear to cross the finish line in first place with Daniel a close second. With their teammates also putting in brilliant runs, the team won the overall best-team award. Amazing stuff!

In the sixth-class race, our runners again did themselves proud with Bobby

Ryan just out of the medals in fifth place and his teammates all running their hearts out for their team.

In all the races, the boys were cheered on by a large group of St Pat's family members who helped push them on to even greater feats!

Well done to all our athletes and thanks to Mr. Skelly for his support with this.

Fourth class: Aidan, Josh, Marcus, Odhran, Sean, Daniel, Dominick

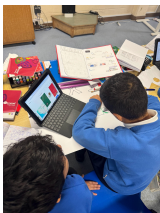
Fifth class: Fionn, Daniel, Nathan, Peter, Matthew, Austin, Max.

Sixth class: Ted, Aidan, Jack, Daniel, Bobby, Conor, Hugh.



## 5th Class Projects

5th classes were busy working on projects again, this time the country was Mexico, and they topped off all the hard work with a tasting day full of burritos, quesadillas and tacos!



## **Hot meals annual review**

Last April the Department of Social Protection announced it would commission a review by an expert dietician of the nutritional standards of the meals delivered to schools funded by the scheme. As an interim measure, the Department requested the removal of food that is high in saturated fat, sugar and salt from school menus from September 2025. The Department's review is already underway, it is being coordinated with the Interdepartmental Group on School Meals (which includes the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Department of Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth) and a report is due to be submitted by the end of this year. The findings of this Departmental report will be factored into our annual review. Also, as part of the Board of Management's annual review, the Board plans to undertake a survey in the coming months, of both parents' and pupils' experience of the School Meals provision to date, which will help inform the Board's ongoing engagement with our provider.

## **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Meetings will take place on Wednesday, 19th of November and Thursday, 20th November. As always, 1st-6th classes will go home a little earlier at 2:05pm on Wednesday 19th November. (It will be a normal hometime for the Infant Building and the Language Classes).

Hometime will be at the usual time for everyone on Thursday, 20th November. We look forward to this opportunity to discuss your child's progress and growth. More information about booking times will be made available in November.

## **School Zone**

A reminder that we are in a Dublin City Council School Zone. Please park or stop away from the school zone's yellow road markings and walk the remainder of the way. In the interests of safety, there should be no parking or drop-offs in the yellow zone area on Millbourne Avenue or at the staff car-park gate/ yellow lines areas on the DCU campus. A reminder also to

maintain respectful interactions with other drivers, especially in pupils' presence.

We are delighted to see many pupils cycling and scooting to school. Please remember that everyone should wear a helmet and have a lock, and please consider a high-vis jacket. Please remind children who are walking to/from school to follow road safety rules, especially around busy junctions and waiting for the green light before crossing.

Lastly, a reminder that dogs should not be on the school grounds, and are welcome to wait at the gates.



## Enrolment

A reminder that the closing date for applications for Junior Infants 2026 is Friday, 7th of November 2025. Applications received after this date will be in the category of "late applications" as per the admissions policy. **Please ensure that sibling applications are made before this date.**

Enrolments for the language classes and the Autism Class start in January. (There are currently no spaces available in the Autism Class, however a waiting list will be in operation should a place become available for September 2026.)



## Parents' Association

The P.A was extremely busy in October in preparation for the Halloween Fair. All their time, effort and support with this are greatly appreciated. We hope everyone has a restful break after all the recent business of the Fair! The AGM will take place later in November, and the annual Christmas cards will be available in December.

## Board of Management

The last board meeting took place on 6th October.

The Child Protection and Anti-Bullying Oversights were shared.

Correspondence was discussed, including correspondence relating to the Hot Meals Scheme.

The Board discussed and agreed to undertake a survey of parents and pupils in relation to the Hot Meals Scheme as part of their annual review.

The Charities Regulator Annual Review was completed and approved.

The Induction Policy for New Incoming Staff was ratified.

The Principal's Report and Teaching and Learning Report were shared.

The Board approved the appointment of new external accountants at the request of the Treasurer and thanked the Treasurer for his advice.

The Board received an update on PA activities, including the upcoming Halloween Fair on 19th October 2025.

The Board discussed further design plans for the sensory garden.

The Board welcomed Ms. Suzanne O'Sullivan as the new staff nominee to the BoM. The next Board of Management Meeting will be on Monday, 10th November 2025.

## Happy Halloween

Wishing everyone a lovely, safe and happy mid-term,

Ms. Natasha Bassett

