



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FEB. 2022

School & Covid-19

We are immensely grateful for the wonderful support and cooperation of our parents and pupils over the last two years. The challenges that we've encountered in our school since March 2020 have been unprecedented, but hopefully, we are nearing an end to this terrible experience for all of our school families and staff. The control measures that we were required to put in place to protect everyone's health and wellbeing are still being implemented and we are awaiting a government announcement at the end of the month to see if there will be any easing of these measures in schools.

Even though we're looking forward to healthier months ahead, we need to appreciate that we're currently experiencing a spike in cases among pupils in certain class groups as well as among individual members of our teaching staff. The chronic shortage of qualified substitute teachers has made the task of managing the school very difficult indeed but we're doing everything we possibly can to limit the level of disruption for our pupils. All members of staff in our school deserve great credit for the levels of flexibility and resilience that they've displayed over the last two years.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Feb 24th & 25th (Thurs / Fri)– Spring Midterm Break
- March 17th & 18th (Thurs / Fri) – St Patrick's Weekend Break
- April 8th (Fri) – Easter Holidays
- April 25th (Mon) – First Day of Summer Term

Enrolment for 2022/23

Applications are still being accepted for enrolment of new Junior Infants for the school year 2022/23. We also have some places available in other class groups. Enrolment Application Forms are available from the school office.

Parent-Teacher Meetings 2022

Unfortunately, it was not possible to arrange face-to-face parent teacher meetings this term so teachers have made other arrangements to speak to parents about how their children are getting on in school so far this year.



New Special Class



We will be opening a special class for children with autism after the summer break. The Board of Management has approved an Admissions Policy and applications are currently being accepted for this new class. The final date for receipt of applications is March 7th 2022. The Admissions Notice, Application Form and Enrolment Policy for this new special class are all available on the school website. A great deal of work will have to be done over the coming months to establish this new class in our school and we look forward to welcoming the new pupils at the end of August 2022.

School Inspection

An inspector from the Department of Education carried out a "Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling Inspection" in December 2021. The checks conducted during this inspection were based on the Covid-19 Response Plan and compliance with government guidelines.

The school inspector also carried out a number of checks to evaluate how the child protection and safeguarding procedures are being implemented in the school.

The inspector found that the school was fully compliant in all areas covered by the inspection and the inspection report has now been published on the Department of Education website.

file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/214602_16208N_Supporting%20the%20Safe%20Provision%20of%20Schooling_29068_20211213.pdf

Pupils Receiving the Sacraments

The dates for children receiving the sacraments of First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation were circulated earlier on this school year. First Penance will take place on the evening of March 23rd at 7pm. Children will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 14th at 2pm while Confirmation will be on at the same time on Saturday, May 28th.

As usual, we will have some restrictions on the number of family members who can attend the ceremonies with each child due to the large number of children receiving the sacraments. More information about the arrangements will be available soon. The children preparing for the sacraments this year attend Mass every Friday at 9.30am – other family members are very welcome to attend.



School Tours 2022

After a break of two years, it's great to see the return of school tours. The teachers are currently making the final arrangements for their class groups. All of the tour days will be in June and pupils are already getting excited about great days out with their school friends.

The details of the tours are as follows:

June 8 th	3 rd & 4 th Classes	Crystal Maze, County Cavan
June 9 th	5 th Class	Let's Go Sports Camp, Gormanstown College
June 10 th	Junior & Senior Infants	Newgrange Farm
June 14 th	6 th Classes	Carlingford Adventure Centre
June 20 th	1 st & 2 nd Classes	Navan Adventure Centre

Sport

It has been announced this week that inter-school GAA matches will recommence next month. It will be great to see the boys and girls back out on the sports pitches again, playing matches against other schools.

Louth GAA Coach, Sean White, has been coaching the pupils in 2nd and 3rd classes since we returned after the Christmas holidays.

In the months before Christmas, we were very lucky to have Drogheda Wolves basketball star, Tiago Pereira, coaching 6 groups from different classes every Thursday afternoon for 10 weeks. This coaching was funded by the Board of Management. Hopefully we can arrange to have Tiago back with us again later on this year.



Tiago in action for Drogheda Wolves

ICT & Technology

We are expecting delivery of another class set (20) of Chromebooks any day now. These will be available to all classes and will enable teachers to do even more IT activities with their pupils. The senior classes have enjoyed using Minecraft for Education in recent months and they will now be doing some basic computer programming using a program called SCRATCH.

Picker Pals



Congratulations to Mrs Dowd and all of the wonderful pupils in her 1st Class group who were transformed into "Picker Pals" in recent weeks. This was a great project which focused on looking after our community, with the children playing their part in helping keep the village litter-free. Many thanks to all of the parents who supported this class project by taking their children out to pick up some litter around their neighbourhood. See the children in action in this video put together by their teacher, Mrs Dowd. <https://youtu.be/S96cJUMIWF8>

5th Class Solar System Project

Incredible project work in Science carried out by the pupils in Mrs McManus' 5th class over the last few weeks. The children created very impressive models of the solar system which are on display in the school library.

