

Scoil Náisiúnta Domhnach Mór

Information Newsletter ~ November 2022



A warm welcome back to all our pupils after the mid-term break. We welcome a new pupil who joined us in 2nd class and wish him all the very best.

Important Dates and Times :

Enclosed the Official Breaks as set out by Department of Education & Skills standardised year.

Christmas 2022	Closing Wednesday 21st December 2022 @ 12 noon Re-opening Thursday 5 th January 2023
St. Brigid's Day Holiday	School closed Monday 6 th February 2023
February Mid-Term Break	School closed Thursday 16 th February & Friday 17 th February 2023
St. Patrick's Day Holiday	School closed Friday 17 th March 2023
Easter 2023	Closing Friday 31 st March 2023 @ 12 noon and re-opening Monday 17 th April 2023
May Bank Holiday	School closed Monday 1 st May 2023
June Bank Holiday	School closed Monday 5 th June 2023
Summer Holidays	School closing Friday 23 rd June 2023 @ 12 noon



Christmas Performance Schedule: Tuesday 13th December 2022

Class	Time	Performance
Seniors Infants/1 st Class	11am	A Christmas Nativity
Junior Infants	11.20am	The Story of the First Christmas
3 rd Class	11.45am	'Twas the Night Before Christmas
5 th Class	12.15pm	Baubles
1 st /2 nd Class	1pm	A Nativity Story
4 th Class	1.30pm	A Medley of Christmas songs, poems and music on the tin whistle.
6 th Class	1.45pm	The Little Drummer Boy – Story, Poetry & Song

Please note we will endeavor to run the performances as per the above schedule and the pupils will be going home at the usual times unless otherwise signed out/collected by parents at the front office.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

- Dates and times for Parent Teacher Meetings have been communicated via email to all parents. These meetings will take place on Wednesday 23rd and Wednesday 30th November 2022 in the school hall. Please enter through the main door and you will be shown to your teacher(s).

Junior Enrolment:

- Donoughmore National School Junior Infant Enrolment Ceremony will take place on Sunday 27th November 2022, commencing in Donoughmore Church at 12.30pm. The Junior Infants will wear their school uniforms on the day and are asked to arrive at the church by 12.20pm. There will be entertainment provided for the pupils in their classroom after the short

ceremony and a treat while parents and their family can enjoy a cup of tea/coffee hosted by the PTA in the school halla.

First Communion Parish Mass:

- The 2nd class pupils, making their First Holy Communion next May, will celebrate their first parish preparation mass this Saturday, 19th November at 7pm. Pupils will sit with their families during mass and receive a blessing from Fr Tom after communion. They will then sing a song from the altar and return to their family for the final blessing. Wishing them all the very best in their preparations for this special day.

Morning Time:

- The school opens its gates to receive pupils from 8.50am and pupils may enter the yard from this time. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will commence each day at 9.00a.m. The pupils line up in their designated yard until 8.55am and then walk to their classrooms for class at 9am. **We would ask that pupils remain with their parents before entering the school yard.** Pupils/parents should not congregate outside the school wall before their time in the interest of everyone's health & safety. Once your child/ren have entered the school grounds, we respectfully ask parents to vacate their parking spot to allow other parents to drop off their children. Please allow the disabled parking space, directly outside the school, vacant at all times, for members of our school community who avail of this space and have a blue badge. Equally, parents may accompany their children from the nearby church car park to the school. On wet mornings, pupils may enter directly through the front gates to the halla from 8.50am. **The Board of Management accepts no responsibility until official opening time.**

Irish Dancing and Rhythm Classes:

- All pupils in the school participated in 8 weeks of Irish Dancing and Rhythm classes taught by expert Pat O'Dea. Both areas are part of the Primary Curriculum under PE and Music. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the lessons. The total cost of the lessons were €1260 and the PTA have kindly offered to contribute half towards this cost. Therefore, each pupil was requested to pay €3 in total for the 8 lessons they experienced. Thank you to all the pupils who have kindly paid this and a reminder to any outstanding payment due – thank you. Please check the link on Aladdin to make this payment.

Science Week:

- **Braintastic Science Fair:-** Last Friday 11/11/22, 6th class went to the Braintastic Science Fair in UL. The science fair consisted of optical illusions, tricks and experiments to fool your senses. One of our classmates was selected to try one of the experiments. They put on some odd-looking headphones, which tricked their ears into believing a sound came from the other direction. The other experiments consisted of a sweet that tasted different for everyone, and that you would know where your body was if your eyes were closed (known as proprioception). The optical illusions showed that our brains are very lazy. For example, one image showed what looked to be a checker pattern, with a green object emitting a shadow on it. Two of the squares appeared to be different colours but were indeed the same. The science fair also made us question how many senses we had, as our sense of balance, knowing how

hot or cold something is and knowing where our body is may also be senses. 6th class had a blast learning about the brain and its senses. By SMcR and AR 6th Class.

- **The Amazing Cosmos:-** 3rd and 4th class visited UL for Science Week. They learned all about the international space station and saw some interesting videos and photographs relating to this. They were amazed to discover that astronauts in the space station have to exercise for 2 hours every day in order to keep their muscles working properly. They discovered many interesting facts about the planets, meteorites and the creation of the universe! They would all love a trip to Jupiter as they discovered it rains diamonds there!!!

Science Week in Donoughmore NS:

- All classes throughout the school from Juniors to 6th are carrying out their own science experiments for example exploring density and experiments based on ‘What lives on us’ – looking at the effect of washing your hands properly! Science experiments relating to light – Are objects opaque, transparent or translucent? How do concave and convex mirrors work? Making musical instruments, Growing Gummy Bears, Volcano Eruption, experiments observing different materials and change, magnetism, static electricity, sinking & floating experiments, to name but a few – developing enquiring and explorative minds through the world of science.

Sport in Donoughmore:-

- We have had a busy first term with our sports teams in Donoughmore NS. We have lots of talented and eager boys and girls in 4th, 5th and 6th who have represented their school in Gaelic Football in the various blitzes that took place during the month of October. The boys football team (with the much-appreciated assistance of 6th class girls) played very well in 3 tough matches in Doon GAA. The girls football team also played very well and really enjoyed their blitz in Caherelly. Following this, the mini-sevens boys football team had a brilliant day in Caherelly and came away with one win, one draw and one loss. It was an excellent team performance on the day. The girls football team also strongly contested their matches in the mini-sevens blitz in Caherelly. During November, boys and girls from 3rd and 4th class have been enjoying playing in an indoor hurling tournament with Knockea NS every Wednesday. We are so proud of all of our players who have excellent skills and talents – keep up the practice! Our local club is South Liberties, home to many a fine player including All Ireland winning medalist, Barry Nash. The clubs welcomes and encourages pupils to join their underage academy as per recent email.

A special congratulations to Daniel Lane and Aaron Taheny in 6th class who were chosen to be part of the Sarsfield cup boys football team. We are so delighted for you boys – best of luck! We are really looking forward to more sporting activities next term!

A huge thank you to Miss Daly and Mrs Collins for looking after and coaching the school teams this year.

- We have recently purchased new sports/PE equipment for all the pupils in the school – bean bags, soft foam balls – all sizes, footballs, tennis balls, hula hoops, helmets, indoor hurleys and flat markers discs. This equipment will add to the equipment already in place in the school and replace some of the equipment due to wear and tear. Thanks to Miss Daly for sourcing all the equipment and organising the ordering of same. All the pupils will benefit from this new equipment during their PE lessons.

Christmas Shoe Boxes:

Once again this year we took part in the Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box appeal. Pupils brought in over 50 beautifully wrapped and filled shoe boxes which will be sent to children in poorer countries for Christmas. Thanks to all families who filled shoe boxes.



School Choir:-

- The school choir members are presently practicing for the upcoming Peace Proms that will take place in UL on Saturday 21st January. Thanks to Miss McGrath and Mrs Lynch for leading the choir and affording the pupils this wonderful opportunity to be a part of this wonderful musical event. Tickets for this concert are available on <http://www.tickettailor.com/events/peaceproms>

Music:

- 4th class pupils are earning the tin whistle at the moment with their teacher Mrs Collins. We look forward to hearing them play at their Christmas performance!

Parents Teacher Association (PTA):

- We have a wonderful Parents Association in Donoughmore and we sincerely appreciate their continued support and dedication. The AGM of our PTA took place recently. Every good wish to Sinéad as Chairperson and all committee members for the coming year. It's lovely to see the new members who have joined. All parents are welcome to join the PTA. The PTA members are an invaluable asset to our school and work very hard for the benefit of all the pupils. Míle buíochas to Rena, Aileen and Orla, our outgoing members, who contributed hugely to the continued success of the PTA. We wish them and their families all the very best going forward as their children continue their education in secondary schools. A Christmas night will take place in December to acknowledge their contribution to the PTA – details to follow.

Halloween Disco:

- A very successful Halloween Disco was held again this year on Thursday 27th of October by the Parent Teacher Association, having been absent for the previous few years, due to the pandemic. A huge thank you to the PTA for organising and hosting this 'scary' event, once again. Every pupil looked spectacularly spooky on the night, having put great efforts into their costumes – they were unrecognisable, as were some of the PTA members! Thank you to Dermot – a parent in the school. We are very fortunate to have a 'resident DJ' in Donoughmore school. A very enjoyable night for our pupils.



Parent Teacher Association:- Giant Christmas Festive Raffle –



- The PTA have planned to hold another Giant Christmas Festive Raffle again this year. It will be held before the Christmas holidays, during school time, to ensure all pupils are present to receive any prize they might win!! Any parents available to attend the raffle are more than welcome!! Details from the PTA committee to follow.

After School Activity:

- Speech and Drama:- Speech and Drama has resumed in the school with Fidelma Hennessy. It takes place every Thursday from 3.30pm – 4.30pm and is open to pupils from 1st class to 6th class. Due to high demand the class is presently full. If you would like your child's name to be put on a waiting list, please contact Fidelma through the office.

Le gach dea ghuí,
Mrs. Emer Clifford
Principal

School Website: www.donoughmorenslimk.com
School e-mail:- donoughmorenslimk@gmail.com
Contact telephone number: 061) 418173