

Scoil Náisiúnta Domhnach Mór

Information Newsletter ~ September 2024



A very warm welcome back to all our pupils and parents. We hope you had a lovely summer. A special welcome to our new Junior Infant pupils, the new pupils who joined us in our 2nd Special Class, to the pupils who have joined us in classes up through the school and all their parents. We hope you will have many happy years with us in Donoughmore National School.

Important Dates and Times :

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

August 2024	School reopens Wednesday 28th August @ 9am
October Mid-Term Break	School closed Monday 28 th October 2024 to Friday 1 st November 2024 inclusive
Christmas 2024	Closing Friday 20 th December 2024 @ 12 noon -opening Monday 6 th January 2025
St. Brigid's Day Holiday	School closed Monday 3 rd February 2025
February Mid-Term Break	School closed Thursday 20 th February & Friday 21 st February 2025
St. Patrick's Day Holiday	School closed Monday 17 th March 2025
Easter 2025	Closing Friday 11 th April 2025 @ 12 noon and re-opening Monday 28 th April 2025
May Bank Holiday	School closed Monday 5 th May 2025
June Bank Holiday	School closed Monday 2 nd June 2025
Summer Holidays	School closing Friday 20 th June 2025 @ 12 noon

You will be notified of all other closures throughout the year. We appeal to parents not to organise family holidays outside of these dates. The practice of taking children out of school for holidays causes huge disruption and pupils miss out on valuable tuition time.

The school enjoys a very positive relationship with parents. If you at any stage you wish to discuss any concerns, academic or otherwise with regards to your child in school, please contact the school office by email at donoughmorenslink@gmail.com to arrange a return phone call or meeting. All concerns should be referred to your child's class teacher initially.

As you are aware, communication between home and school is very important, especially in relation to the development of your child, both academically and socially. To date Parent –Teacher meetings have proven to be a very worthwhile exercise. It gives the teachers an opportunity to share successes and concerns and to support parents in helping their children to learn. It gives you, the parents, an opportunity to meet your child's teacher in order to gain vital information about your child and how he or she is doing in school and also to discuss any issues or concerns you may have with regards to your child.

Official parent/teacher meetings will take place afterschool in **November - Wednesday 20th and Wednesday 27th** – individual meeting times to follow.

Important Notice: We are a nut free school.



6th Class - Common Application System for Secondary School:

- Open nights for secondary schools will commence shortly. Please refer to the information email sent recently to parents of 6th Class.

Team Teaching/Support Teaching:

Small group literacy and numeracy groups will take place again this year within some classrooms as well as in-class support. This involves the mainstream class teacher working very closely with our teachers from SEN and dividing classes into smaller groups for literacy and numeracy. We are very fortunate to be able to give this tuition to our pupils as smaller teacher to pupil ratio allows for more concentrated, targeted teaching and pupil engagement. We have seen great success with these teaching arrangements over the years.

A range of policies and procedures are in place to ensure the smooth running of the school e.g. Policies on Homework, Code of Behaviour, Admission, Parental Complaints, Child Safety Statement, Anti-Bullying, Healthy Eating etc. plus all curricular subjects. All the above are available to parents should they wish to read same.

Important Notices:-

- The school will open 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 will line up in their designated yard until 8.57am and then walk to their classrooms for class at 9am. **We would ask that pupils remain with their parents before entering the school.** We encourage pupils not to congregate outside the school wall before entering the school grounds, in the interest of everyone's health & safety. We recommend parents 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.**

- If you are collecting your child early for an appointment, please ring the office on 061) 418173 or email on donoughmorenslimk@gmail.com Sarah will arrange for your child to come out to you.
- Our school will continue with the **Aladdin ePayment system** in our school. The purpose of the ePayment system is to facilitate the easier payment of school money collections for parent/guardians. An email is sent to alert parents of monies due.
- An explanation must be given to the class teacher any time a child is absent from school – please use the absentee form in their school journal or email the school on donoughmorenslimk@gmail.com .
- When a child has been absent for 20 days, we are legally required to notify The Educational Welfare Service under Tusla. If this absence is illness related this is noted by TUSLA. If it is unexplained it is also noted.

Communication:

- The school will continue to use Text-A-Parent and email as our main way of communicating with parents. **Please ensure we have an up-to-date mobile number/email address for you.** It is very important to inform our school secretary, Sarah, if your number/address/email address changes so we can update our information systems.

Daily/Weekly Reminders:

- It is school policy to encourage all children to eat healthily. Please refer to our Healthy Eating Policy on the school website (donoughmorenslimk.com) or the school's blue Information Booklet.
- Please return the form, signed, by email or hardcopy, that is on the back of the school information booklet that was emailed to all families on the 14th August 2024 or attached again to this email. Thank you.
- Homework should be done with pride and attention. Parents should check pupil's homework each evening and sign homework journal. Oral homework is as important as written homework.
- Recycling is encouraged in line with our Green Flag – please **do not use tin foil** as it is non-recyclable.
- Please return all forms received from the school during the year asap i.e. medical, dental, etc. in an envelope with your child's name on the front & a brief explanation.
- Please note any outstanding money due for September must be paid as soon as possible – (Art & Craft, photocopying etc..) Thank you to all who have paid already through Aladdin.
- It was great to have all your child's books, workbooks and copies ordered, labelled and ready for use in September. Please ensure your child has all the stationary listed as per class booklist.

Important Items:

- **Illness: If your child is sick, please keep them at home**
- **Hair:** your child's hair should be checked regularly for head lice. Please inform the school if your child is being treated for head lice so that a general text can be sent home, in order that all pupils will be checked and treated if necessary. Your co-operation with this matter is much appreciated.
- **Medicine:** No child should have medicine in their possession at school. If medicine is required please arrange a meeting with Mrs Clifford.
- The parent of any child using an inhaler should notify the class teacher.
- **Personal Accident Insurance** is available to families – options €6 or €9. If you are interested in taking out pupil insurance, please click on the insurance form attached to this email to download and complete. Please return **the form** with your child to school and **payment** is through Aladdin epayment, by Friday 27th September. It is **not** compulsory to take out this insurance.

Voluntary PTA Euro Collection :-

- Parent Teacher Association (PTA) voluntary contribution is set up Aladdin epayment. Parents who wish to contribute may pay €20 per term x3 or some parents may wish to pay a once off €60 per family, at the beginning of the school year. This money is collected on behalf of the Parent Teacher Association for the benefit of all pupils and has in the past covered items such as contribution towards school tour buses, gymnasium mats, text messaging for parents, Mathematical equipment for the New Primary Maths Curriculum, ice cream for all pupils to name but a few. This payment will be linked to the Aladdin epayment system.

Health & Safety:-

- Limerick County Council representatives have asked us to thank you, once again, most sincerely for your participation and cooperation with the new traffic safety initiative at Donoughmore National School. As per email 29/8/24, they suggested that drivers give priority to cars exiting the church car park in order to free up spaces for incoming cars. They have also encouraged parents to allow enough time to utilise this new system. Many thanks to the many parents who are co-operating and supporting this new safety initiative, in the interest of your child's safety.
- Despite continuous warnings children see no danger when rushing into and out of school. We appeal to drivers for extreme caution around dropping off and collection times. With the new safety travel improvements outside the school, provided by Limerick Co-Co, we would strongly encourage **all** to use the church carpark and accompany your child/ren to and from the school using the wide footpaths at drop off and collection times. We strongly advice **not** dropping children off at the school by car, particularly at the ditch side of the road.
- Children should never enter/exit the school through the staff car park for safety reasons. Please use main circular gates or basketball gate when manned/opened.
- Please **do not** allow your child to climb the school wall or climb near the fence, at any time.
- Please do not park in the entrance of neighbouring houses at any time.
- Please keep the gate at the staff carpark free at all times.
- In the interest of the pupils of our school and setting good example we would appreciate it, if parents refrained from smoking directly outside the school gates.



School Choir:-



- The school choir is up and running again and we welcome the pupils from 3rd Class who have joined this year already. We ask that pupils remain committed to the choir from 3rd-6th class please. All pupils from 3rd-6th are very welcome to join the school choir. Choir members are expected to be available to sing on special occasions eg First Communion/Confirmation/Christmas Carols/Mass on occasion. If your child has not joined yet and would like to, please email the school on donoughmorenslimk@gmail.com for a form.
- **The choir will be performing on Culture Night, Friday 20th September in the local Court House, Ballyneety Village.** Our school will be performing on the evening. Details of times to follow, once received from the organizing committee. Thanks to Mrs Kingston for leading and accompanying the choir on this special community occasion.

Parent Teacher Association - PTA:

We have a wonderful Parents Association in Donoughmore and we sincerely appreciate their support and dedication. If you are new to the area or to the school it is a great opportunity to get to know other parents and to help out in some of the activities which take place during the year. A school is only as good as the sum of its parts and it is only through the co-operation of all parties, the pupils, the staff and the parents represented by the Parents Association that we will continue to build a better, modern and progressive school. The AGM will be held over the next few weeks – details to follow.

After School Activities:-

Tin Whistles	Tin Whistle lessons will commence if 10 or more pupils from 2 nd class up are interested in learning this instrument. This is a wonderful opportunity to get your child introduced to a musical instrument. If you are interested please email Mrs Quigley on aoifequigley3@gmail.com See also see information sheet attached to email with all the details.
---------------------	---

Exam Results:-

Well done to all our past pupils on their Leaving Cert results. We wish them all the best of luck in whatever path they choose to follow in life.

We wish all our 6th class pupils from last year all the very best in their new secondary schools.

Please retain this newsletter for the full school year as it contains important information

Le gach dea ghuí,
Mrs. Emer Clifford
Principal

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