**NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023**

Welcome back to a new school year! In particular I welcome the new Junior Infants and the pupils in our two new classes to the school. I hope their time here will be both enjoyable and fruitful. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

**New Staff:** We say a warm welcome to our new staff this year. Mr. Rowe, Mrs McKenna (Ms. Finlay) and Ms. Murray all join our permanent staff this year. We also welcome Ms. Keenan back after her career break. Ms McDonald is covering the year for Mr. Reid’s career break and Ms Corby is covering for Mrs. Woods parental leave. Ms. Gartlan is job sharing with Ms. Clarke in SET. We also welcome our new SNA’s Niamh, Michelle, Jane and Kelly. They are a wonderful addition to our team and we hope they will all be very happy here.

**Meet The Teacher**: Meet the Teacher sessions were held last week for Junior Infants – 3rd Class. Any parent of 4th, 5th and 6th class pupils who wish to speak to the teacher for any reason please feel free to contact us to make an appointment.

**Aldi Money:** Work is ongoing on our new soft play yard. We are delighted to see this project off the ground and we look forward to the finished product being available for our pupils as soon as possible.

**Active School and Green School:** Just a reminder we are an Active School and a Green School now so please carry on the good work. New committees will be set up this month and action plans put in place for this year.

**Rugby:** 5th and 6th Class will attend a Rugby Blitz in Ardee Rugby Club on Thursday 28th September.

**School Photographer**:

The school photographer will visit us on **Thursday 5th October 2023**. All pupils will get their photo taken on this day. If you wish to have a family photo please inform class teacher before this date.

**Fancy Dress/Non-Uniform Day:**

There will be a non-uniform/Fancy dress day on the last day of term **Friday 27h October 2023** in aid of Ardee and District Cancer Support Group. We ask pupils to donate €2 to this worthy cause.

**RSA Safety Talk**: A member of the Road Safety Authority will visit our school on Thursday 16th November to speak to all classes.

**Parent /Teacher Meetings:** Parent/Teacher meetings will take place during the week Monday 20th - Friday 24th November 2023. More information will be sent out nearer the date.

**Junior Infant Vaccinations**: This will take place on Friday 24th November.

**Parent Support Group**: A parent support group will be set up for this year to help with policy reviews, fundraising etc. If you would like to be a part of our support group please contact me ☺

**Gaelic Training:** The school teams are taking part in Cumann na mBunsol competitions this month. We thank Mr. Hickey and Mr. Rowe for their dedication and for organising after school training for our pupils.

**Staff Development**: All staff will receive training during the year in the new Maths curriculum and the new curriculum framework. All staff will receive training in Autism studies also. There will be a number of days school closure for this training and we will let you know the dates as soon as we are informed by the Department.

**New Modular Buildings**: We are expecting the new buildings to be on site by November according to the Department of Education timeline.

**Christmas Celebrations**: Friday 15th December is the date provisionally pencilled in for Christmas Plays and School Carol Service. This will be confirmed closer to the time.

**Opening Times:**

Reminder - school opens at 9.10am and finishes at 1.50pm for Junior and Senior Infants and 2.50pm for all other classes. The school cannot accept responsibility for pupils outside of these hours.

**Reminder**: If you are collecting your child early from school please ensure that you sign the log out book available in the office which is now located downstairs inside the main door at the top of the steps.

**First Holy Communion Date**: Saturday 18th May 2024

**Confirmation Date**: Wednesday 10th April 2024

**School Website**: Please ensure you have a look at our regular updates on the school website at [www.drumconrathns.com](http://www.drumconrathns.com) or on our Facebook page “Drumconrath N.S”.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or if any problems arise during the year regarding your child’s school life. I ask you to ring the secretary at the earliest possible opportunity to make an appointment to meet the relevant teacher. Most problems can be sorted out once the school is aware of them and contact should be made sooner rather than later.

Le Meas,

Joanne Carroll (Principal)

**If you change your contact details please ensure you inform the office**