**NEWSLETTER January/February 2024**

**Catholic Schools Week:** Catholic Schools week takes place from Monday 22nd January. Grandparent’s Mass will be celebrated in Drumconrath Church on Wednesday 24th Jan at 9.30am weather permitting.

**Credit Union Quiz**: This will take place on Friday 26th January in the Bohemian Centre Ardee. We wish the very best of luck to our two participating teams.

**Gaelic Training:** All classes are receiving Gaelic training every Friday for 8 weeks and in term 3 for a further 8 weeks.

**Music Lessons:** All classes have begun music classes. These will continue for 9 weeks until Easter. Pupils are learning a mixture of tin whistle, percussion and singing during these lessons. We hope they will enjoy them.

**Say Yes to Languages**: 4th, 5th and 6th class have begun their French lessons which will continue for 8 weeks. We hope they find these useful and enjoyable.

**Swimming:** Swimming will begin for 3rd – 6th class on Monday 19th Feb and continue for 5 weeks. Further information will follow from the class teachers.

**Book Fair:** The Book fair will be in school from Mon 26th Feb – Fri 3rd March. Pupils will be taken in class groups to it during the school day. It will be open to parents from 1.30-2.30 on these days.

**Paired Reading**:Paired Reading sessions for Junior Infants to 2nd class will begin on Tuesday 27th Feb and will run for 4 weeks. Parents will be invited in for this. Further information will be sent out nearer the time.

**RSE Lessons:** These will take place for all classes on Thurs 7th and Thurs 14th March. Letters of consent and information will be sent out nearer the time.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation will take place in Drumconrath Church on Wed 10th April at 12 noon. This will be a normal school day for all other classes. 3rd, 4th and 5th will sing in the choir on this day and then return to school.

**Drumming Workshop** : Drumming Workshops will take place for all classes on Tues 16th and Tues 23rd April. We hope pupils will enjoy this.

**New Infants Open Day:** We are accepting enrolment for the 2024 school year. All enrolment forms should be returned to the school by 2nd Feb. We have been sanctioned to open two further ASD classes from September 2024 which means we will have 5 mainstream classes and 4 ASD classes from September. New pupils and their parents will be invited in to visit on Thursday 9th May from 1.30-2.30pm

**Building Work**: Building works are ongoing with the estimated time of completion being May 2024. We have submitted a further building application for our new classes and we hope they will continue with the project until all of the new classrooms are complete. We appreciate everyone’s patience during this time and we look forward to the finished product which will benefit our school for years to come.

**Hot Lunches**: All pupils will receive a free hot lunch daily from Monday 8th April. The Lunch Bag is the company who will provide the meals. Parents will be able to order lunch online for their child. Further Information will follow regarding this. The company will be hiring one person to distribute these lunches. If you are interested in this position please contact the school office with your name and number and we will pass it onto them.

**First Holy Communion**: First Holy Communion will take place in Drumconrath Church on Sat 18th May at 11.15am

**Standardised Testing**: Tues 21st May – Micra T Standardised Testing 1st – 6th Class

Thurs 23rd May – Sigma T standardized testing 1st -6th Class

**Sports Day:** Sports Day will take place on Friday 31st May weather permitting.

**School Tour Day:** All classes will have school tour day on Friday 7th June. Details will be sent out to you by your class teacher.

**School Uniform**: Following a discussion with the parent support group, the staff and pupils it has been decided to review our uniform policy. From September 2024 our uniform will be the **wine school jumper, a grey polo t-shirt** (instead of white) and **black tracksuit bottoms** (instead of grey) If you are buying new uniform between now and June pupils may wear either colour.

We will continue to update you on news and dates as they become available to us.

**Opening Times**: Reminder - school opens at 8.50am and finishes at 1.30pm for Junior and Senior Infants and 2.30pm for all other classes. The school cannot accept responsibility for pupils outside of these hours.

**School Website**: Have a look at our regular updates on the school website at [www.drumconrathns.com](http://www.drumconrathns.com) and our school Facebook page Drumconrath NS. Joanne Carroll (Principal)