**NEWSLETTER MARCH/APRIL 2024**

**Boys and Girls Mini Sevens:**  Both teams are taking part in the Cumann na mBunscol Mini sevens competition. Excellent skill and sportsmanship on display so far. Well done to all involved and thanks to Mr. Hickey and Mr. Rowe for all of their hard work preparing the teams.

**Gaelic Training**: All classes have received 6 weeks of Gaelic training from Meath GAA. They will receive a further 8 weeks of training in the Summer term.

**Music Lessons:** Music lessons are continuing in all classrooms every Tuesday morning until Easter with a combination of tin whistle, singing and percussion. We hope our pupils are enjoying them.

**French Lessons:** 4th, 5th and 6th class are taking part in the Say Yes to Languages Programme and are currently receiving French lesson for an hour each week. This will continue for 8 weeks.

**Book Fair:** The Book fair took place in the school from Mon 26th Feb – Fri 1st March. Over €500 worth of books will be given back to the school as a result of funds raised. We thank you for your support.

**RSE Lessons:** These are taking place on Thursday 7th and Thursday 14th March.

**Paired Reading:** Paired Reading began on Tuesday 27th February for Junior Infants to 2nd Class pupils and parents. This will run every Tuesday morning for 4 weeks.

**Swimming**: Pupils from 3rd to 6th Class are attending swimming lessons in Aura Swimming Pool in Dundalk as part of their PE curriculum. They will go every Monday for 4 weeks and finish their 5th week on Wednesday 20th March.

**Seachtain na Gaeilge:** Seachtain na Gaeilge takes place in the school next week from Mon 11th March until Friday 15th March. Lots of fun games and activities planned. School will be closed on Monday 18th March for St. Patrick’s Day.

**Booklists:** School books for next year will be provided by the school so no booklists will be sent out this year. The School Calendar is ready for 2024-2025 and a copy is attached to this newsletter.

**Hearing and Vision Testing:** Hearing and Vision testing for Junior Infants will take place on Wednesday 17th April.

**Autism Class Open Day:** An open day will be held for new pupils enrolling in our Autism classes on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th May. Letters have been sent home with details of your date.

**Open Day:** New Junior Infants open Day will take place from 1.30-2.30pm onThursday 9th May for pupils and parents of incoming students. Letters have been sent out.

**Drumming Workshop**: All pupils will take part in a drumming workshop on Tues. 16th and Tues. 23rd April. This will be paid by the silver Circle Fund.

**Theatre Visit**: M and M travelling Theatre Company will visit the school on Thursday 2nd May and perform The Wizard of Oz for all of our pupils. This will be funded by the Parent Support Group.

**Confirmation**: Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 10th April at 12 noon in Drumconrath Church.

**First Holy Communion**: First Holy Communion will take place on Sat. 18th May in Drumconrath Church. First Confession date will be on Thursday 21st March.

**Easter Draw**: The Parent Support Group are fundraising for the school at present and have organized and Easter Draw which will take place on Friday 22nd March. All cards should be returned to the school by 20th March.

**Building Works**: Work is ongoing on our new Modular Buildings and we look forward to the end result. We have also applied for two more classrooms and await word from the Department of Education regarding this.

5th and 6th Classroom will be getting a new floor covering over the Easter holidays. This means that the whole school has had carpet replaced with marmoleum floors over the last two years. We are delighted with this improvement in the school for our pupils. ☺

**Athletics:** The school Athletics team will travel to Claremont on Tuesday 11th June to take part in the Track and Field Championships.

**Standardised Testing:** Testing in Maths and English for all pupils will take place on Tuesday 21st and Thursday 25th May 2024.

**Active Week**: Active Week will take place from Monday 27th May finishing with our Annual Sport’s Day on Friday 31st May 2024.

**School Tours**: All classes will go on School Tour on Friday 7th June 2024. Tours have been booked and details will be sent out by your class teacher. All tours are being subsidised this year by the Parent Support Group so the price of the bus will be covered for all pupils. We thank them for this.

**Free Hot Meals Scheme**: Hot Meals for all pupils will begin in the Summer term. Further information will follow closer to the time.

**Enrolment**: Enrolment forms for Mainstream and Autism classes are available to download from the school website at [www.drumconrathns.com](http://www.drumconrathns.com). for anyone wishing to join our school community in September 2022.

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)