



SAPERE AUDE

DUNDALK GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

VOLUME 19 Issue 1

SEPTEMBER 2019

Each year brings its own joys and sorrows but we trust in the presence of God in our lives that we will be given the strength to cope with whatever difficulties we may encounter.

A very warm welcome to all the new pupils in our school. We say hello to Cosette, Sofia, Jeanie Bellew and John Graham. We wish every one of you a very happy time in the Junior School.

We wish good luck to our sixth class of last year who are now in first year in the Senior School.

We would ask parents' co-operation when dropping off and collecting children. We would like the children to enter the classrooms by themselves to encourage independence now that the settling-in period is over. This also enables the teacher to get class started earlier without disruption. Pupils can be collected from the bottom white gate at the pickup point where a teacher is on duty each day. **Staff would appreciate pupils being collected on time** and children are not permitted to wait at the gates alone **no later than 3.10pm** for safety reasons. **Please note the times (3.50pm) of the afternoon activities and make sure children are collected on time.**

SCHOOL TIMES

The Junior School opens every morning at **8.20am**.

The pupils are supervised in Ms. Lait/Ms. Ferris/ Ms. Reynolds classroom until their teacher arrives at 8.40am. Junior Infants finish at 12.30pm until Friday 27th September 2019 and thereafter at 2pm.

All classes from Senior Infants to 6th class finish at 3pm every day except Wednesday, 2.30pm.

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPECIAL SUBJECT STAFF

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|---|---|
| ICT: | Mr. Andrew Shekleton |
| Art: | Ms. Maria Binks |
| Science: | Ms. Thomasina Branigan |
| P.E: | Mr. Andrew Shekleton and Ms. Kellie McCabe |
| French & Spanish: | Mlle. Valerie Herve, |
| Music: Choir, Recorder, & Orchestra: | Ms. Pamela O'Connor Moneley and Ms. Donna Magee |
| Orchestra: | Ms. Donna Magee |
| Drama: | Ms. Geraldine Kieran |

P.E.

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|-----------|-----------------------|
| Monday: | Ms. Kelly's classes |
| Tuesday: | Ms. Ferris' classes |
| Tuesday: | Ms. Reynold's classes |
| Thursday: | Ms. Lait's classes |

Children should wear their DGS PE uniform on PE days

MUSIC LESSONS

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Violin: | Monday-Thursday (Ms. Helen Reynolds) |
| Guitar: | Tuesday (Mr. Kalichi Donohoe and Mr. Emmet Fallon) |
| Recorder: | Monday (Ms. O'Connor-Moneley) |
| Piano: | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Ms. O'Connor-Moneley and Mr. Kieran Holt) |
| Drums: | Tuesday (Mr. John Gray) |
| Saxophone, Clarinet and Flute: | Friday (Mr. Kieran Holt) |
| Orchestra: | Thursday (Ms. Magee), |
| Voice/Singing: | Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday (Ms Sarah McCourt) |
| Cello: | Ms. Clíodhna McAteer |

AFTERNOON TIMETABLE TO DATE

Monday:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Homework prep: | 3:00pm-3:50pm; (3 rd - 6 th classes) |
| Junior Class Hockey Training: | 3:00pm-3:50pm; (1 st - 3 rd classes) |

Tuesday:

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|----------------|--|
| Homework prep: | 3:00pm-3:50pm; (3 rd - 6 th classes) |
| Yoga: | 3:00pm-3:50pm; (2 nd - 6 th classes) |
| Science club | 4:00pm-5:00pm; (4 th - 6 th classes) |

Wednesday:

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| Art Club: | 2:30pm-3:30pm; (1 st - 6 th classes) |
| Drama/Musical rehearsal: | 2:30pm-3:30pm; (main roles only) |

Thursday:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Senior Class Hockey Training: | 3:00pm-4:00pm; (4 th - 6 th classes) <i>(Shin guards and gum shield essential)</i> |
| Chess club: | 3:00pm-3:50pm; (3 rd - 6 th classes) |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|---|---|
| Monday 30th September: | School closed |
| Monday 14th October: | Maths Week: Maths talk for 5 th & 6 th classes |
| Wednesday 16th October: | Open Day 3:00pm – 6.30pm |
| Tuesday 22nd October: | Junior School PTA AGM and Social Gathering |
| Thursday 17th October: | Prize Day |
| Friday 26th October returning Monday 4th November 2019: | Mid-term Break |
| Thursday 11th November: | Parent/Teacher meeting from 1:00pm |
| Friday 6th December: | The Sound of Music and PTA Christmas Fête |
| Friday 13th December: | School closed: CPD Day |
| Wednesday 16th December: | HSE Vision & Hearing Tests |
| Thursday 19th December 2019: | Carol Service and Junior School Nativity at 7.00pm |
| Friday 20th December 2019 returning Monday 6th January 2020: | Christmas Holidays |
| Monday 10th January 2020: | School closed: CPD Day |
| Friday 14th February 2020 returning Monday 24th February 2020: | Mid-term Break. |
| Wednesday 11th March 2020: | Talk for 6 th class parents, Personal Development: S.Teather |
| Thursday 12th March 2020: | 6 th class Personal Development Day |
| Monday 16th March 2020: | School closed |
| Tuesday 17th March 2020: | School closed: St Patricks Day Holiday |
| Friday 3rd April 2020 closing for Easter returning Monday 20th April 2020: | Easter Holidays |
| Monday 4th May 2020: | School Closed: Public Holiday |
| Wednesday 6th May 2020: | Sports Day. |
| Friday 29th May 2020: | School closes for Summer Holidays |

More dates available on calendar hand-out which was sent home and inside pupil's journal

LUNCHES

Canteen and hot lunches are well under way. Canteen is also available for pupils all classes. A menu and price list is available. Hot lunches, likewise, are available for 1st class upwards. Hot lunch includes a hot main course and a dessert. Parents can book for the same day or days every week. Hot Lunches only available on bill pay. Our Healthy Eating Programme is up & running in the school. Children are still welcome to bring their packed lunches but we operate a healthy eating policy at school. **Sweets, chocolate, popcorn, crisps and fizzy drinks are not allowed at school. Please note no nuts in school.** Perhaps a little **treat** once a week, **on Fridays only**, although this is optional and at parents' discretion.

MUSIC

Music lessons are well under way and it is delightful to see such enthusiasm reigning in the Junior School Orchestra. We welcome our new members to the orchestra. The orchestra teacher is Ms Donna Magee. Music lessons are available in piano, voice, cello, guitar, violin, flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone and drums and are held on a weekly basis. Larger instruments are available on loan from the school. A reminder that daily practice is very important.



HAIRCUTS/HAIRSTYLES

Boys must have regular schoolboy haircuts, minimum Blade 4 cut. Very short blade cuts are not permitted nor styles with shaven sides or tufted on top. No hair dyes allowed. Girls, please note that fancy coloured braids are not appropriate for school and are not permitted. Hair accessories should be discreet, black, brown, navy blue or white.

UNIFORM

Please make sure all items of clothing are clearly marked or labelled.

Please note that the Grammar school grey uniform skirt is box pleated (no pinafores please) and shoes must be leather, not runners nor canvas shoes. Box pleated skirts are available in Michael Lynch's, smaller sizes in Marks & Spencer and Dunnes Stores. Please check length of skirt which is below the knee.

HOMEWORK

At this stage, every pupil will have homework on a daily basis. This is a consolidation of work done in class. The time spent on homework varies from 10 minutes to one hour depending on his/her class. Please check the homework journal from day to day. Please ensure that your child is sufficiently rested to participate in a full school day.

PTA

The PTA will hold their AGM on Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at 7.15pm in the Junior School. There will be refreshments. Please come along and see the great involvement of the PTA. All welcome.

FRIENDSHIP WEEK

Friendship week took place in September. The theme this year was “**Friends are Important**”. There is special emphasis on friendship and respect for others. The school community believes that every pupil should have plenty of friends. During the week in particular, the pupils enjoyed ideas on how to make friends, keep friends and appreciate all our diverse characters. We invited past pupils and friends to the Junior School for tea and it was great having them back.

SCHOOL DRAMA/MUSICAL

We are enjoying the senior school musical rehearsals of ‘Ghost’ in Finnermore Hall. The Junior School will have the opportunity to attend the matinee just before Halloween.

The Junior School are preparing for our Christmas Production, of the musical “The Sound of Music” on Friday 6th December 2019 in the Finnermore Hall at 2pm. All children in the Junior School will be involved.

HALLOWEEN

Friday 25th October 2019 will be a fancy dress day at school. Pupils come to school in fancy dress. This will be in aid of LSPCA (Louth Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). €2 will be collected from each child and will be presented to the LSPCA.

TEAM HOPE AND MS READATHON

Team Hope Christmas shoeboxes and MS Readathon will be up and running in October.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jack Ives who has been racing petrol karts for the past year at a local level (Leinster) and more recently national level (Motorsport Ireland). In the summer holidays Jack was thrilled to achieve his 1st race win at national level in the Novice Cadet class.

Congratulations to Caoilfhionn O’Reilly who was very successful recently in an Irish Dancing Feis in Limerick. Caoilfhionn was first in three competitions: Reel, Traditional Set and Overall Championships.

Well done to Gabrielle Furlong who completed her Grade 3 exam in Solo Performance in Dance at the Royal Academy of Dance.

PRIZE DAY

Prize day will take place on Thursday 17th November 2019 at 2pm in Finnermore Hall. Our guest speaker is Captain Tristan Swan, Aer Lingus.



SCIENCE CAMPS

Anyone 4 Science will run a Science camp in the school over the mid-term break on Wednesday 30th October 2019. The free places for the summer camps have rolled over to Halloween Camp. Congratulations Arina Parshina, Ryan Bradley, Harry Maguire Travers and Caleen Kirk on their free places. All details of more camps are on the website www.anyone4science.ie

And finally ... Thank you to all parents who helped out in any way and we look forward to your continued support this year. Elaine Lait