



SAPERE AUDE

DUNDALK GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

VOLUME 20 Issue 1

SEPTEMBER 2020

'Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and twice as beautiful as you've ever imagined.' Dr Seuss

A very warm welcome to all the new pupils in our school. We say hello to: **Kate Babington, Leah Bardoux, Florence Dowdall-Lait, Hunter Foran, Monty Gibbons, Edie Kierans, Kate McNamara, Roselynn O'Neill, James Duerden, Emily Mullen, Rogan Treadwell, Theo Lydon, Kayven Simpson, Lucy Smartt, Davina Adebola, Ciaran McGoey, Neyva Simpson, Imogen Dawson, Ronald Ferrar, Oliver Reilly Swales, Reyna Simpson and Poppy Veale.** 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. **Staff would appreciate pupils being collected on time.** Children are not permitted to wait at the gates by themselves for safety reasons. Please note the times (which vary) of the afternoon activities and ensure children are collected on time.

SCHOOL TIMES

The Junior School opens every morning at 8.30am

The pupils are supervised until their teacher arrives at 8.40am

Junior Infants finish now at 2.00pm from Monday 28th September.

School finishing times: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Junior Infants: 2:00pm

Senior Infants: 2:45pm

1st/2nd.3rd Class: 2:50pm

4th/5th/6th Class: 3:00pm

School finishing times: Wednesday

Junior Infants: 2:00pm

Senior Infants: 2:15pm

1st/2nd/3rd Class: 2:20pm

4th/5th/6th Class: 2:30pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 23rd October: School closes for the mid-term.

Monday 2nd November: Return to school.

Tuesday 22nd December: School closes for the Christmas holidays.

Wednesday 6th January 2021: Return to school.

Friday 12th February: School closes for the mid-term.

Monday 22nd February: Return to school.

Wednesday 17th March: St Patricks Day holiday.

Friday 26th March: School closes for the Easter holidays.

Monday 12th April: Return to school.

Monday 3rd May: Public holiday.

Friday 4th June: School closes for summer holidays.

More dates available inside of pupils' journal.

JUNIOR SCHOOL SUBJECT STAFF

ICT:	Mr A. Shekleton
Art:	Ms M. Binks
Science:	Mr J. Faherty
P.E:	Mr A. Shekleton and Ms N.Clements
French:	Ms L. McGinnity
Spanish:	Mr F. Fernandes
Music & Ukulele:	Ms P. O'Connor Moneley
Orchestra:	Ms D. Magee
Drama:	Ms G. Kieran

P.E.

Thursday:	Ms. Ferris' classes
Wednesday:	Ms. Reynold's classes
Thursday:	Ms. Lait's classes
Thursday:	Mr Callan's classes

Children are to wear their DGS PE uniform on PE days

MUSIC LESSONS

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

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES - TIMETABLE TO DATE

Monday:

Homework prep:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (3 rd - 6 th classes)
Art Club:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (1 st - 3 rd classes)
Science club:	4:00pm-5:00pm; (4 th - 6 th classes)

Tuesday:

Homework prep:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (3 rd - 6 th classes)
Junior Class Hockey Training:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (1 st - 3 rd classes) <i>(Shin guards and gum shield essential)</i>
Gaeilge Club:	4:00pm-5:00pm; (4 th - 6 th classes)

Wednesday:

Football:	2:30pm-3:30pm; (4 th - 6 th classes)
Quiz Club:	2:30pm-3:30pm; (1 st - 3 rd classes)

Thursday:

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

SPORTS

Congratulations to Katie Goodman (Under 12) and Thomas Ritchie (under 14) on being selected for the Leinster Junior Tennis Squad. A huge achievement!

LUNCHES



Day canteen and hot lunches are both available for pupils from 1st class upwards. A menu and price list are available. Canteen lunches can be purchased from TFW, only with a payment card, no cash payments and you will find the link to register for a TFW payment card on the school website, <https://www.dgs.ie/2018/10/tfw-smartcard-cashless-catering/>

Hot lunches from the boarding house includes a hot main course and a dessert. These hot lunches are only available on bill pay and these come via the boarding house kitchen. Children are still welcome to bring their packed lunches, but we operate a healthy eating policy at school. **Sweets, chocolate, popcorn, crisps are not allowed at school.** Perhaps a little treat once a week, **on Fridays only**, although this is optional and at parents' discretion. **No Fizzy Drinks.**



MUSIC



Music lessons are well under way and it is delightful to see such enthusiasm reigning in the Junior School Orchestra, new members welcome. The orchestra teacher is Ms McGee and 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 music 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 again are not permitted. Hair accessories should be discreet, black, brown, navy blue or white. Girls' skirts should be below the knee and box pleated. No pinafores please.

UNIFORM

Please clearly label all items of clothing. School shoes must be plain black leather, no suede, no boots nor canvas, no buckles or ornaments, no trainer type shoes. Please refer to website.

HOMEWORK

From the beginning of October, every pupil will have homework daily, this is a consolidation of their class work. Time spent on homework will vary from 10 minutes to one hour, depending on his/her class. Please check the homework journal from day to day and ensure that your child is sufficiently rested to participate in a full school day.



FRIENDSHIP WEEK



Friendship week took place in September. The theme this year is '**Together as One**'. There is a 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 shared their ideas about friendships and understanding each other's differences.

PTA

Thank you to the PTA for their sterling work in the background. At the beginning of the year, a second-hand uniform sale was held outside the school gates. The PTA purchased some ukuleles and violins for the music department. This year in music classes 1st to 6th will be focusing on the ukulele as opposed to the recorder as per Covid 19 guidelines. The PTA also part sponsored treats for the 6th class of 2020. The 6th class had their day out at Carlingford Adventure Centre and received their DGS Junior School 'Class of 2020' hoodies, again thanks to the PTA.

HALLOWEEN

Friday 23rd October will be a fancy-dress day at school and pupils should come to school in their 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 LSPCA soon.



HEALTH AND SAFETY: COVID 19

We are all delighted to have returned to school. The children have adapted very well and are cognisant of the importance of washing their hands, sanitising etc. We thank everyone for adhering to the guidelines. Thank you to our parents for following the protocols of the HSE and keeping children off school, when unwell, until they are fully recovered.

Please note that if your child/children have been in a country not on the green list, you must self-isolate for 14 days. It is the parents' responsibility to check the list of green countries which does change regularly.

Please continue to check your child/children's temperature in the morning before leaving for school. If the temperature is above 37.5 or your child is feeling unwell, please do not send your child to school.

If your son/daughter is unwell for a few days, there is no need to worry about their schoolwork. It is important for the child to recover fully and return to school. However, if your child is off school for more than a few days, and they are well enough to do some schoolwork at home, teachers can email work to you. All CJ Fallon textbooks are available online at CJFallon.ie as they were during the lockdown.

And finally, ... Thank you to all parents for your continued support this year.

Ms E. Lait