



Scoil na Mainistreach – Cinnlínte 178 – May 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you to inform you of important school news and activities during the last term of school. We have been busy planning a very busy term ahead for our school community. **Please note that in order to receive all school communications and to access all school services on your smartphone it is vitally important that all parents download, install and setup your Eolas App.** For easy instructions visit our website at www.monasterynsardee.ie/parents/eolas-app/. N.B. Please use the same email and password for Eolas that you use for online School Payments.

Yours sincerely, Jim McGee, *Principal*.

Key Term Activities and Reminders

- **May 10th** – First Holy Communion Photograph / MIST Testing for Senior Infants Begins.
- **May 11th** – U13 GAA Matches / MIST Testing continues.
- **May 13th** – MIST Testing continues / Broadcaster and Adventurer Dermot Somers visits 6th Class.
- **May 17th** – Drumcondra Assessment Testing begins for 1st-6th Classes / Cumann na mBunscol Quiz in Parish Centre.
- **May 18th** - Drumcondra Testing continues for Senior Classes.
- **May 19th** – Drumcondra Testing continues for Senior Classes / New Junior Infant Parents Virtual Open Evening.
- **May 20th** – New Infants 2022-23 Open Day (*current Junior Infants finish at 12.30pm today*).
- **May 20th** - U11 GAA Blitz / 6th Class Transfer Programme with Ardee SCP.
- **May 23rd** – 3rd & 4th Classes School Tour to Navan Adventure Centre.
- **May 25th** – Sports Day (*weather permitting*).
- **May 26th** – 5th & 6th Classes School Tour to Tayto Park.
- **May 27th** – 1st & 2nd Class School Tour to Funtasia.
- **May 30th** – 6th Class Challenge 4 Reward.
- **Friday June 3rd to Monday June 6th inclusive** – School Closure for June Public Holiday Weekend.
- **June 8th** – Infants’ School Tour to Newgrange Farm.
- **June 20th** – School Reports sent home.
- **June 24th** – School closes for Summer Holidays.
- **Monday June 27th to Friday July 1st** – **Monastery NS Summer Camp** (*more information will follow*).

New Junior Infants August 31st 2022

History will be made when boys and girls attend our school together for the first time in 132 years on Wednesday, August 31st 2022. A **virtual information evening** will be hosted for parents / guardians of new infants at **7pm on Thursday May 19th**. This will be followed the next day by an **Infants Open Day** where new infants come into our school and visit their new classroom and teacher. We will once again be having two small Junior Infant classes next year. **Please note that we are still accepting enrolment applications for the new school year – contact our school office for more information.** **Wanted – have you got infant toys, dolls, dolls’ houses, toy prams, construction toys, full jigsaws, costumes in excellent condition that you no longer need? Please contact our school office if you would like to donate them to our school.**

Communication with our School

Parents can call the school office on **041-6853641** (*leave a voicemail on our routinely monitored answering service*) or email officeardeemns@gmail.com When contacting us please state your full name, your child's name and his class teacher's name. We will return your call as soon as possible. Routine messages will be forwarded onto your child's teacher. Where a parent is concerned about any matter regarding their child's education or welfare it is school procedure to contact them by phone or to arrange a meeting at a mutually suitable time. In this way all of the partners in your child's education and welfare can discuss your concern and work together for the best possible outcome for your child.

Notice of Annual School Payments

School Book Rental Scheme – (€26 for new entrants and €16 annual membership renewal for other classes) this charge will be issued on Sunday May 15th and the deadline for payment is **Tuesday May 31st**. Please note that Parents who opt out of the BRS will have to buy all of their child's books themselves and pay the pupil online access fees to our school.

Class Booklist Expenses will issue on Sunday May 29th. The deadline for the payment of these charges is **Friday July 8th 2022**. Class Booklists will be sent home in hard copy, via email and will also be available on our website.

Please pay these charges online via our Eolas App or School Payments Online or by phone and card to the school office.

Book Grant 2022-2023

If you are currently experiencing financial difficulties and finding it hard to make ends meet you may be eligible for a **School Book Grant**. This grant can be used to partially or fully cover the cost of your child's **Class Booklist Expenses**. **Contact the school office to discuss your needs**. All applications for the Book Grant are strictly confidential.

Annual Drumcondra Assessment Tests for 1st to 6th Classes

Our annual assessment tests for 1st – 6th classes commence next week on Tuesday, May 17th. They will continue on Wednesday and Thursday. **Please ensure if possible, that your son(s) are in school on time for these tests**. He/ they should have a pencil, rubber and ruler with him/them. Fifth and Sixth class boys should also bring a protractor and a compass. **While the tests are important, there is no need for any anxiety or stress in relation to them. Please note that there will be no homework given to senior pupils next week.**

School End of Year Reports 2021

School reports will be issued in hard copy and electronically to our Eolas App on **Monday June 20th**. 4th to 6th will receive their reports in the post while all other pupils will take their own report home. COVID-19 absences may have impacted some children so it is important to keep this in mind when reading your child's end-of-year report. Each year, schools use standardised tests in Mathematics and English with children in 1st to 6th class and share the results of these tests through end-of-year reports. Standardised tests provide a snapshot of your child's achievement in a particular area of their learning. **They do not and cannot paint the full picture of your child as a learner.**

School Tours

We are delighted that we are once again able to offer your child a school tour. For many pupils this is the highlight of the year. We organise our school tours in class bands and ensure that the pupil / teacher supervision ratio is no greater than 1 to 15. SETs and SNAs are also involved in school tours and the additional needs of our children are fully accommodated. All our planning and supervision is in accordance with our *School Tours Policy* which is available on our school website.

DEIS Update – Free School Lunches & Home School Community Liaison Teacher

The award of **DEIS status** to our school will bring considerable benefits to our school community in the coming years. **The School Meals Programme, which is operated by the Department of Social Protection, provides free lunches for all pupils in DEIS schools every day.** We look forward to providing this service for our parents and pupils next year. We have also been granted shared access to a **Home School Community Liaison teacher (HSCL)** who will work with our parents offering guidance, support, training opportunities, coffee mornings, home visitation and act as a link between your home, your child's class teacher and our school. A HSCL will be appointed and begin work in September 2022.

June Public Holiday Weekend and Summer Closure

Monastery NS is closed for the June Public Holiday weekend from Friday June 3rd to Monday June 6th inclusive. Our school closes for the summer holidays on Friday June 24th. School reopens on Wednesday August 31st, 2022.