

Hurling Academy

The hurling academy continues this term on the school pitch each Monday. We have some very committed players from 2nd and 3rd class involved. They will be the stars of the future. They play a friendly match against Scoil Santain next Monday (May 27th) at 1.30pm. Mr. Keating and Mr. Vaughan look after the academy.

Soccer

Our boys and girls' soccer teams have been very busy also. Players competed in the FAI schools 5-a-side earlier this season and they are now play cup and league games up to the end of May. Our team managers have weekly match reports which are available on our website. Mr. Looney, Mr. Donnellan, Ms. O'Reilly, Ms. Brennan and Ms McHugh manage our soccer teams.



CHESS

Our chess team have had an excellent run in the Tallaght Chess league. We have played St. Anne's, St Mark's and St. Mary's schools. We have qualified for a semi-final which takes place next Tuesday against St. Anne's school. Dee Mowlds runs chess club every Monday from 2.30-3.30pm.

Cross Country

Each month during the Spring, Ms. Considine and Ms. McHugh bring 50 children to take part in Cross Country running. This final took place in Corkagh Park last week. Well done to all the children who took part. These teachers will also lead our team to Santry which is on Wednesday 23rd May.

Best wishes to all children who represent their school in any sport or activity.

May 25th School Closed (referendum)

May 28th Water Safety Week begins

May 31st Induction Day for new Infants at 1pm.

June 1st Sponsored Walk at 11am

June 4th School Closed (Bank Holiday)

June 5th School Closed (School Holiday)

June 7th Swimming Gala

June 7th Junior Talent Show at 11am

June 8th Senior Talent Show at 11am

June 12th Sports Day

June 13th St. Dominic's Annual Sports Awards 11am

June 29th Final day of term



CHILD PROTECTION

In March 2018 the Board of Management ratified two very important documents. A Child Safeguarding statement and Risk Assessment have been published on our school website and are displayed inside the front door of the school. The Child Safeguarding Statement is a written statement that specifies the work of the school. It also lists the principles and procedures to be observed in order to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child is safe from harm. The Child Safeguarding Statement provides an overview of the measures that our school has in place to ensure that children are protected from harm.

We have also completed a Risk Assessment. This considers the potential for harm to come to children while they are in our care. It should be noted that risk in this context is the risk of abuse and not general health and safety risk. A risk assessment is an exercise where the school examines all aspects of how it cares for children from a safeguarding perspective, to establish whether there are any



practices or features that have the potential to put children at risk.

Every teacher in the school is now a mandated person. This means they now have statutory responsibility to make a report to Tusla if a child may be at risk of harm.

'Harm' is defined as physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. If a teacher observes a possible symptom of one of the above mentioned abuses they have legal responsibility to seek advice and/or make a report to Tusla. They are obliged to follow whatever advice they receive. The actions that teachers take when carrying out this role is always done with the best interests of the child. They have no intention of offending a parent/guardian.

ST. DOMINIC'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Aladdin Connect

I hope parents are familiar now with Aladdin Connect. We will be using it to communicate with parents on a regular basis next year. Please ensure when you have your account set up on a browser and then you download the App from the App Store or Google Play store. When you have downloaded the App please ensure notifications are turned on.

End of Year Reports

End of year reports will be available during the last week of June. Please note: School reports will only be available for parents on Aladdin Connect; we will not be sending home a paper copy. Reports will include Drumcondra Test results for 1st-6th class which adheres to our school policy. These are in the form of a STen score which is a mark out of ten. It is important to remember that his/her score is reflective of only one aspect of progress that your child has made during the year.

As with other tests your child does in school, his/her result on a standardised test can be affected by how he/she feels on the test day or by worry or excitement about a home or school event. Parents and guardians play an important role in encouraging and supporting your child no matter what he/she scores on the test.

An explanatory note on STen scores is available on the parents noticeboard in the school and at www.ncca.ie

Sponsored Walk

We have had some very successful sponsored walks over the last 5 years. It is important for your child to be active and fit. We hope you will support our sponsored walk again this year. It will take place on Friday June 1st at 11am. We would love to have some parents join us for the walk on the day. Sponsorship cards were sent home last week for this event. This is our main fundraiser of the year and it helps us to run the school office. Your support is much appreciated. We had a lovely bike as a prize last year for one lucky pupil. We will have another fantastic prize this year also.

The infant walk is 2km and the main walk is 3km long. We will have large group who will run it again this year accompanied by a number of teachers.

Communion

Communion took place on Sunday 20th May. Congratulations to all our pupils. They all looked wonderful on the day. We hope you enjoyed it. We had a very large group for Communion this and it was very well organised by Ms. Higgins, Ms. Brennan and Sinead Fallon from St. Dominic's Church.



Booklists

Booklists for the 2018/2019 school year will be available shortly. Booklists will be sent home and will be available on our website also. Book Rental money is due in June. Parents are asked to pay the Book rental amount through our secure ePayment service hosted by Aladdin Schools. You can use your credit or laser card to pay the book rental amount. This reduces the amount of cash we hold in our school and is more convenient for parents. You will get an email/text shortly with the details. The book rental amounts are unchanged from last year. We are updating some of our textbooks and workbooks for the coming school year.

ICT

The world in which we live is constantly changing. The use of digital technologies has become part and parcel of daily life. As a school we need to help prepare children for safe and appropriate use of these technologies. We recently purchased a number of iPads and refurbished our computer room. We have also installed Wi-Fi throughout the school. Our devices will be used from Junior infants up to 6th Class. We have created a Digital learning team in school who work diligently at creating opportunities for ICT use across the school. It is important for parents to remember that use of computers/devices is not an extra subject added to the curriculum, but



another method for children to access their current content.

We recently took delivery of a set of Bee-Bots. These little devices are the starting point for teaching control, directional language and programming. Keep an eye on our Facebook/twitter feeds to see them in action in the next few weeks.

The use of ICT comes with a cost however. We will have to increase our Materials & Supplies figure by €5 in September to cover some of the costs associated with use of ICT equipment (projectors, Interactive whiteboards, iPads, computer room, etc.)

Induction

The Induction Day takes place on Thursday May 31st at 1.30pm for incoming infants. We are looking forward to meeting all our new Junior Infants. Please note: Our current Junior Infants will finish at 12.30pm that day as their room will be used for the new pupils.

Hurling/Camogie

Our Hurling and camogie teams are having a great season so far in the Cumann na mBunscol leagues. The camogie team have had some fantastic results recently. They have a semi-final coming up this week. Well done to all the players who are so committed to their team. Ms. Hogan, Mr. Fagan, Mr. Donnellan, Mr. Keating all help out with our hurling and camogie teams.

