



Drimnagh Castle Primary School



School Newsletter September and October 2022



Fáilte agus Fáilte ar Ais!



Our newly elected Student Council 2022/2023

The Student Council: The Student's Voice

Last week at Drimnagh Castle, we held elections for our new Student Council; a committee of boys who will meet on a termly basis. The Council is designed to give a voice and a platform to our students; to ensure that they have a say in how the school is run. Boys from 2nd to 6th class voted for their classmates who had put themselves forward as candidates and a Council was formed. We met last week for our first meeting and the elected boys brought fantastic ideas to the table. Some of the Council will address their peers at our Halloween assembly this Friday and look forward to implementing the students' ideas after our break. Watch this space! A very special thanks to Ms Timbs for organising the elections and the meetings.

I would like to welcome everybody back to school and a very special welcome to our 2nd class boys and the boys who are new to the school. We hope that you are very happy here in The Castle and that you all have a great year ahead.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the boys, parents and guardians, and the staff for making me feel so welcome. I'm incredibly proud to be the new Principal of Drimnagh Castle Primary School. I know that we all miss Mr Duffy very much and that we wish him the very best of luck in his well-deserved retirement. I'm very much looking forward to getting to know all of the boys and their families and working with you all to ensure that life in The Castle continues to thrive. Please know that my door is always open if you would like to discuss any aspect of your son's education.
Bennet Kirwan, Principal

Hot School Meals

We were delighted to be able to announce recently that the school has secured funding for a Hot School Meals Programme. We have been working closely with the company Carambola to ensure that we will be able to take our first delivery of the hot meals directly after the midterm break on Monday, the 7th of November.

By now your son has received his personal log-in to the Carambola website and most boys have already selected their meals for the first week. The staff had the opportunity to sample the meals and we were all very impressed by both the variety on offer to the boys and how delicious the food is. We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your son to avail of this programme and to try the meals on offer. We would also kindly ask you not to send a lunch in with your son, as all they will need is a healthy snack for small break. **Amanda** in the office is coordinating this programme and so if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact her on **014518316**.

Website:

www.carambola.ie



Collection and Parking

A reminder to parents and guardians that the school gates by the Kokonut open at 08:40 each morning and that classes begin at 09:05. The gates are opened again at 14:45 each afternoon for the collection of the boys.

We understand that there might be times when you need to collect your son early for various reasons. Collecting your son early causes an interruption to the entire school so we would kindly request that you would keep this to a minimum.

We appreciate that there are often issues with traffic around drop-off and collection times but we ask you to only use the Kokonut entrance and not the staff car park.

We really appreciate your co-operation in these matters.



Our Green Schools Committee with plants very generously donated by Supervalu

Green Schools

We have been very busy setting up our composting and litter picking teams. Well done to all our hard workers. It is super to see boys working so hard to help the environment and to keep our community clean.

Well done to all the boys who make the effort to **Walk on Wednesday**. We are trying to reduce our journeys in the car to help the environment. The class with the most walkers/ cyclists/ scooters get a homework pass. Well done to room 10 who won the homework pass this week. A special thanks to Kai and Aaron in R26 who take the WOW numbers each week.

Please ensure your child has a reusable lunch box and bottle. This reduces our waste going to landfill. Thanks to Ms Sheridan for coordinating our Green Schools Committee.



Senior Football Panel: Harry and Charlie(Joint-Captains) Evan, Joe, Tadhg, MJ, Oliver, Jace, Mason, Keegan, Ryan, Alex, Daniel, Jack, Alfie, Jack, Paul, Ryan, Omar, Kobi, Cillian, Alex, Jack, Noah and Jacob.

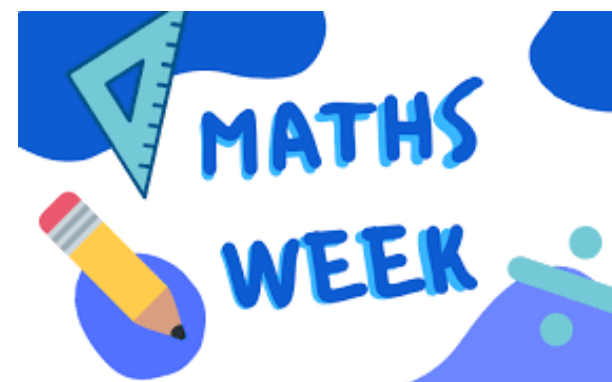
The Castle Senior Football Team 2022/2023

Commiserations to our Senior Football team who narrowly lost out in the semifinal of their Cumman na mBunscol championship last week. Mr. Briody and Mr. O'Connor couldn't be prouder of the discipline, effort and teamwork shown by everyone throughout the campaign. We hope that the boys continue to be role models in the school as the year goes on.

We would love it if boys continued their GAA journey by joining their local clubs in the new year. If you are unsure who to approach about this please contact Mr. Briody.

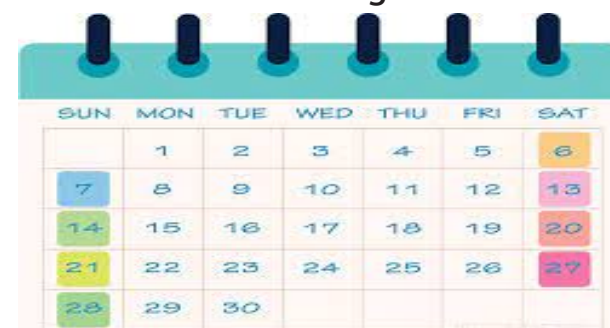
A special word of thanks to parents and guardians who came out to support the team throughout the year, this really made a difference in some games and was great to see.

The 6th class boys will get a chance to prove their managerial talents after Halloween as we will have our School Leagues back for the first time since Covid! We will especially be looking forward to seeing the future stars from 3rd to 5th class and encourage every boy to get involved. Caisleán Abú!



We had a great time with puzzles and maths games for Maths Week. Well done to the many boys who won a homework pass for solving the "Puzzle of the Day".

We also had a whole-school tables competition! Well done to Lucas Chen in Room 26 who was crowned Tables King of the Castle.



Dates for your Diary

Parent/Guardian Teacher Meetings:
Week beginning Monday 21st of November

Next Confirmation Prepration Mass:
Saturday, 18th of November at 17:30

Next First Holy Communion Preparation Mass:
Sunday, 20th of November at 11:00

School Book Fair Week:
Starts Wednesday, 7th of December

Christmas Coffee Morning:
(ALL parents/guardians welcome!!!)
Friday, 16th of December

Confirmation Day:
Thursday, 27th of April

First Holy Communion Day:
Friday, 19th of May

Great Behaviour

On the last day of before the midterm break we gathered for our first whole-school assembly since pre-Covid times. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all of the successes in our school. The highlight was the draw that took place under the guidance of Mr Gillespie which rewarded excellent behaviour. The winners in each standard were:

2nd Class:
Bogdan Leva

3rd Class:
Fabio Jose

4th Class:
Callum Gray

5th Class:
Jack Manifold

6th Class:
Tadhg Forrester
and the **overall winner:**
Reece O'Brien

Well done boys and keep up the fantastic work.

Friendship Week



A friendship week was celebrated in our school recently. We also did workshops on anti-bullying. We try very hard to make everyone aware of how serious it is to bully anyone and how to act if it happens to them. We encourage the boys to tell.

An anti-bullying art competition was held. The boys did beautiful work and there were prizes for all of the winners. Thanks to Ms Martin for organising this very important week in our school.

Annually the Board of Management of Drimnagh Castle Primary School reviews, updates and publishes the school's Anti-bullying policy. This policy and our anti-bullying procedures are available on our school website:
www.drimnaghcastleprimary.ie.

Hallowe'en Safety

Our Community Garda Barry Curtin visited our school recently and spoke with the boys in each of the classes. He highlighted to the boys that fireworks are both highly dangerous and illegal. Garda Barry also reminded the boys to make sure that they can be seen by traffic when walking around for Trick or Treat and to be very careful if they attend a bonfire.

We want the boys to enjoy themselves at Hallowe'en but also to be sensible and keep themselves very safe.

**Home School Community Liaison**

Ciara Cole has recently been appointed as joint Home School Community Liaison Coordinator for Drimnagh Castle Primary School and Assumption Junior National School. Her role will involve working closely with families in our school community. Ciara is very much looking forward to her new role and will be in contact with all parents and guardians after the midterm break. Her contact phone number is 0831 645822 and email address is: HSCCL@drimnaghwalkinstown.com