

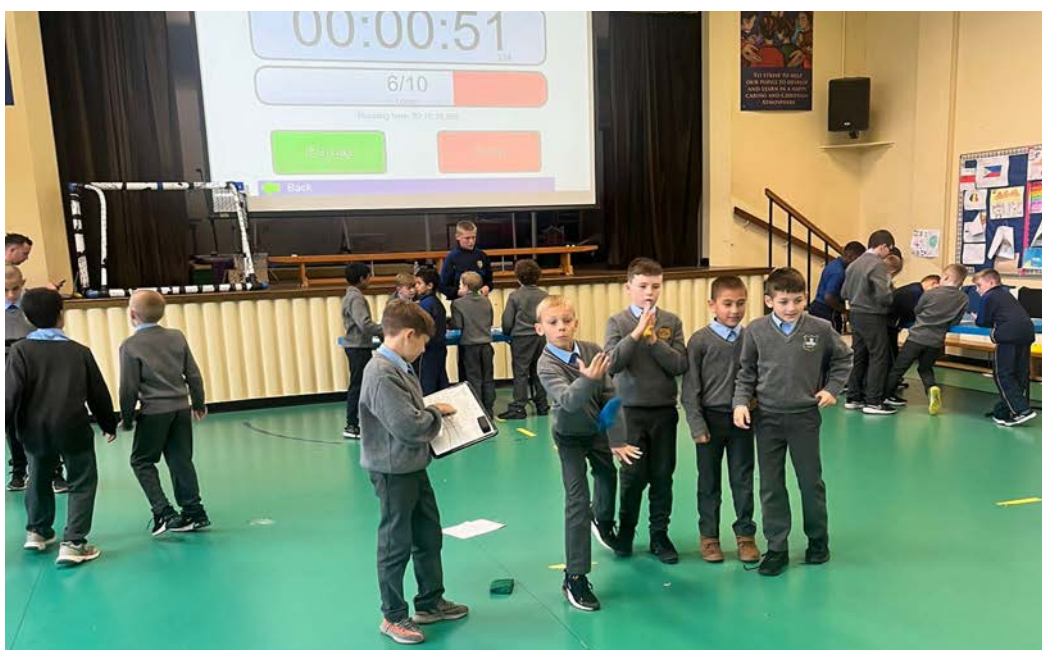


Drimnagh Castle Primary School



School Newsletter

Hallowe'en 2023



Games in the hall organised by our 6th class pupils for Maths Week 2023

Two Weeks: Friendship and Maths

We've had a very busy half term in the Castle. In September we celebrated Friendship Week and in October we joined in with the national Maths Week.

For Friendship Week we focused our lessons and whole-school assembly on kindness and the importance of being a good friend. Every class also learned about our anti-bullying policy and practices in the school. We were delighted to welcome back Paula O'Connor who spoke to our 4th and 5th classes about the importance of staying safe online as part of her "Don't be mean behind your screen" cyberbullying and internet safety workshop.

All classes engaged in many fun activities during Maths Week. The boys practised lost of their maths skills as they made tanagram shapes, played games and solved puzzles. The highlight of the week for the boys was the maths stations that were organised and ran by our pupils in 6th class.

As our school is part of the Trinity Access Programme, we were delighted to be invited to send a group of boys from 5th and 6th class to the college to celebrate Maths Week there. The boys took part in an interactive maths session with Dr Fernando Blasco, followed by a tour of the campus.

School Improvement Plan

In June 2022 Drimnagh Castle Primary was designated to be a DEIS school. DEIS stands for Delivering Equality of Opportunity in School and means that we were able to: appoint a Home School Community Liaison co-ordinator; avail of the free School Meals Programme; and access a range of supports such as the School Completion Programme. These have all been of huge benefit to our school and the boys over the past year.

As a school, we have been working on a DEIS Plan which is now being introduced this year. There are six areas to the plan: Attendance, Retention, Literacy, Numeracy, Transitions, and Partnership with Parents and Others.

The first step of this process was to gather information. We did this by sending out questionnaires to the parents and guardians, and asking the boys to complete questionnaires in school as well as organising focus group with them. This allowed us to gain a valuable insight into how we are doing in each of the six areas at present, and to set targets for how we can improve in the future.

The Plan was presented to the Board of Management at the start of the year and is available to view on our school website at www.drimnaghcastleprimary.ie. We have also developed a version of the plan which is accessible to the boys and which we have been sharing with them at whole-school assemblies over the past few weeks. As the boys are at the centre of all we do in The Castle, this part of the process was particularly important to us. The boys' version of the plan is also available on our school website.

We now have definite target in each of the six areas that we will be working on for the next year, and actions for how we plan to achieve them. These targets will be reviewed in June 2024 and is part of a three-year plan for the development of the school.

The Student Council

Student Council elections were held at the beginning of the school year, with the boys electing representatives from each class.

Their ideas that they brought forward for consideration this term are:

1. New tables and chairs for each of the classrooms.
2. Organising a charity fundraiser.
3. Establish a Castle Cup that is a mixture of boys from different classes.



Sport in The Castle

It's no secret that in Drimnagh Castle we are passionate about sport! This term has been no different, with each class level focusing on improving their skills and fitness in various sports.

In 2nd class, the boys have a great football coach from Crumlin GAA called Jay. They are learning how to pass, travel and handle the ball so they are ready for the Castle Cup this summer!

In 3rd class, the boys have started swimming this term in Crumlin Swan Centre. Each class from 3rd-6th will have a chance to learn how to swim this year, which the boys are very excited about.

The 4th class boys have been busy with basketball this term. We have a coach, Sasa, coming in from Oblate's Basketball club.

The boys in 5th class have started rugby this year, with Gareth from Leinster rugby club, and are really enjoying playing tag rugby and learning the rules.

In 6th class, the boys started boxing with Ed. They have learned boxing skills such as sparring and we have been focusing on improving their fitness. They have also started cycling to improve their road safety skills. John brings in bikes for the boys to use and they cycle in the yard.



6th Class Cycling Programme



Boxing with

What else is Happening in The Castle?



We've been watching our four chicks - Patrick, Bob, Yellow Belly and Sylvester II-hatch, grow and run around Room 16



We often go litter-picking to keep our school grounds and neighbourhood clean



We raised an incredible €463 for the charity Goal

Behaviour Draw

We recently updated our Behaviour Policy in The Castle. Our aim is to promote and then reward good behaviour. At each whole-school assembly we remind the boys of our three golden rules: Be Good, Work Hard, and Be Kind.

At our Hallowe'en assembly we celebrated excellent behaviour over the past two months, and gave out prizes of Smyth's vouchers to the following boys:

Aarav Gaikwad
Donnie O'Connor Allen
Naos McNulty
Ríon Boyne
Oisín Churchard
Joshua O'Shaughnessy
Dunne
Talha Ali
Alex rooney
Michael O'Connell
Maddox Greenhalgh

Overall Winner:

Leon Foy

Attendance Awards:

Luqman Abdi Nuh
Riley Lacken
Adam Heapes
Peter Eustace
Eoghan McHugh

Rainbows Ireland Programme



Rainbows Ireland

Supporting Children and Young People with Bereavement and Parental Separation

Rainbows Ireland supports children with bereavement and parental separation.

We are very proud that Drimnagh Castle Primary School is a Rainbows Ireland support centre and that we will be starting Rainbows programmes in the coming weeks.

The Rainbows programmes provide a 9-week listening, group support programme for children and young people following a bereavement or parental separation.

Children and young people of a similar age are supported in a group. There are separate groups formed for Bereavement and Parental Separation. Rainbows groups are run by fully trained members of school staff and the group sessions will take place during school time. Please note that Rainbows is not counselling or professional therapy service.

For more information, please visit www.rainbowsireland.ie

For further enquiries or to enrol your child please contact the Rainbows staff in the school at: rainbows@dcprimary.ie.

Alternatively, you can contact the office on 01 455 2066 and we'll arrange for one of the Rainbows facilitators to speak to you.

Technology



We have recently invested in new laptops and the boys are really enjoying using them. 5th and 6th classes have been set up on Google classroom with their very own emails and interactive, online space as a class.

5th class have been observing our chicks grow daily and logging their growth on Goggle Docs. They have also entered Dojo Island and have begun different building activities as a virtual class.

STEAM club has also been getting great use out of the new laptops, learning how to code using Scratch.

After School Activities

We were delighted to start back with a range of after school activities this term, including:

- Sport
- S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths)
- Guitar
- Chess