



SAPERE AUDE

DUNDALK GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## Junior School News

Welcome back to school!

A very warm welcome to all the new pupils in our school. We say hello to: Lewis Clare, Salomea Dergach, Nathan Fistik, Christian Liu, Tomás McNally, Eva Parshina, Emily Rogers, Turlough Brennan, Kamal Omotola, Isabelle Brennan, Rossany Urena Diaz, Ian Jinxuan Wang, Ava Gollogley, Patrick Blackwell, Marlene Curran, Mackenzie Rundle, Morgan Simmons, Eamon Farrell Brady, Matteo Garibaldi, Zoe Gollogley, Andersun Lamb, Slavea Toromanova, Nikolay Vasilev, Conor Whelehen and Beth Woods.

We wish good luck to our sixth class of last year who are now in first year in the Senior School. We welcome Kate McCague our new school secretary to the Junior School. We thank Dawn McLoughlin for her continued support in the Junior School, Dawn continues in the main office.

We would ask parents' co-operation when dropping off and collecting children. **Staff would appreciate pupils being collected on time, children should be collected within 5 minutes of finish 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.

Volume 24

Issue 1

*'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*

### SCHOOL TIMES

The Junior School opens every morning at 8.30am

The pupils are supervised until their teacher arrives at 8.40am

Junior Infants now finish at 2.00pm as of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

#### School finishing times: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

**Junior Infants:** 2:00pm

**Senior Infants – 6<sup>th</sup> Class:** 3:00pm

#### School finishing times: Wednesday

**Junior Infants:** 2.00pm

**Senior Infants – 6<sup>th</sup> Class:** 2.30pm

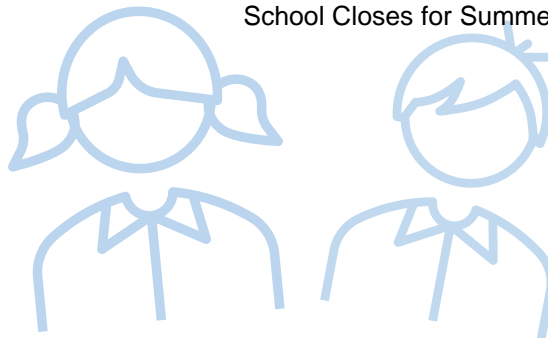
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	School Closure Day
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Day (3pm – 6pm) School Closes at 12.30pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Thanksgiving at school
T.B.A.	Junior School Prize Day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Dress-up Day in aid of Charity LSPCA
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for the mid-term break at 3pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Return to School
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Junior School Musical “Mary Poppins ” at 1.30pm & PTA Fete 3.00pm in Fynamore Hall
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Parent Teacher Meetings from 1pm, School closes at 12.30pm for all pupils
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	School Closure Day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service at 7pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	School closes for Christmas Holiday at 12 Noon
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to School
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	In-Service Day, School Closed
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	St Brigid’s Holiday, School Closed
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for the mid-term at 3.00pm
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Return to School
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Junior School PTA Family Quiz
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	School Closure Day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	School Closure Day St Patrick’s
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	School Closes for Easter at 12 noon
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to School
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Sports Day & P.T.A. BBQ
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	School Closure Day
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May School	School Closed Public Holiday
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	6 <sup>th</sup> Class Trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre School Tour Day
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Uniform Sale
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	School Closes for Summer Holiday at 12 noon

## Upcoming Events

Dress-up Day  
27/11/23

School Musical  
Mary Poppins  
15/11/23

Carol Service  
18/12/23



## JUNIOR SCHOOL SUBJECT STAFF

ICT:	Mr Andrew Shekleton
Art:	Ms Maria Binks
P.E:	Mr Andrew Shekleton and Ms Sonya McGaw
French:	Ms Louise McGinnity
Spanish:	Mr Francisco Fernandes
German	Ms Renata Malone
Music & Ukulele:	Ms Sarah McCourt
Orchestra:	Ms Donna Magee
Resource:	Mr Andrew Shekleton and Ms Sonya McGaw
Drama:	Ms Michelle Boyle

## P.E.

Infants:	Tuesday & Wednesday
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Tuesday
4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> :	Wednesday
6 <sup>th</sup> :	Thursday



**Children are to wear their DGS PE uniform on PE days.**

## MUSIC LESSONS

<b>Violin:</b>	Thursday (Ms. Jayne Graham)
<b>Ukulele:</b>	Everyday (Ms. Sarah McCourt)
<b>Guitar:</b>	Tuesday (Mr. Emmett Fallon)
<b>Piano:</b>	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday (Ms Sarah McCourt)
<b>Piano</b>	Tuesday, Wednesday (Ms Rachael Campbell)
<b>Voice/Singing:</b>	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday (Ms Sarah McCourt)
<b>Orchestra:</b>	Tuesday (Ms. Donna Magee)
<b>Saxophone, Clarinet and Flute:</b>	Thursday (Leandro Pessina)
<b>Cello:</b>	Monday (Mr Davide Forti)

## AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES - TIMETABLE TO DATE

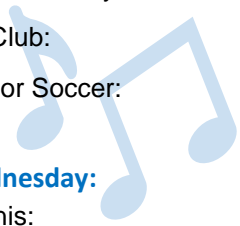
### **Monday:**

Homework Prep:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> classes)
Junior Soccer:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> classes)
Club Na Gaeilge:	3.50pm-4.50pm; (4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> classes)

### **Tuesday:**

Homework Prep:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> classes)
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Children must  
be collected  
within 5  
minutes of  
the activity  
ending.



Junior Hockey:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> classes)
Art Club:	3.00pm-3.50pm; (1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> classes)
Senior Soccer:	3:50pm-4:50pm; (4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> classes)

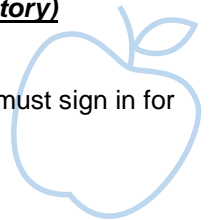
#### Wednesday:

Tennis:	2:30pm-3:30pm; (1 <sup>st</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> classes)
Musical Main Cast:	2:30pm-3:30pm; (4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> classes) until 16/11/23
Story Writing Club:	2:30pm-3:30pm; (1 <sup>st</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> classes)
Basketball (from 22/11/23):	2:30pm-3:30pm; (4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> classes)

#### Thursday:

Chess Club:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> classes)
Lego Club:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> classes)
Senior Hockey:	3:00pm-3:50pm; (4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> classes) <b><u>(Shin guards and gum shield mandatory)</u></b>

**Please note After School Activities is not a drop in/drop out service.** Children must sign in for the whole term.



### LUNCHES

Day canteen and hot lunches are both available for pupils from Senior Infants 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/>

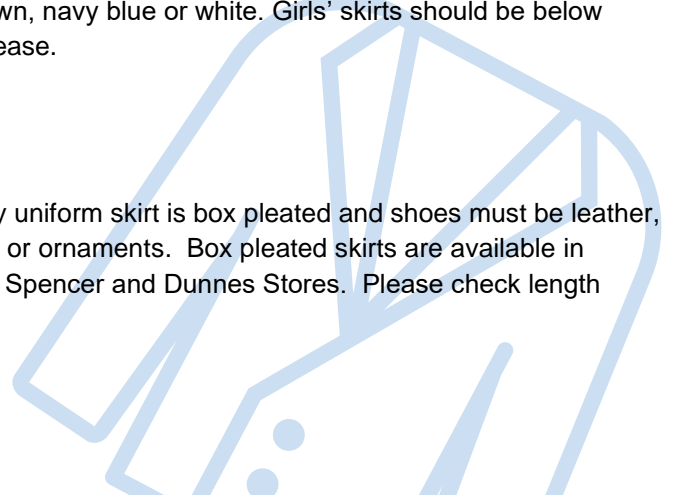
Hot lunches from the boarding house includes a hot main course and a dessert. These hot lunches are only available on bill pay and these come via the boarding house kitchen. Children are still welcome to bring their packed lunches, but we operate a healthy eating policy at school. (For the Infants plain yogurts with a spoon are preferable. No Frubes nor fruit shaped yogurts unless the infants can manage to open themselves) 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. Please note, due to allergies, we are a nut free school.

### 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 note that the Grammar school grey uniform skirt is box pleated and shoes must be leather, no runners nor canvas shoes, no buckles, or ornaments. Box pleated skirts are available in Michael Lynch's, smaller sizes in Marks & Spencer and Dunnes Stores. Please check length



of skirt which is below the knee.

### DGS TRACKSUIT

The school tracksuit is available from Michael Lynch.

### HOMEWORK

From September, 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.

### HALLOWEEN

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

### HSE VACCINATIONS

Senior Infants have been given the forms for the Flu Vaccinations. Regular Vaccination Forms for Junior Infants have also been distributed. Please return to the class teacher as soon as possible.

### RE

In class, we follow the C Of I 'Follow Me' RE Programme. However, we do facilitate the RC and C Of I sacraments after school. Classes in preparation for C Of I Confirmation and RC First Holy Communion will begin in January 2024. Dates of classes and sacraments to be advised. R.C. First Holy Communion sacrament will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 11am in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Roden Place, Dundalk.

### J.S.P.T.A

Thank you to the PTA for the uniform swap shop last week. It was greatly appreciated by all. Please note the JSPTA will hold their AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm via zoom. All are welcome to attend and we look forward to welcoming new members to the committee.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Andy Lamb on achieving his two stripes in Jui Jitsu and to Patrick Madden whose team Rock Celtic FC played Walshestown recently, the game finished 2-2.

### COMMUNICATIONS

I hope you are all enjoying our communications through our Aladdin Connect App, if you have not already signed up, please do so today! All communications including absentee messages,

permission to leave early and much more can all be communicated through the Aladdin Connect App. Sign up by calling or emailing the school on 042 [9334459](tel:9334459)/[juniorschool@dgs.ie](mailto:juniorschool@dgs.ie). You can contact teachers via Aladdin, leave a phone message or by email on [juniorschool@dgs.ie](mailto:juniorschool@dgs.ie).

### INSTAGRAM

The Junior School is also on Instagram: [dgsjuniorschool](#). This is a private group for all parents and staff. You are welcome to join, just send a request on Instagram. (If your Instagram name on your request is different please let us know)

*Ms E. Lait*  
*Junior School Principal*

Any news items for the monthly newsletter, please email to: [juniorschool@dgs.ie](mailto:juniorschool@dgs.ie)