



St. Declan's National School

Bourne Avenue, Ashbourne, Co. Meath - A84KT02
Charity Number: 20201057
Phone: 01-8350594



Email: info@decsash.ie

www.decsash.ie

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APRIL NEWSLETTER 2025

All our newsletters are available on our school website www.decsash.ie



Hot School Meals Programme Update

Following a detailed tendering process, a company called *Nourish + Green* were awarded the contract to provide hot meals in St. Declan's N.S. The company has been appointed and contracts are now signed. The next stage involves Nourish + Green recruiting *general operatives* to help deliver the programme in the school. Please find attached advertisement/job spec which they have asked us to share with our school community. All queries should be sent directly to info@nourishandgreen.ie We are hopeful that the Hot Meals scheme will commence before the end of this school year, however it depends on recruitment and vetting etc. We will be in contact with parents with further updates when they are available.

Multicultural Day

Our Multicultural Day was a wonderful celebration of the rich diversity within our school community. A huge well done to all the children for the fantastic projects they created and presented, showcasing the countries they come from with such pride, creativity, and enthusiasm. It was a joy to see the effort that went into each display and to learn more about the different cultures represented in our school. The hall looked so colourful with bunting and flags and we had a wide variety of foods to taste on the day. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all the parents who



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attended and supported the event. Thanks to Mr McKeown for co-ordinating the event. It was a great success.

https://youtu.be/ujK63hRFMNE?si=fh_cB6C0ME8aJw1s

Parents' Association Update

The next PA meeting will be Thursday the 7th of May at 7pm in the school hall. All are welcome to attend. The PA are running a Cash for Clobber collection from Monday the 11th to Friday the 15th of May and also the following week Monday the 18th to Friday the 22nd of May during school hours only. The school will also be open Saturday the 16th of May 10am to 2pm to accept donations. The PA are running a preloved uniform shop on Saturday the 16th of May in our school. If you have used uniforms, school bags or pencil cases in good condition and would like to donate these items you can drop them off at the school office.

Standardised Testing

We will be undertaking standardised testing in Reading and Mathematics with classes from Senior Infants to 6th Class the week of the 11th-15th of May 2026. The tests we will be using are called the Drumcondra Primary Reading test and the Drumcondra Primary Mathematics test. In addition, children in 1st, 3rd and 5th Classes will also take part in standardised testing in Spellings. We want to reassure parents and pupils that standardised tests are just one of the many tools teachers use to inform the teaching and learning process. The results can help teachers to identify areas of the curriculum where all pupils need additional support. Results of the tests are communicated to parents via the End-of-Year school report which we send out in late June

Sacraments

Good luck to all our second class children who will be making their Communion on Saturday the 9th of May. We wish them and their families all the best on this very special occasion. Thank you to Father Michael and Father Jinse for working with the



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class teachers all year in preparation for the ceremonies. A huge thank you to Ms Collins, Ms Cowley, Ms Molloy and Mr Barry for all their hard work. The ceremonies are as follows- Room 17- Ms Collins at 10am. Room 18 - Ms Crowley at 11 30am, Room 19- Ms Molloy and Mr Barry at 2pm. Photographs will take place for the Communion children in school on Monday the 11th of May.

School Uniform

From now until the end of the year, children are permitted to wear plain loose-fitting navy shorts (i.e not tight fitting bicycle shorts) with their regular uniform or school tracksuit. If you are cutting school trousers or tracksuit bottoms, please use a hem. We do **not permit** shorts with a design/logo, or coloured or branded tops. It is important that we strike a balance between wearing comfortable clothing during warm weather and maintaining the good habit of adhering to the correct uniform. It may be necessary for your child to wear protective sunscreen during warm weather, and bring extra drinks.

Disabled Parking

The school provides two car parking spaces for disabled drivers and Blue Badge holders. Parking in these spaces is only permitted if a valid Blue Badge permit is clearly displayed. We have installed new signs which are very visible for all to see. We kindly ask that all drivers respect this rule at all times **so that these spaces remain available for those who need them.**

Attendance Team Update

As we continue our attendance drive any class that achieved full attendance during a particular week in April was entered into a draw to win an Ice Cream Party for the class. Well done to Ms McQuaid's class who was one of the classes entered into the draw to win. The other classes in the draw were Ms Gallagher's class, Ms Conway's class, Ms Benville's class and Mr Lydon/Ms Lydon's class. Ms Mc Quaid's class really enjoyed the ice-cream party !!!



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New Arrivals

There was great excitement this week when five baby birds hatched in the bug hotel beside Room 11. The children have been visiting the new arrivals every day.





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Dates to Note

We are closed Friday the 1st, Monday the 4th and Tuesday the 5th of May for the May Bank Holiday..

We are closed Friday the 29th of May, Monday the 1st and Tuesday the 2nd of June for the June Bank Holiday.

We are closed Thursday the 4th of June for staff CPD training on the Primary Curriculum Framework

2nd Class School Tour to Crystal Maze Wednesday the 27th of May