

Scoil Náisiúnta Domhnach Mór

Information Newsletter ~ September 2021



A huge warm welcome back to all our pupils and parents. A special welcome to our new Junior Infant pupils and their parents and also to pupils who have joined us up through the school. We hope you will have many happy years associated with Donoughmore National School.

Important Dates and Times :

Enclosed the Official Breaks as set out by Department of Education & Skills standardised year.

October Mid-Term Break	School closed Monday 25 th October 2021 to Friday 29 th October 2021 inclusive
Christmas 2021	Closing Wednesday 22 nd December 2021 @ 12 noon Re-opening Thursday 6 th January 2022
February Mid-Term Break	School closed Thursday 24 th February & Friday 25 th February 2022
St. Patrick's Day Holiday	School closed Thursday 17 th March & Friday 18 th 2022
Easter 2021	Closing Friday 8 th April 2022 @ 12 noon and re-opening Monday 25 th April 2022
May Bank Holiday	School closed Monday 2 nd May 2022
June Bank Holiday	School closed Monday 6 th June 2022
Summer Holidays	School closing Friday 24 th June 2022 @ 12 noon

You will be notified of all other closures throughout the year. We appeal to parents not to organise family holidays outside of these dates. The practice of taking children out of school for holidays causes huge disruption.

Members of Staff: Donoughmore N.S.

Principal	Mrs Emer Clifford
6 th class teacher	Miss Leona Griffin
5 th class teacher	Miss Karena McGrath
4 th class teacher	Mrs Cairtriona Collins
3 rd class teacher	Miss Niamh Daly
2 nd class teacher	Mrs Aoife Quigley
1 st class teacher/Seniors	Mrs Barbara O'Brien
Junior/Senior Infants	Miss Amy Flynn
Learning Support/Resource	Mrs Niamh Delaney – Deputy Principal Ms Fionnuala Lyne Mrs Marian Kingston/Mrs Mary Lynch Mrs Rosemary Bonner Mrs Siobhán Walsh
Special Needs Assistants	Noelle Coffey Fidelma Hennessy Antoinette O'Connell Joanne Danagher Natasha Cosgrave
Secretary	Sarah Murphy
Care Taker	Michael O'Brien/Seamus Grimes

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The school enjoys a positive relationship with parents. If you at any stage wish to discuss any concerns, academic or otherwise with regards to your child in school, please contact the school office or email your child's teacher to arrange a return phone call or zoom meeting. All concerns should be referred to class teacher initially.

A range of policies and procedures are in place to ensure the smooth running of the school e.g. Policies on Homework, Code of Behaviour, Admission, Parental Complaints, Child Safety Statement, Anti-Bullying, Healthy Eating etc. plus all curricular subjects. All the above are available to parents should they wish to read same.

Important Notices:-

- School starts at **9.00 am (6th/4th/2nd/ Senior Infants & siblings) & 9.10am (5th/3rd/1st/Juniors)**. Please adhere to these times. Pupils/parents should **not congregate** outside the school wall before their time in the interest of everyone's health & safety. **If you are parked outside the wall, pupils to remain in cars until an adult comes out to accept pupils in.** The wearing of face coverings by all adults is encouraged. **The Board of Management accepts no responsibility until official opening time.**
- If you are collecting your child early for an appointment or dropping something for your child to school (ie forgotten lunch box/drink etc...) please ring the office on 061) 418173 and 1) Sarah will arrange for your child to come out to you and 2) please drop items in the drop off box by the school gate and Sarah will deliver it to your child. Thank you
- Our school is delighted to announce that we are rolling out the **Aladdin ePayment system** to parents/guardians of children in our school. The purpose of the ePayment system is to facilitate the easier payment of school money collections for parent/guardians and to reduce the amount of cash and cheques being sent into our school. Please see information sheet attached to this email explaining all about it.
- An explanation must be given to the class teacher any time a child is absent from school – please use **the absentee form on the Home page of the School App**. An email to your child's teacher/school is also acceptable.
- When a child has been absent for 20 days, we are legally required to notify The Educational Welfare Service under Tusla. If this absence is illness related this is noted by TUSLA. If it is unexplained it is also noted.

Communication:

- Please ensure the school has a contact number for you. Particularly during these times, it is very important to inform the school secretary, Sarah, if your number/address/email address changes so we can update our information systems.

➤ **Our School App –**

Please keep a regular eye on the school app/website for school news /class news/important dates & notices. Also homework will be posted on the App in time.

A reminder on how to download:

- Open the chrome browser.
 - Type donoughmorens.cms-omd.ie to go directly to the app.
 - Once open, click Add to Home Screen. Instructions will vary depending on your phone and browser.

 - Android: Options, Add to Home Screen, Add. (App will appear on Home Screen thereafter)
 - Iphone: Options, Share, Add to Home Screen. (App will appear on Home Screen thereafter)
- The school will continue to use Text-A-Parent as one of our ways to communicate with parents. Please ensure we have an up-to-date mobile number for you.

Daily/Weekly Reminders:

- It is school policy to encourage all children to eat healthy lunches. Please refer to our Healthy Eating Policy on the school website (donoughmorenslimk.com) or the school's blue Information Booklet.
- Homework should be done with pride and attention. Parents should check pupil's homework each evening and sign homework journal. Oral homework is as important as written homework.
- Recycling is encouraged in line with our Green Flag – please **do not use tin foil** as it is non-recyclable.
- Please return all forms received from the school during the year on return, ie medical, dental, etc in an envelope with your child's name on the front & a brief explanation.
- Please note any outstanding money due for September must be paid as soon as possible – (Art & Craft, Book Rental, Homework Journal) Thanks to all who have paid already.

Important Items:

- **Illness: If your child is sick, please keep them at home** and seek your GPs advice if needed. Please refer to our Covid -19 Response Plan.
- **Hair:** your child's hair should be checked regularly for head lice. Please inform the school if your child is being treated for head lice so that a general text can be sent home, in order that all pupils will be checked and treated if necessary. Your co-operation with this matter is much appreciated. As you are aware from media campaigns, head lice is an ongoing nationwide problem.

- **Medicine:** No child should have medicine in their possession at school. If medicine is required please arrange a meeting with Mrs Clifford.
- The parent of any child using an inhaler should notify the class teacher.
- **Personal Accident Insurance** is available to families – options €6 or €9. Insurance form available - see attached to this email. If you are interested in taking out pupil insurance please return the form with your child and money by epayment by Friday September 24th. It is **not** compulsory to take out this insurance.

Voluntary PTA Euro Collection :-

- This year the PTA have changed the voluntary contribution. Parents who wish to contribute may pay €20 per term x3 or some parents may wish to pay a once off €60 at the beginning of the school year. This money is collected on behalf of the Parent Teacher Association for the benefit of all pupils and has in the past covered items such as free school tour buses, musical instruments, text messaging for parents, playground equipment and literacy resources. This payment will be linked to the new Aladdin epayment system.

Health & Safety:-

- Well done to all our pupils on their return to school. The same essential safety measures/ routines/ school rules still apply in relation to Covid-19 as per our Response Plan/Logistical Plan. Unfortunately, this virus is still very much around and therefore will still need to work together, more than ever, to try and eliminate the risk to our school. Again, please keep your child at home if he/she is sick or showing any signs of symptoms and contact your GP. Working together in the interest of all our health and safety. Thank you.
- Despite continuous warnings children see no danger when rushing into and out of school. We appeal to drivers for extreme caution around dropping off and collection times.
- Children should enter and exit the school through their allocated gate and never through the staff car park for safety reasons. J & S – Main right gate. 1st & 2nd - Main left gate. 3rd/4th/5th/6th through the basketball gate. (5th main gate in the evenings)
- While waiting to collect your children at the school gate, please keep footpaths / gateways clear. Younger children find it difficult to make their way through the adults to their own parents. Face coverings are encouraged for all of our health & safety.
- Due to limited space for parking outside the school, we strongly **appeal to parents to park in the church car park and walk to and from the school with your child/ren, using the footpaths provided in the morning and collection times and for everybody to walk between the white lines marked out on the road.**
- Please **do not** allow your child to climb the school wall or climb near the fence.
- Pupils and parents are strongly advised to follow the Road Safety Initiative in Donoughmore School. Please read Road Safety Initiative on the school website under parent information.

- We would appeal to drivers dropping and collecting pupils to have a little patience and show courtesy to other drivers.
- Please note that the yellow boxes outside the school gates are for the Emergency Services.
Please do not park on or on the road outside these boxes
- Please do not park in the entrance of neighbouring houses at any time.
- Please keep the gate at the staff carpark free at all times.
- In the interest of the pupils of our school and setting good example we would appreciate it, if parents refrained from smoking directly outside the school gates.



School Choir:-

Unfortunately, we are currently not continuing with the school choir presently to avoid the mixing of bubbles/pods. Your child's participation in the school choir was much appreciated in the past and very much enhanced school events throughout the year. Hopefully in time we will resume this extra activity.

6th Class - Common Application System for Secondary School:

Presently, we have not been informed re 'open' nights and the distribution of the Common Application Form. We will inform you as soon as we are informed. Please keep an eye on the local newspapers also for this information, as per usual. Important: please note key return dates for the application forms .

Sammy Saving Stamps:- will be on sale from the school office on a Monday. If your child wants to avail of this saving scheme please send in an envelope clearly marked with the amount with your child. This will be passed onto Sarah who will organise same and return the stamps to your child. It is good practice to encourage saving habits. Please ensure stamp books are kept safely at home. When a stamp book is complete, it can be lodged or cashed in St. Ailbes Credit Union, Ballyneety or Caherconlish.

Parent Teacher Association - PTA:

We have a wonderful Parents Association in Donoughmore and we sincerely appreciate their support and dedication. If you are new to the area or to the school it is a great opportunity to get to know other parents and to help out in some of the activities which take place during the year. A school is only as good as the sum of its parts and it is only through the co-operation of all parties, the pupils, the staff and the parents represented by the Parents Association that we will continue to build a better, modern and progressive school. Meetings are held via Zoom presently.

After School Activities:-

Speech & Drama	Postponed for the moment.
Athletics	Postponed for the moment

Exam Results:-

Well done to all our past pupils on their Leaving Cert results. We wish them all the best of luck in whatever path they choose to follow in life.

We wish all our 6th class pupils from last year all the very best in their new secondary schools.

Please retain this newsletter for the full school year as it contains important information

Le gach dea ghuí,
Mrs. Emer Clifford
Principal

School Website: www.donoughmorenslimk.com
School e-mail:- donoughmorenslimk@gmail.com
Contact telephone number: 061) 418173