**![C:\Users\Joanne\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\B88KQEFK\holly-berries[1].png]()NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023**

**New Astro and Infant Yard:** We are delighted that our new astro pitch and infant yard are now finished and open. Our pupils are really enjoying their new facilities.

**Science Week:** All classes are taking part in fun experiments and scientific projects this week as we celebrate Science Week.

**Klass Kicks**: Klass Kicks soccer training has begun for Junior Infants- 3rd class. This will continue in the school for 5 weeks.

**Road Safety Authority**: All classes will have an information workshop provided by the road safety authority on Thursday 16th November 2023.

**Parent- Teacher Meetings**: Parent Teacher meetings are taking place next week from Mon 20th-Fri 24th both in person and by telephone. You will receive a message from the teacher with your time.

**Silver Circle**: The Silver Circle draw will begin this Friday 17th November and will continue every Friday for 5 weeks. The last draw will take place on Friday 15th December. Lots of prizes will be given out on this day. Make sure to return your card. If you’re not in, you can’t win!!!

**Cross Country Team**: Our school cross country team will travel to Fairyhouse on Wednesday 22nd November to take part in the Cumann na mBunscol competition. We wish them the very best of luck!

**Skip Rope Workshop**: There will be a skipping workshop for all classes on Thursday 23rd November. We are looking forward to this.

**Junior Infant Vaccinations**: Junior Infants will receive their vaccinations on Friday 24th November. Further information will follow from the class teacher.

**The Bunnery**: The Bunnery Cookery School will visit us on Thursday 30th November to provide cooking workshops for Junior and Senior Infants, Ms. Murray’s Snowdrop Class and Mrs. McKenna’s Sunflower class. We hope the children will enjoy their hands on experience.

**Swimming Lessons:** Swimming lessons for all pupils from 3rd – 6th class will begin on Mon 19th February and continue for 5 weeks, finishing on Wed 20th March. Further information will follow after Christmas.

**Important Calendar Update: School will be closed on Wed 6th Dec to facilitate Department Staff Training in the New Maths Curriculum.**

**First Aid 5th and 6th Class**: There will be a First Aid Course for 5th and 6th class on Thursday 7th December. Further information will follow from class teacher.

**Modular Building Work:** Please note CPAC Modular are due to come on site from next week to work on the Modular Buildings. They estimate it will take approximately 10 weeks until full completion. They are aware of Department of Education Health and Safety regulations and will be mindful of this throughout.

**Team Hope Shoebox Appeal:** Well done to our pupils who collected 53 shoeboxes for the Christmas appeal.

**Christmas Decorations**: As we are approaching the magical time of year again, we ask pupils to make some Christmas decorations out of recyclable materials if they wish.

We ask Junior Infants to 1st class to make baubles for a Christmas tree

2nd - Christmas Stars

3rd and 4th – Cribs

5th and 6th – Christmas Logs

These are suggestions and a guide only. Pupils may make any decoration they wish.

**Christmas Arrangments:** **Friday 15th December 2023**

* 9.30am – Ms. Harte’s play (Ms. Harte’s Room))
* 10.30am – Whole School Carol Service in the Church.

 We hope you can all join us for this magical day!

**Christmas Jumper Day:** We are hoping to have a fun day on **Tuesday 19th December** with Christmas jumpers, movies, hot chocolate etc.

**New Board of Management 2023-2027**: Our new Board of Management will take over from 1st December 2023. We say a huge thank you to our outgoing Chairperson Rosemary Daly and our outgoing Board of Management for their wonderful commitment and dedication to the school over the last 4 years.

**Opening Times**: Reminder - school opens at 9.10am and finishes at 1.50pm for Junior and Senior Infants and 2.50pm for all other classes. The school cannot accept responsibility for pupils outside of these hours.

**REMINDER THESE TIMES WILL CHANGE FROM 8th JAN. OPENING TIME WILL BE 8.50am AND CLOSING TIME WILL BE 1.30pm FOR INFANTS AND 2.30PM FOR ALL OTHER CLASSES.**

**School Website**: Have a look at our regular updates on the school website at [www.drumconrathns.com](http://www.drumconrathns.com)

**School will close for the Christmas holidays on Friday 22nd December at 12 noon and re-open on Monday 8th January 2024.**

Joanne Carroll (Principal)

**If you change your contact details please ensure that you inform the office**