



Educate Together Learn Together to Live Together



Donabate-Portrane



Educate Together



DPETNS Annual School Booklet—Academic Year 2019/2020

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



THIS BOOKLET CONTAINS A LOT OF IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

PLEASE RETAIN AS A REFERENCE GUIDE THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR

All Different. All Equal.

Vision Statement:

"No child an outsider"

Mission Statement:

Donabate/Portrane Educate Together National School (DPETNS) is a child-centred, co-educational, equality based and democratic primary school under the patronage of Educate Together. We aim to provide a learning environment that encourages and promotes the holistic development of each and every child attending our school, allowing them to give of their best and be their best. We aspire to create an inclusive atmosphere which values each member of the school community for the contribution they make to school life. Children, parents/guardians and staff work in partnership, based on mutual respect and best practice, to make this vision a reality.



Children of our school. Citizens of the world.

OUR GOLDEN RULES

Our Positive Behaviour Policy is based on the six 'Golden Rules':

- Do be gentle. Do not hurt anyone.
- Do be kind and helpful. Do not hurt anyone's feelings.
- Do listen. Do not interrupt.
- Do be honest. Do not cover up the truth.
- Do work hard. Do not waste your time or anyone else's time.
- Do look after property. Do not damage or break things



OUR CURSIVE HANDWRITING SCHEME

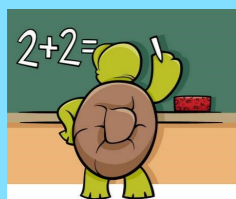
aA bB cC dD eE fF gG

hH iI jJ kK lL mM nN

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0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



100 SQUARE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



Welcome from Maeve, our Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Donabate/Portrane Educate Together National School (DPETNS). I hope that you will find this booklet helpful - it is full of information relating to our school for the academic year 2019/2020.

We are delighted that you have chosen an Educate Together school for your child's primary education. Educate Together remains the fastest growing sector in primary education in Ireland. Our equality based schools provide an education that prepares our students to be global citizens. Our model of child centred, democratically run, equality based and co-educational schooling is a response to the Ireland of the 21st century. We respect and welcome diversity, we work hard to create an ethos of inclusivity and equality. We do our best to nurture and cherish each child in our school. We strive to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where the children feel relaxed and welcome. Through this atmosphere we do our best to nurture a love of learning and to have engaged and attentive learners in our classrooms.

The relationship between home and school is central to everything we do. We are fortunate to have such a supportive and committed parent body and we work together to achieve quality education for our students. The partnership between home and school is vital for children to thrive in school and in delivering the school's ethos effectively. We ask parents to please contact us directly if they have any concerns or worries that need to be addressed.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy and successful year in school. I am confident that, with support from both home and school, this is an achievable aim and that, if we work together, it will be a great year here in DPETNS.

Best wishes

Maeve



COMMUNICATION

At DPETNS, we value the positive relationships between teachers and families and respectful communication is the key to maintaining these relationships.

- Each class teacher hosts an acquaintance meeting with parents/guardians in September/October.
- From First Class onwards, the homework journal should be used as the primary source of communication with your child's teacher. A note in your child's journal should be used for matters relating to homework, notifications of early dismissal, appointments, a request for a meeting or any minor behavioural issues that you would like to make the teacher aware of. For more confidential issues, a separate note or letter can be sent in with your child.
- The school communicates with home principally through email but also through the noticeboard on the Aladdin schools app. Urgent messages (e.g. emergency school closures) will be sent by text. If you do not have access to email, please let us know and we will arrange for hard copies to be sent. The school website provides a good deal of information for parents www.dpetns.ie
- Please note that teachers are not in a position to check or respond to emails during teaching time and, therefore, for matters of urgency, you will need to phone the office. We ask you to also bear in mind that evenings and weekends are family time for us all and, as such, emails will generally not be responded to during this time.
- In the interest of positive home/school relations, we ask that all e-mails are checked for tone and content before pressing the 'send' button.

The School Office

With almost five hundred students on roll, the school office is a very busy place. Unfortunately, we cannot always answer the telephone and respond to messages immediately. We ask for your patience and understanding when dealing with the school office. If you leave a message, we will ensure that it is responded to by the end of the school day (office closes at 2.45pm). Please contact the school office to change pick up arrangements in **emergency circumstances** only. We would ask you not to involve the office in children's social arrangements. There is also no need to call the school when your child is absent—all absences can be recorded through the Aladdin app. (see details of on next page).

We remind parents that it is essential that they sign in at the school office if they are entering the building at any stage between the hours of 9am and 2.30.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS: 8.30-2.45—CLOSED FOR LUNCH FROM 12.30-01.00PM



OUR SCHOOL SONG



We started in a den with little more than ten
Moved to a golf club and multiplied again
Then we got our prefabs they were so cool
Today we have a fabulous school

Chorus

*We're caring and loving, we help one another
We're wise strong and true, we're there for each other*

We love to play with friends and a toy
Playing on our yard fills us with joy
There are many games that are fun
There's something there for everyone

Chorus

We're healthy, smart and talented, friendly and fun
That's why we say we are number one!
Black, white, medium, tall and small
It doesn't matter, we welcome you all

Chorus





6th Class Graduation 24th June

School closes at 12 noon 26th June for Summer Break

June 2020	Sat						
		6	13	20	27		
	Fri	5	12	19	26	School closes at 12 noon for Summer break	
	Thu	4	11	18	25		
	Wed	3	10	17	24	6th Class Graduation	
	Tue	2	9	16	23	30	
	Mon	1	Bank Holiday	8	15	22	29
	Sun		7	14	21	28	



COMMUNICATION

Aladdin Schools

The school has been using the Aladdin Schools software service www.aladdin.ie since 2011 for administrative purposes. Last year we introduced parents to Aladdin Connect which gives you secure access to messages from the school, details of your child's attendance, test results, report cards etc. via a secure login from your Internet browser or Aladdin Connect App. All new parents/guardians will be issued with secure login details in September and it is important that you download this app as it is a fantastic way to enhance a school's communication with parents. It enables parents to stay connected and informed about their child's education by:

- Ensuring that the school has their most up to date contact information
- Keeping parents apprised of their child's attendance
- Keeping parents up to date on school and classroom news via noticeboard messages
- Allowing parents view their child's approved report card
- Giving parents the option to opt in to share contact information with their child's classmates' parents via the Parent Privacy option for the class list.
- Allowing parents to view their child's latest standardised test results

Along with strengthening our home/school partnership, we also envisage Aladdin Connect helping the school by:

- Helping to improve attendance by allowing parents to keep track of any school days their child may have currently missed, along with late arrival and early leaving information.
- Helping to reduce the amount of class/school notes being sent home
- Helping the school/teachers communicate with parents when the need arises
- Reducing costs by eliminating the need to send school report cards by post
- Reducing costs by reducing the number of text messages that need to be sent

You can rest assured that Aladdin Schools uses state-of-the-art security to safeguard information entered by the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish and European data protection laws. All families have by now received a text/email message containing your unique registration link. There is one link per parent which will allow the parent to access information for all their children in the school from one user account. Please do not forward this text/email or share this link as this is a unique registration code for each parent for your child/children in this school. During registration (new parents) you will choose a password that will be used in conjunction with your email address to securely access the Aladdin Connect going forward. If you choose you may share your own contact details with other parents of children in the same class as your children, but please be assured that this information will not be shared unless you choose to share it. Once you are registered you will be sent an email with a link to download the Aladdin Connect App to your mobile device. The main advantage of using the App is to receive immediate alerts for app messages sent by your school. Downloading the App is highly recommended to enhance both the parent and school's Connect experience.

By default both parents have access to view their child's contact information. If for any reason you do NOT wish to share your own personal contact information within the family circle or if you have any concerns regarding your particular family setup please contact the school in confidence to discuss or have this facility restricted.

It is both important and beneficial that all parents sign up for access to the Aladdin app.



CHILD SAFEGUARDING

In March 2018 we ratified a new Child Safeguarding Policy in line with recent legislation and current best practice. The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, practices and activities. As a school we have adopted and will fully implement the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools.

In our school the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is our Principal, Maeve Corish and the Deputy Designated Liaison Person is our Deputy Principal, Susan Clarke. Any child protection concerns relating to students in our school should be given in confidence to the DLP. The guiding principles of our Child Safeguarding Policy are:

- We recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations.
- We will fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters.
- We adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect staff from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect.
- We develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their child/children.
- We fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters. The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult or pupil with a special vulnerability.

We recognise that child safeguarding is the responsibility of all adults in our community and ask parents to co-operate fully with the policy by signing in at the school office when visiting the school for any reason and fully co-operating with requests from staff regarding Safeguarding Procedures.

We welcome feedback from parents on child safeguarding and are always open to suggestions or ideas that may improve our practices.



OUR STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council in DPETNS is made up of pupils from 3rd to 6th class, a parent representative and a staff representative. This group represents the pupils' voices throughout the school. They collect ideas and suggestions from all class levels and bring these ideas to the attention of the Council for consideration. The Council is democratically elected each year.

This year the Student Council has been very active. As well as meeting regularly, they have undertaken to teach Lámh signs to all classes in the school and have been very involved in developing the new school policy on homework. The Student Council promotes active participation within the school and aims to bring about meaningful projects, activities and change, based on the thoughts and ideas of the students in the school. We would like to sincerely thank our parent representative, Jenny Leahy, for all her hard work during the 2018/2019 academic year.



Bank Holiday—4th May

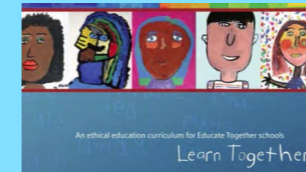
MAY 2020	Sat	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	Sun
	2	1					
	9	8	7	6	5	4 Bank Holiday	3
	16	15	14	13 Drumcondra Spelling Assessment 2nd, 4th & 6th	12 English Standardised Assessment 1st-6th	11	10
	23	22	21	20 Maths Standardised Assessment 4th, 5th & 6th	19 Maths Standardised Assessment 1st-6th classes	18	17
	30	29 Senior Sports Day 3 rd – 6 th classes	28 Junior Sports Day Jnr Infants – 2 nd classes	27	26	25	24
							31

NB—it is very important that children are not absent from school for the assessments and also, no outside appointments should be made for these dates.



Spring Break: 6th-17th April (inclusive)

April 2020	Sat	4							
	Fri	3	School closes at 12 noon for Spring Break						
	Thu	2							
	Wed	1							
	Tue								
	Mon								
	Sun								
			5						
		6	Spring Break						
		7	Spring Break						
		8	Spring Break						
		9	Spring Break						
		10	Spring Break						
		11	Spring Break						
		12	Spring Break						
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		29							
		30							



LEARN TOGETHER CURRICULUM

Our Learn Together programme is a key component of the Educate Together model. It's a curriculum that is living in our equality-based school and it seeks to offer students the opportunity to meaningfully and critically reflect upon the world around them. Ethical Education focuses on questions of equality, justice, sustainability and active citizenship. DPETNS teaches Ethical Education as an independent subject through the Learn Together curriculum. The four strands of the Learn Together Curriculum are:

- Moral and Spiritual
- Equality and Justice
- Belief Systems
- Ethics and the Environment

Educate Together Learn Together to Live Together



A number of initiatives facilitate active learning of these strands including our democratically elected green schools and student council committees, peer mediation for conflict resolution, Playworks co-operative play, mindfulness, gardening and caring for our chickens, trips to various places of worship, assemblies and guest visitors.

DPETNS is proud to play a role in An Taisce's green school programme promoting long-term, whole-school



action for the environment, as part of our work on the Ethics and the Environment strand. *We were proud to receive our most recent green flag for Global Citizenship Litter and Waste on the 22nd May 2019.* We are all very proud of the work done by the green schools committee over the last two years which led to our success in earning our 6th green flag.



Our Green Schools committee is made up of two children from each class from 2nd to 6th as well as representatives from Sinéad and Lyndsy's ASD classes. These children put themselves forward as candidates through an election process held across the school each September. Green school committee members co-ordinate the emptying of the recycling bins each week, educating their peers so they can successfully reduce, re-use and recycle in an environmentally sustainable way. They give up some of their break-time to conduct energy audits daily. They also record the number of children walking, scooting or cycling to school on Wednesday's as part of the Walk on Wednesday Initiative.



Check out the green schools section on the school website to keep up to date with green news and events. If you would like to help out with the green school committee please let us know by emailing us at greenschools@dpetns.ie We would be very happy to welcome representatives from the parent body on our green school committee for the 2019-2020 school year, when we begin to work on our new theme of Global citizenship - energy.



SAFETY ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



We ask parents/guardians to drive slowly and carefully when on the school grounds and surrounding area. A large number of our pupils walk to school unaccompanied. The children's safety is the responsibility of our entire school community.

- The drop off zone is not operating as well as it could. Please remember that this is a drop off/pick up zone **only** and there is no parking in this area at any time. The school gates are locked at **9am** sharp and this space then reverts to children's play space. If you have a morning meeting in the school, please park off site and walk to the school; there is no parking for parents on site.
- The drop off zone is **never open at Infant home time** and there is no vehicle access to the school at 1:25pm unless there is a specific physical need (with a permit) which requires parking on the school grounds - this must be arranged in advance via the school office.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD PEOPLE REVERSE INTO SPACES IN THE DROP OFF ZONE

- The drop off zone opens at **2.15**. This area is play space for the children until then. Please do not arrive at the school **before 2:15** and please do not start queuing on the Beaverstown Road while waiting for the gates to be opened. This causes serious hazards on the Beaverstown Road for other road users. We regularly take calls in the office complaining about the driving behaviour of our parents. If you arrive at the school before 2:20 we suggest that you have more than enough time to park safely in the DPCC and walk the short distance to the school.
- We now have cars parking on both sides of the new access road between here and Donabate Community College. This is causing serious issues with visibility for people using the crossing near the secondary school entrance. Children are having to step onto the road between parked cars in order to cross the road. This goes against everything we teach them about road safety.
- Please do not park on the footpaths in the vicinity of the school - the footpaths around our school must be preserved as safe space for children travelling to and from school.
- Never park in the grounds of Donabate Community College.

We ask that all parents co-operate with us on the issue of keeping all 490+ of our students safe as they travel to and from school.

Rules of the Drop Off:

- Drive to the furthest free space
- Do not leave excessive space between you and the car in front
- When the car in front moves on please move forward to make room for more cars
- Drivers must remain in their cars
- Children should never leave or enter the car on the roadside but should get in/out on the path side of the road.
- Drivers will only move out of the set down area when it is safe to do so and will use indicators in advance of moving.



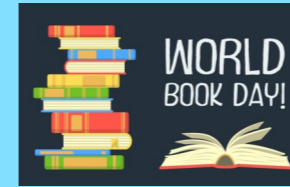
Please ensure that childminders/grandparents/relatives are all made aware of the parking rules at the school

Despite numerous requests for parents to stop using the car park at Donabate Community College, the problem persists.

THIS CAR PARK IS NOT OURS TO USE.

If Parents/Guardians continue to use the DCC Car Park then we will have no option but to lock the gate permanently between the two schools.

The Car park at the school and the roundabout at the front of the school are for staff use only. Parents/guardians/childminders are not permitted to park at the school for any reason. If you have a meeting in the school, please park at the Community Centre car park.



World Book Day 5th March

March 2020 NB—if it is very important that children are not absent from school for the assessments and also, no outside appointments should be made for these dates.	Sun	1							
	Mon	2							
	Tue	3							
	Wed	4							
	Thu	5	World Book Day						
	Fri	6							
	Sat	7							
	Sun	8							
	Mon	9							
	Tue	10							
Wed	11	M.I.S.T. Standardised Assessments Senior Infants							
Thu	12								
Fri	13								
Sat	14								
Sun	15								
Mon	16	School Holiday							
Tue	17	Bank Holiday							
Wed	18								
Thu	19								
Fri	20								
Sat	21								
Sun	22								
Mon	23								
Tue	24								
Wed	25								
Thu	26								
Fri	27								
Sat	28								
Sun	29								
Mon	30								
Tue	31								



Mid Term Break: 17th-21st February (inclusive)

February 2020	Sat	1	8	15	22	29
	Fri		7	14	21	28
	Thu		6	13	20	27
	Wed		5	12	19	26
	Tue		4	11	18	25
	Mon		3	10	17	24
	Sun		2	9	16	23
						Mid-Term

PHOTOGRAPHS/IMAGES



The school, from time to time, will take photographs and videos of children for newspapers, the school website and facebook. School policy is that we never use a child's name with an image on the web. We also issue permission forms for parents/guardians to complete in September each year and parents/guardians can either opt in or opt out for their child to be photographed.



SAVING WITH THE CREDIT UNION— SERVICE OFFERED BY DPETNS

Save Money



The school offers a service, every Thursday morning, where the children (**from 1st class upwards**) can lodge savings, big or small, into their credit union accounts. A parent volunteer comes in every week to facilitate this service and lodge the children's savings into the Credit Union. This is a great way of teaching your child the benefits of saving. This service has been operating in the school now for quite a number of years and some of our 'savers' have since moved onto Secondary School and College - we hope that they have held onto their good saving habits! If you wish to avail of this service, you will need to first of all set up the account and bring the following to the Credit Union office in Ballisk Court, Donabate (open Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning):

- Passport or Birth Certificate;
- PPS No. on an official document;
- Photo ID and proof of address for parent

Your child will also need to be present to sign the membership application form. Once the account is set up, your child can bring in his/her credit union book to school on a Thursday morning and start saving. (*Credit union books are then kept in a safe place in the school and given back to your child at the end of the school year or can be obtained on request*).

The office will make an announcement at reception time and they can then bring their savings to the parent volunteer who is usually downstairs near the office.



SPORT AT DPETNS

In DPETNS we value the importance of a wide range of sporting activities. We believe this variety provides children with the opportunity to enjoy physical activity as an ongoing part of a healthy lifestyle.

Apart from our teachers engaging with the Physical Education curriculum, we welcome a number of visiting coaches. Staff also volunteer to run activities after school. These activities include GAA, hockey, tennis, table tennis, hurling, athletics, aerobics, soccer, cricket, basketball and many more.



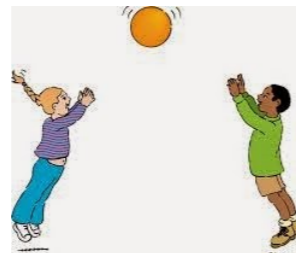
FUN ON YARD AT DPETNS

Children enjoy a range of fun activities at yard time. These activities are both tagged yard activities or part of our Playworks programme. Tagged activities include football, dodgeball, table tennis and basketball.

Playworks is a programme organised by Sixth Class children for senior classes and Third Class children for junior classes (supervised by adults) and they co-ordinate games on yard, ensuring that every child who wants to participate, is included. These games are democratically facilitated by the student co-ordinators. An example of this is the manner in which little disputes are settled by a simple game of 'rock, paper scissors'!

Playworks activities include:

- Mini football
- Mini basketball
- Four square
- Two square
- Wall ball



Parent/Teacher Meetings 23rd January

January 2020	Sat						
		4	11	18	25		
	Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
		Winter Break					
	Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Parent/Teacher Meetings
		Winter Break					
	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
		Winter Break					
Tue		7	14	21	28		
Mon		6	13	20	27	School re-opens After Winter Break	
Sun		5	12	19	26		



Winter Performances— 13th December
(Senior Infants/2nd/3rd/4th and 5th classes)

School closes on 20th December for Winter Break

December 2019	Sat						
	Fri	7	14	21	28		
	Thu	6	13 Winter Performances S.I./2nd/3rd/4th and 5th classes	20 School closes at 12 noon for Winter Break	27 Winter Break		
	Wed	5	12	19	26 Winter Break		
	Tue	4	11	18	25 Winter Break		
	Mon	3	10	17	24 Winter Break	31 Winter Break	
	Sun	2	9	16	23 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	
		1	8	15	22	29	



HOMWORK AT DEPTNS

We have spent the last two years reviewing our Homework Policy. The views of parents, teachers and students were all sought in an effort to develop a new policy suitable for the 21st century. Our new policy was ratified in May 2019 and will be implemented on a pilot basis for the 2019/2020 school year.

The main changes to the policy are as follows:

- Generally written homework will be assigned on Mondays to be completed by Thursday or Friday. This will allow increased flexibility for families.
- Spellings, reading and tables should be practised every day from Monday to Thursday.
- No written homework will be assigned during the months of September and December. In these months reading, spellings, life skills, discussions will be assigned and children will be encouraged to take exercise and play games.
- Project based/Homework Enrichment style projects will be assigned at the beginning of each term and there will be a maximum of three such projects assigned in a year.

General guidelines on the time that should be spent on homework:

- ⇒ Junior/Senior Infants : Minimal homework assigned on a Monday, returned on a Friday.
- ⇒ First/Second: 20-30 minutes
- ⇒ Third/Fourth: 30-40 minutes
- ⇒ Fifth/Sixth: 40-60 minutes

We stress that these guidelines above are the absolute maximum a child should spend on homework. If homework is regularly a stressful experience between parent and child, you should contact the class teacher.





BUDDY SYSTEM

We encourage the children from different classes and different levels to play together and to look out for each other. We see this inter-class communication as playing an important part in maintaining our inclusive school.

To strengthen inter-class communication, we 'buddy' every class in the school with another class in September each year. This Buddy System encourages the older children in the school to look out for the younger children, to get to know them and to support them. The older children are given opportunities to be leaders and to model good and responsible behaviour.

All of the children benefit from the Buddy System and they enjoy spending time with their buddies. Sometimes the buddy classes will do curricular activities together (e.g. Art, Science or Reading), sometimes they just enjoy social time together. At whole school assemblies, the Junior Infants often sit beside their Sixth class buddies which helps them to relax and enjoy the assembly better.



CONFLICT RESOLUTION - S.A.L.T and PEER MEDIATION

Conflict is part of life and, in this regard, DPETNS is no different from other schools. Children will have rows and arguments and sometimes they find these conflicts very upsetting. We believe that every child needs to learn conflict resolution skills and we teach the SALT programme in Senior Infants and First Class. SALT teaches the children to view conflict as a learning opportunity and discreetly teaches them the importance of being able to negotiate. The children are taught the importance of using SALT (Stop, Ask, Listen, Talk) when they find themselves in a situation of conflict. We encourage the children to solve conflicts for themselves and we work to develop their skills in negotiating conflict. Throughout the school the children are encouraged to use the four steps of the SALT programme. Naturally there are times when a situation requires adult intervention and the children are encouraged to talk to their teachers if something is bothering them.

To support our conflict resolution programme, the children in Sixth Class each year are trained to be Peer Mediators. The Peer Mediation programme is highly valued by our students as it enhances the voice of children in the school. When an issue of conflict arises, two Sixth Class mediators sit with two younger children to sort out the row or argument without adults getting involved. It can be very effective in encouraging children to listen to each other and to reflect on how their behaviour may be impacting on another person. The Peer Mediation programme has been running now for six years. It teaches the children conflict resolution skills that we hope will serve them well throughout their lives.



Annual Winter Fete—Sunday, 24th November

November 2019	Sat						
	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
	Thu	1	8	15	22	29	
	Wed		7	14	21	28	
	Tue		6	13	20	27	
	Mon		5	12	19	26	
	Sun		4	11	18	25	
			3	10	17	24	Annual Winter Fete 12noon-4pm



Whole School Dress Up 25th October

October 2019

NB—it is very important that children are not absent from school for the assessments and also, no outside appointments should be made for these dates.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 NRIT Assessments (1st and 4th classes)	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Whole school dress up	26
27	28	29	30	31		
	Mid-Term	Mid-Term	Mid-Term	Mid-Term		



POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH

For the past few years we have been working hard to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in the school. Minding our mental health is a complex business and there is no magic wand available for protecting our mental health. Every year we celebrate positive mental health in the month of January and in all classes throughout the school this topic is explored in an age appropriate manner. The SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) curriculum is taught in all classes for one half hour a week. The encouragement of growth (rather than fixed) mindsets are nurtured throughout the school. In addition to this we have undertaken a number of other initiatives to support positive mental health:

- Every morning we have a one minute reflective pause where the children in all classes stop and reflect. During this moment's silence the children are encouraged to breathe deeply, practise mindfulness, say a prayer or simply stop being busy for a moment. The children are free to choose how they spend the moment in keeping with their own needs and beliefs.
- The Roots of Empathy programme is taught in 2nd class every year. This is a programme where a mother and new baby visit the class over the course of the year and the baby teaches the children all about empathy. This is a very popular programme and research has shown it to be highly effective in nurturing empathy in the children.
- In 1st and 4th class the children are offered a ten week Mindfulness workshop.
- The Weaving Wellbeing Programme is taught in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes. This is a positive psychology programme that teaches the children all about identifying character strengths, positive emotions, resilience and positive relationships.

We hope that these initiatives will help enhance positive mental health, resilience and well-being in all our students and that, by the time they leave DPETNS, they will have the language and the skills they will need to cope with the ups and downs of life.





CHANGEMAKER SCHOOLS

In 2014 we were awarded the status of Changemaker School by Ashoka Ireland. We are proud to be one of the first Changemaker schools in Ireland, joining a network of schools all over the world that are promoting the core skills of empathy, teamwork, creativity and leadership.



OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH PEPY EMPOWERING YOUTH

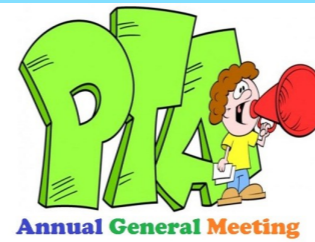
DPETNS community has been part of an innovative educational partnership with PEPY Empowering Youth since October 2013. The focus of this partnership is to enhance global identity, a sense of social justice and cultural awareness in our student body, through meaningful connections with another Changemaker organisation, based in Cambodia.

The workings of our partnership enhance the teaching and learning of our Learn Together programme and provides opportunities for all students to play an active role in global development and nurture a real understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals and global citizenship in general.

Our school community has raised over €50,000 over the years for PEPY and this has primarily supported scholarships for Cambodian students to third level education.

Through this partnership our students learn all about life in a developing country and the importance of being a global citizen. Equality and justice issues are explored in depth. Last year we launched our Scholarship Sponsorship Programme and lots of our families are now donating to PEPY on a monthly basis to support the education of young Cambodians. For further information on our partnership please look at www.cambodiaireland.com. If you would like to get involved please do not hesitate to contact the school office and let us know.

Since 2014 a group of Irish teachers from the partner schools has spent three weeks each summer sharing their skills with PEPY and learning so much when there. Since 2015 we have welcomed a group of students and leaders from PEPY to our community each Spring, during which they worked with our students and shared so much with them, culturally, educationally and personally. Our visitors always stay with host families in our community.



PTA AGM 19th September

September 2019	Sat	7		14	21	28	
	Fri	6	Junior Infants 8.45-11 1st class finish at 1.25	13	Junior Infants 8.45-12.00	20	27
	Thu	5	Junior Infants 8.45-11 1st class finish at 1.25	12	Junior Infants 8.45-12.00	19	PTA AGM
	Wed	4	Junior Infants 8.45-11 1st class finish at 1.25	11	Junior Infants 8.45-12.00	18	25
	Tue	3	Junior Infants 8.45-11 1st class finish at 1.25	10	Junior Infants 8.45-12.00	17	24
	Mon	2	Junior Infants 8.45-11 1st class finish at 1.25	9	Junior Infants 8.45-12.00	16	23
	Sun	1		8		15	22
							29
							30



School re-opens Thursday, 29th August

August 2019	Sat						
	Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
	Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Junior Infants 8.45-11 First Classes finish at 1.25
	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	School re-opens Junior Infants 9.30-11 First classes finish at 1.25
	Tue		7	14	21	28	
	Mon		6	13	20	27	
	Sun		5	12	19	26	
			4	11	18	25	



CAMBODIA IRELAND CHANGEMAKER NETWORK

As our partnerships have grown and broadened considerably since 2013 we decided this year to form the Cambodia Ireland Changemaker Network as a central support for all activities linked to our Ireland Cambodia partnerships. This Network was launched by Fergus Finlay in the Spring of 2019. The establishment of the Cambodia/Ireland Changemaker Network is much wider than our school and PEPY—it involves many different organisations and individuals including DCU and INTO.

In the last two years we have been very fortunate to welcome visitors from another Cambodian NGO, *See Beyond Borders*, to our school. Included in these visits has been a former teacher at DPETNS, Colm Byrne, who is now part of the *See Beyond Borders* team. The focus of this organisation is the provision of better quality education for Cambodian children through improvement of teacher training and a strong teacher mentoring programme.

Through these partnerships and the various activities associated with them, we can proudly state that the DPETNS community is one that reflects well what it is to be a community of global citizens.

Our 2019 Cambodian Visitors -
Ousa, Konnitha, Dena and Southeareak



Aistear is the early childhood curriculum framework for all children from birth to six years in Ireland. Aistear plays a major role in the teaching and learning in our infant classes. The Framework uses four interconnected themes to describe the content of children's learning and development: Well-being, Identity and Belonging, Communicating, and Exploring and Thinking.

Through Aistear we create exciting, engaging and fun learning experiences and activities, so that all children can grow and develop as competent and confident learners. Find out more at <https://www.ncca.ie/en/early-childhood/aistear>. Check out some pictures from our favourite Aistear stations!

Water Station



The Airport



The Doctor's



The Farm



SIXTH CLASS BOOKLIST 2019/2020

English	My Spelling Workbook G	Prim-Ed	€ 6.99
Maths	Retain Table Book from last year Geometry Set (from €2.99) Maths Challenge 6	Folens	€ 7.10
Irish	Foclóir Scoile –Irish Dictionary (retain from last year)		
SPHE	Weaving Well-Being: Empowering Beliefs	Outside The Box	€ 4.95
The following books are under the Book Rental Scheme:			
English	Snakes, Eyeballs & Indians Collins School Dictionary (5th Edition)	Gill Education	BRS BRS
Gaeilge	Bun go Barr 6	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Maths	Busy at Maths 6 Basic Calculator	C. J. Fallon	BRS
SESE	History Quest 6 Geography Quest 6 Fallon's Oxford Practical Atlas Science Quest 6	C. J. Fallon C. J. Fallon C. J. Fallon C. J. Fallon	BRS BRS BRS BRS
Cost of Book Rental Scheme			€ 25.00
Retail cost of books under the Scheme			€121.15
Total saving of			€ 96.15

The only books children are allowed to write in are My Spelling Workbook and Maths Challenge whether purchased by parents or under the Book Rental Scheme.

N.B. Children need to have a fully equipped pencil case with pencils, eraser, sharpener, a labelled glue stick, colouring pencils, and a red and blue pen.

(Prices quoted on publisher's website)



FIFTH CLASS BOOKLIST 2019/2020

English	My Spelling Workbook F	Prim-Ed	€ 6.99
Maths	Retain Table Book from last year Geometry Set (from €2.99) Maths Challenge 5	Folens	€ 7.10
Irish	Foclóir Scoile –Irish Dictionary (retain from last year)		
SPHE	Weaving Well-Being: Positive Relations	Outside The Box	€ 4.95

The following books are under the Book Rental Scheme:

English	Vampires, Elephants & Aliens Collins School Dictionary (5th Edition)	Gill Education C. J. Fallon	BRS BRS
Gaeilge	Bun go Barr 5	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Maths	Busy at Maths 5 Basic Calculator	C. J. Fallon	BRS
SESE	History Quest 5 Geography Quest 5 Fallon's Oxford Practical Atlas Science Quest 5	C. J. Fallon C. J. Fallon C. J. Fallon C. J. Fallon	BRS BRS BRS BRS

Cost of Book Rental Scheme	€ 25.00
Retail cost of books under the Scheme	€121.15
Total saving of	€ 96.15

The only books children are allowed to write in are My Spelling Workbook and Maths Challenge whether purchased by parents or under the Book Rental Scheme.

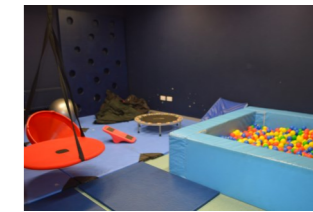
N.B. Children need to have a fully equipped pencil case with pencils, eraser, sharpener, a labelled glue stick, colouring pencils, and a red and blue pen.

(Prices quoted on publisher's website)



OUR CLASSES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

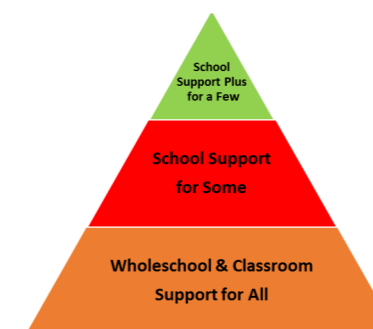
DPETNS is an autism friendly school. In addition to having two classes specifically catering for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), we also have a large number of children with ASD in our mainstream classes. In DPETNS, autism is everybody's business - we strive to create an inclusive school where no child is an outsider. Our students are taught that people learn differently and some children need extra support to help them to learn. Thanks to the incredible support of our school community we have been able to provide great facilities for our students, including a fully equipped sensory garden/playground, a lights room and a multi-sensory room.



The Support Team in DPETNS

In DPETNS, we actively promote inclusion of all children and strive to ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their true potential. The Special Education Team comprises of fourteen Support Teachers and eleven Special Needs Assistants.

The Support teacher's role is to work with the class teachers to ensure that children are able to access the curriculum within the mainstream classrooms in our school. This involves providing additional support to children who have been identified by external agencies (psychologists, therapists etc.) as needing support in areas such as literacy, numeracy, social skills, emotional, behavioural skills, motor skills, life skills and speech and language skills. At times, it may be the class team (mainstream teacher, core support teacher and support co-ordinator) who decide that your child will need scaffolding /support. Interventions may be given on a temporary or long term basis. In this case, we will communicate this to parents and involve you in the process. We use the Continuum of Support model (below) to assess how much support your child will need and children are placed on the continuum in accordance with their learning needs. Most of the support happens within the classroom setting. Sometimes it may be provided in a group setting or a one to one setting.



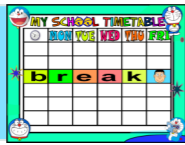
The SNA (Special Needs Assistant) team provides support to children who have been assessed as having care needs by the Department of Education. This support is provided in a very discreet way and our SNA team work to promote independence in children. Some of our SNAs may provide care to more than one child at a time. Together, the Support Teachers, the SNA team and the parents, work in partnership to ensure that 'no child is an outsider' in DPETNS. If you require more information please view our Policy for Inclusion of children with Complex Needs in the Mainstream School (on school website) or email the Special Education Co-ordinator: susan.clarke@dpetns.ie



- CHILDREN NEED TO BE IN THEIR LINES BY 8.45 AM. AT THE LATEST.
- IF A CHILD IS LATE, HE OR SHE WILL NEED TO REPORT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR A LATE PASS
- THE 15 MINUTE RECEPTION TIME IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL DAY. THIS IS THEIR CHANCE TO SOCIALISE WITH THEIR FRIENDS AND SETTLE INTO THE CLASSROOM READY FOR THEIR WORKING DAY.



WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT EVERYONE CAN BE LATE ONCE IN A WHILE, HABITUAL LATENESS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE



THE SCHOOL DAY

08.45	Children line up in the yard
08.45-09.00	Reception Time
09.00-10.10	Teaching/Learning Time
10.10-10.20	Outdoor Play
10.20-10.30	Snack
10.30-12.00	Teaching/Learning Time
12.00-12.25	Outdoor Play Time
12.25-12.35	Lunch
12.35-14.25	Teaching/Learning Time
13.25	Junior/Senior Infants home time
14.25	First to Sixth classes home time

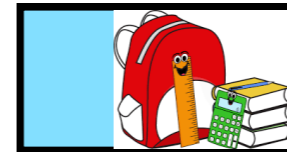
PUNCTUALITY/ATTENDANCE

Being on time is an important life skill. Lateness has a detrimental effect on a child's learning and wellbeing, it also disrupts the other students in a class and wastes teaching/learning time. We are now recording lateness on our computerised roll system and this enables us to track punctuality and attendance on a child's record. We ask parents to please make every effort to have their children in their lines by 8.45am at the latest and to encourage them to walk into school independently.

Our attendance levels have deteriorated over past few years and this can be partly attributed to parents taking children out of school for holidays in term time. We request that parents do not take their children out of school during term time. There are approximately fifteen weeks holidays built into the primary school calendar and we request that parents schedule family holidays during these breaks rather than in term time. If children miss standardised tests, we cannot guarantee that we can accommodate them for testing at a later date.

If, in exceptional circumstances, you have to take your child(ren) out of school during term time, please speak to Maeve.

Teachers will not schedule additional work for children who are on holidays.



FOURTH CLASS BOOKLIST 2019/2020

English	My Spelling Workbook E	Prim-Ed	€ 6.99
Maths	Retain Table Book from last year Maths Challenge 4	Folens	€ 7.10
SPHE	Weaving Well-Being: Tool of Resilience Activity Book	Outside The Box	€ 4.95
The following books are under the Book Rental Scheme:			
English	Witches, Spiders & Cowboys Collins School Dictionary (5th Edition)	Gill Education C. J. Fallon	BRS BRS
Gaeilge	Bun go Barr 4 Foclóir Scoile –Irish Dictionary	C. J. Fallon EDCO	BRS BRS
Maths	Busy at Maths 4 Basic Calculator	C. J. Fallon	BRS

Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE):

History Quest 4	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Geography Quest 4	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Fallon's Oxford Practical Atlas	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Science Quest 4	C. J. Fallon	BRS

Cost of Book Rental Scheme	€ 25.00
Retail cost of books under the Scheme	€ 131.35
Total saving of	€ 106.35

The only books children are allowed to write in are My Spelling Workbook and Maths Challenge whether purchased by parents or under the Book Rental Scheme.

N.B. Children need to have a fully equipped pencil case with pencils, eraser, sharpener, a labelled glue stick, colouring pencils, and a red and blue pen.

(Prices quoted on publisher's website)



THIRD CLASS BOOKLIST 2019/2020

English	My Spelling Workbook D	Prim-Ed	€ 6.99
Maths	Retain Table Book from last year Maths Challenge 3	Folens	€ 7.10
SPHE	Weaving Well-being: Positive Emotions Activity Book	Outside The Box	€ 4.95
The following books are under the Book Rental Scheme:			
English	Dragons, Jungles & Dinosaurs Collins School Dictionary (5th Edition)	Gill Education	BRS BRS
Gaeilge	Bun go Barr 3 Foclóir Scoile —Irish Dictionary	C. J. Fallon EDCO	BRS BRS
Maths	Busy at Maths 3	C. J. Fallon	BRS

Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE):

History Quest 3	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Geography Quest 3	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Fallon's Oxford Practical Atlas	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Science Quest 3	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Cost of Book Rental Scheme		€ 25.00
Retail cost of books under the Scheme		€ 129.55
Total saving of		€ 104.55

The only books children are allowed to write in are My Spelling Workbook and Maths Challenge whether purchased by parents or under the Book Rental Scheme.

N.B. Children need to have a fully equipped pencil case with pencils, eraser, sharpener, a labelled glue stick, colouring pencils, and a red and blue pen.

(Prices quoted on publisher's website)

ANNUAL SCHOOL LEVY

The annual school levy is €60 per child. The school relies heavily on this money to fully equip classrooms. For families of three or more (attending the school) the fee will reduce to €50 per child. If you have difficulty paying this levy please talk to Maeve, in strictest confidence.

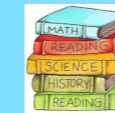
Payments can be made through our online e-payment system. Our school uses the Aladdin software service for administrative purposes and the ePayment system will give you access from an internet browser on your computer, phone or tablet to make secure payments to the school using your credit or debit card. In September you will **receive an email message** containing your **payment access link**. This will bring you to a parent payment page which will contain all payments requested for all siblings in a family. There is only one link per family ensuring you have the option to pay all amounts due for all your children in one transaction. Payments can be also be made by cash or cheque to your child's teacher in an envelope, clearly marked

Most parents/guardians of new Junior Infants will already have paid this fee, on acceptance of a school place.



SCHOOL BOOKS

The Dept. of Education provides a free book grant towards the cost of books for families who have difficulty purchasing books. Please speak to Maeve in confidence, if you wish to apply for this grant.



DPETNS BOOK RENTAL SCHEME

The Book Rental Scheme (BRS) is available to children in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class. It was introduced in 2014 to help parents significantly reduce the cost of their booklist bill. Last year the take up was 100% and the feedback was very positive.

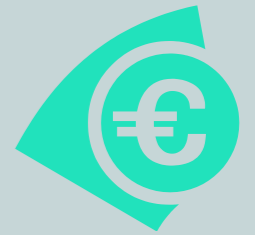
For €25 per child, books are sourced, covered, catalogued and placed in the classroom, ready for use in September.

For children in **2nd class** the BRS supplies their English Dictionary, Atlas, History, Geography and Science books free of charge. Parents in this year still need to purchase their own textbooks, so their children can continue to write in their books.

From **3rd - 6th**, the BRS books are the property of the school and there is no writing in these books. We would like to thank the children for their continuing good upkeep of these books so that they can be used from year to year. Further information is available on the school's website under the section for parents.

Many thanks to our volunteer parents for organising this scheme

If you have any questions you can contact us at brs@dpetns.ie.



The annual school levy covers the following:

- 24hr. Accident insurance cover for your child
- Library books, parallel readers, interactive resources
- Homework Diary
- Photocopying
- Printer Ink
- Art/Craft Materials
- Copies and crayons





DPETNS HEALTHY EATING POLICY

Mission Statement

DPETNS aims, through this policy, to help our whole school community, children, staff and parents, develop positive and responsible attitudes to food and nutrition and to appreciate the benefits that healthy food habits make to overall physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Rationale and Aims

At DPETNS we recognise the importance of a healthy lifestyle and diet. The main objective of this policy is, in conjunction with the curriculum subjects SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education), Science and the Learn Together Programme, to promote nutritional awareness and positively affect food and drink choices within our school community. In order to provide a clear message and also to give information and support to parents, children and staff, we have developed two documents; this policy document and a supporting document with lunchtime ideas and extra nutritional information. Both documents have been developed in consultation with the children, parents and staff of the school and have been approved by the PTA and the Board of Management.

Healthy Eating in DPETNS

The revised food pyramid has been used in developing this policy and is a key tool in communicating healthy food messages. The Food Pyramid encourages us to avoid foods high in fat, salt and sugar and to eat more fruit and vegetables. It also provides a guide to correct portion size. More information can be found at www.healthyireland.ie

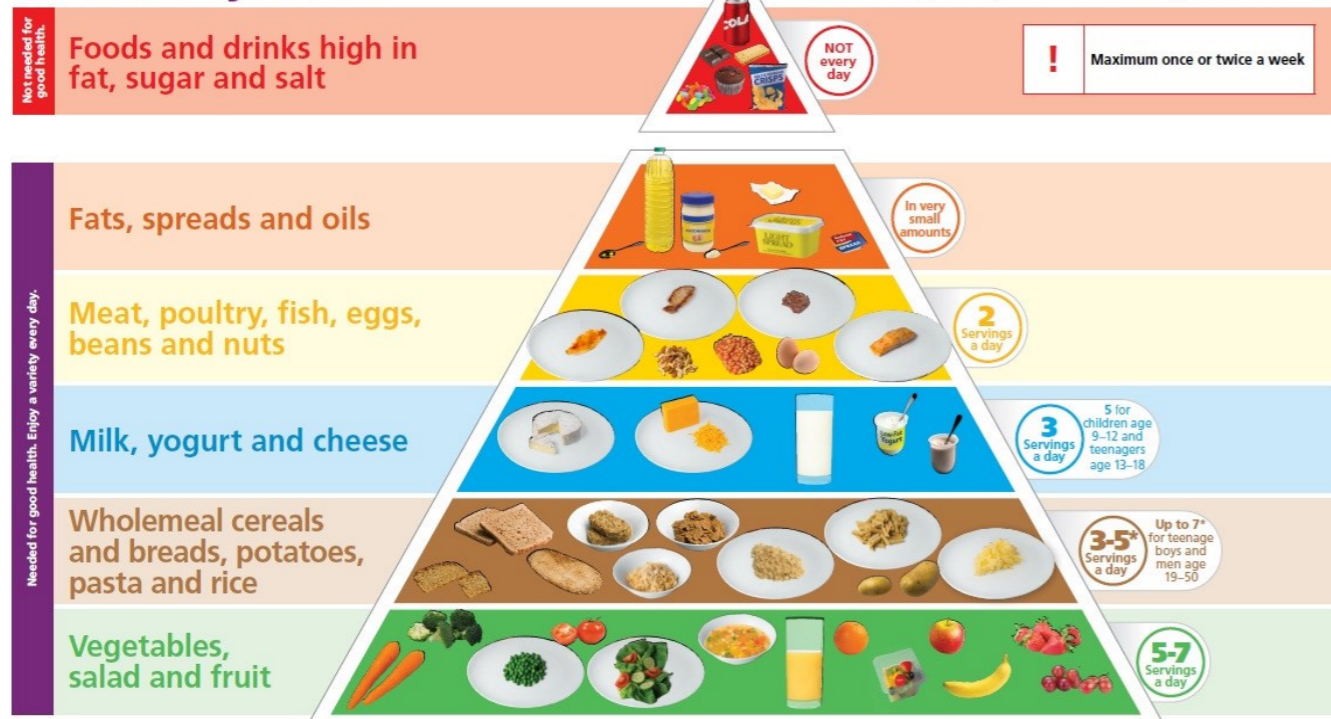
Healthy Food for Life

www.healthyireland.ie



The Food Pyramid

For adults, teenagers and children aged five and over

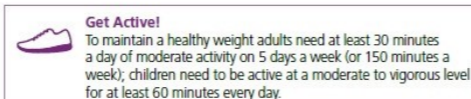
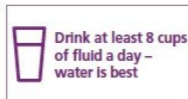


*Daily Servings Guide – wholemeal cereals and breads, potatoes, pasta and rice

Active	Child (5-12)	Teenager (13-18)	Adult (19-50)	Adult (51+)	Inactive	Teenager (13-18)	Adult (19-50)	Adult (51+)
♂	3-4	4	4-5	3-4	♂	3	3-4	3
♀	3-5	5-7	5-7	4-5	♀	4-5	4-6	4

There is no guideline for inactive children as it is essential that all children are active.

Source: Department of Health, December 2016.



FIRST CLASS BOOKLIST 2019/2020

English	Handwriting Today—Book B	Prim-Ed	€ 6.99
	My Spelling Workbook B <td>Prim-Ed</td> <td>€6.99</td>	Prim-Ed	€6.99
Gaeilge	Bua na Cainte 1	Edco	€10.75
Maths	Busy at Maths 1	C. J. Fallon	€16.45
	Maths Challenge 1	Folens	€ 7.10
	Primary Table Book (This book will be used up to 6th Class)	Edco	€ 1.80

Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE):

What a Wonderful World (1st Class)	C. J. Fallon	€12.15
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SECOND CLASS BOOKLIST 2019/2020

English	My Spelling Workbook C	Prim-Ed	€ 6.99
	Handwriting Today Book C <td>Prim-Ed</td> <td>€ 6.99</td>	Prim-Ed	€ 6.99
Gaeilge	Bua na Cainte 2	Edco	€11.75
Maths	Busy at Maths 2	C. J. Fallon	€18.05
	Maths Challenge 2	Folens	€ 7.10
	Retain table book from last year		

The following books are supplied by the Book Rental Scheme, free of charge, for every child in 2nd class:

Oxford Children's Dictionary (Irish Edition)	C. J. Fallon	BRS
History Quest 2	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Geography Quest 2	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Science Quest 2	C. J. Fallon	BRS
Fallon's Oxford Practical Atlas (will be used up to 6 th Class)		BRS

N.B. Children need to have a fully equipped pencil case with pencils, eraser, sharpener, a labelled glue stick, colouring pencils, and a red and blue pen.

(Prices quoted on publisher's website)



JUNIOR INFANT BOOKLIST 2019/2020

English	Handwriting Today Book A	Prim-Ed	€ 6.99
Gaeilge	Interactive scheme in use in the school		
Maths	Busy at Maths (Junior Infants)	C. J. Fallon	€12.15
<u>Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE):</u>			
	What a Wonderful World (Junior Infants revised)	C. J. Fallon	€10.40



SENIOR INFANT BOOKLIST 2019/2020

English	Handwriting Today Book A (retain from last year)		
Gaeilge	Interactive scheme in use in the school		
Maths	Busy at Maths (Senior Infants)	C. J. Fallon	€12.15
<u>Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE):</u>			
	What a Wonderful World (Senior Infants Revised)	C. J. Fallon	€10.40



(Prices quoted on publisher's website)

- It is very important for children's energy and concentration levels that they eat a healthy breakfast before coming to school.
- Children will normally have two breaks for food during the school day, at **10.20** and again at **12.25**.
- A healthy lunchbox includes a piece of food from each of the bottom four shelves of the Food Pyramid;
 - Fruit/salad/vegetables - enjoy a variety of colours and limit fruit juice to unsweetened once a day.
 - Bread/pasta/rice - wholemeal and wholegrain varieties are best
 - Milk/cheese/yoghurt
 - Meat/fish/eggs - choose lean meat and limit processed, salty meats. Choose oily fish like salmon.
- Children may bring a small item from the top shelf of the Food Pyramid to school on Fridays or on special occasions as agreed by the Principal and school staff. However the following foods are not considered healthy options and the following foods should not be included on a daily basis in your child's lunchbox:

Crisps; Sweets; Biscuits; Cereal Bars; Cake; Muffins; Pastries; Croissants; Sausage Rolls; Lollipops; Fruit Winders; Jam; Chocolate and Chocolate Products; Mousses; Fizzy Drinks; Chocolate covered Rice Cakes

A number of our students and staff have severe nut allergies We ask that nobody brings nuts or nut products to school.

Chewing gum is banned from the school premises

- Staff will support the Healthy Eating Policy and will not offer food to children as rewards or prizes.
- In the interest of fairness and for allergy and religious as well as health reasons, cakes, buns, sweets, chocolate or other treats sent to school for birthday celebrations will not be distributed.
- Parents of children with specific dietary requirements and/or food allergies should speak directly to their child's class teacher.
- In support of our Green School initiatives we encourage reusable food and drink containers and all waste materials are brought home.

Suitable drinks for children:

- Drinks should always be included in a packed lunch. Extra water should be included on PE days and in warmer weather.
- Water and milk are the most suitable drinks for children. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the school day.
- Unsweetened fruit juices and smoothies, "tooth kind" drinks, yoghurt drinks and diluted squashes are allowed at lunch times.

Education measures

- All children will receive lessons on healthy eating through SPHE, Science and the Learn Together Programme.
- Parents/Guardians of incoming Junior Infants and new children to the school will be informed about the Healthy Eating Policy.
- Staff will remind parents/guardians of the policy at Acquaintance Meetings and as needed throughout the year.

Review and Evaluation

- This policy revises the previous Healthy Eating Policy which was originally ratified in 2008.
- Interviews with children, staff and parent surveys and HSE and Department of Education recommendations were taken into account when reviewing the policy.
- For this policy to be successful it needs to be supported by the whole school community. We appreciate that encouraging children to choose certain foods is not always easy. However, with the increase in obesity, type 2 diabetes and the prevalence of dental cavities in children, we are encouraging best practise when in school.
- This policy will be reviewed in 2020.



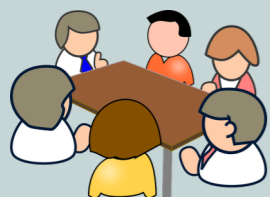
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Our school is governed by the Board of Management of the school. This democratically elected committee of eight people has the responsibility to ensure that our school is run effectively, in keeping with the four main principles of EducateTogether: child-centered, co-educational, democratically run and equality based.

The Board of Management is the decision making body in the school. Each Board of Management serves a four year term and our current Board began its term of office in November 2015.

Members of the Board

- Ciarán Bauer: Chairperson
- Maeve Corish: Secretary
- Fiona Gallagher: Treasurer
- Pat McCormack: Health & Safety Officer
- Anne Prendiville: Hall Rental
- Nadine Ferris-France: Minutes Secretary
- Cormac O'Brien: School Maintenance
- John Holohan: Communications



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The PTA is committed to providing information and support for parents/guardians and teachers, in the best interests of our children's education.

MEMBERSHIP

PTA membership is open to all parents/guardians of children enrolled in our school and to all teaching staff. We welcome male and female representation. We meet a few times during the year. Our AGM will take place on Thursday, 19th September, 2019, at which new members are signed up and PTA committee members are elected—all are very welcome.

WHAT WE DO

We run a number of events throughout the school year and support the school in any events that it may be holding. We also help to review school policies and are affiliated with the National Parents Council. Our activities include:

- organising coffee mornings to support parents getting to know one another (e.g. on Junior Infants' first day)
- organising the refreshments for 5th Class Grandparents' Day
- organising evening talks for parents on areas of interest
- assisting with Sports Day and Fun runs.

We are affiliated with the National Parents Council. We also help to review school policies and the PTA supports the school in promoting positive mental health. Recently, the entire parent body expressed their views on their children's use of Smartphones. This review was carried out following challenges in senior classes around children accessing inappropriate content on their smartphones.

We collectively recommend that children are not given Smartphones for the duration of their primary years and that we support one another in safeguarding our children in this way.



Cake Sales/Coffee Mornings
Grandparents Day



Sports Days
After School Activities
Fun Runs



The PTA is always looking for volunteers—the above events would not have been as successful without the dedication and commitment of our 'fabulous' parent body.



FUNDRAISING

We do not receive sufficient funding from the Department of Education and Skills, therefore we rely on our parents/guardians to help us raise additional funds needed to finance our school.

RED ENVELOPE DAY



Once a year, usually early in November, we ask for voluntary contributions from parents to help purchase resources we need to deliver quality teaching and learning for our children.

A group of parents/guardians come together to organise a few events during the year to raise additional funds needed. In recent years funds raised went towards the extension of the Sensory Garden; literacy resources; sports equipment; computers; replacement of interactive whiteboards. We also organise a number of clothing collections, usually one each term. This is a great opportunity to clear out the wardrobes and raise funds at the same time!

The main fundraiser each year is our Winter Fete, which has proved to be a huge success over the last five years. Plans are underway for Winter Fete 2019 which will take place on **Sunday 24th November, 2019**. We are always open to new ideas and would be delighted if you can join us in our preparations and/or on the day. It is not just about raising funds for our school, it is also a lovely opportunity for the school and local community to get together.

Like our Facebook page to be kept up to date DPETNS-Winter-Fete, and contact us at fundraisers@dpetns.ie if you wish to get involved.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There is a separate committee who look after extra curricular activities (ECA's) during the year. The ECA committee organise a range of classes to suit all age groups. Classes are offered out in two separate terms over the year, from September-January and February-June. This spreads the cost over the year and allows children to try a number of different activities. Some of the classes on offer are:

- Astronomy
- Basketball
- Chess
- Guitar
- Speech & Drama
- Swimming
- Tennis



A full schedule of classes and term dates will be available in September. Registration will take place on Saturday, 13th September. The ECA are also always happy to have new volunteers!



DPETNS WINTER FETE 2019



Our 6th Annual Winter Fete takes place on **Sunday, 24th November, 2019**.



There are a range of stalls on the day including

- BBQ
- Soft Drinks
- Cakes
- Crafts
- Pre Loved Clothes
- Nearly New Books
- Toys

and lots more fun and games for all.

