

## DARVER N.S / SCOIL DAIRBHRE

### Ní Buaidh Go Dlí Eolas

### Imlitir 3 (Newsletter 3)

**Feabhra 2022**

School Roll No: 17315T

Principal: Emily Brennan

Deputy Principal: Jane O'Hare

#### Welcome

Welcome to our third school newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep parents/guardians informed about school matters and to share the wonderful work the teachers are doing with the children here at Scoil Dairbhre.

The newsletters will be shared with parents through the Eolas app and uploaded onto the school website. In the interest of the environment our newsletters will be issued solely online. Parents who are separated may request two copies of our newsletter, please contact Shelly in the office to do this (042 9379280 / [schdarver.ias@gmail.com](mailto:schdarver.ias@gmail.com)).

#### **Important Dates to note:**

- Swimming for 3rd/4th and 5th/6th - every Thursday from 27th January to 7th April
- Mid-term break - school closed Thursday 24th & Friday 25th February
- School Photographs - Wednesday 9th March
- St. Patrick's Day - school closed Thursday 17th & Friday 18th March
- Easter Holidays - Monday 11th April to Friday 22nd April inclusive. School reopens Monday 25th April

#### Welcome back Mrs. O'Hare

We would like to extend a very warm welcome back to Mrs. O'Hare, who returned from maternity leave on Monday 21st February to her role as 5th/6th class teacher and Deputy Principal. Mrs. Callan has now returned to her role as Special Education Teacher. We bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Cafferty who was covering Mrs. O'Hare's maternity leave. We wish to thank Mrs. Cafferty for all of her hard work during her time here and wish her all the best for the future.

## Covid Update

We are currently awaiting an announcement from the Government in relation to changes in Covid-19 restrictions in place in schools. If/when there are any changes these will be communicated with parents.

Covid-19 restrictions have eased substantially in the community and it is great to see this positive step in moving towards the end of the pandemic (hopefully). **In schools however we are still operating under the same guidelines and restrictions as we previously had been.**

If your child has symptoms of Covid-19 or is sent home from school with suspected symptoms of Covid-19, please follow the advice below.

- If your child has symptoms of Covid-19 they need to do antigen tests.
- You can book antigen tests online from the HSE between 8am and 8pm, 7 days a week.
- You can book antigen tests through the following link: <https://www.hse.ie/antigentesting/>
- Your child will need to do 3 antigen tests 3 days in a row.
- If any of the antigen tests are positive you need to inform the school.
- Your child can return to school if they have had 3 negative antigen tests and have been symptom free for 48 hours.
- Follow this advice even if you had your first round of COVID-19 vaccines, a booster, or a positive PCR test in the past 3 months.

## Messages for teachers and collecting children

The best way to get in touch with teachers is through our school office. Please email Shelly at [schdarver.ias@gmail.com](mailto:schdarver.ias@gmail.com) or call us on 042-9379280. The school office is monitored from 9.30-12.30 Monday-Friday. If you call outside of these times please leave a message on the voicemail and we will get back to you as soon as possible, bearing in mind this may be the next working day.

Messages for teachers about collection of children/appointments are best sent to the school email ([schdarver.ias@gmail.com](mailto:schdarver.ias@gmail.com)). Teacher's school email addresses are not always monitored and messages can be missed if sent to these.

We have specific procedures in place for collecting children during the school day and for dropping off forgotten items. This allows for the smooth running of classrooms and fewer disruptions to teaching and learning.

If collecting children during the school day please knock on the window/external door of the classroom and wait outside for the teacher to release the child to you. Please do not enter the school building when collecting a child during the school day. If grandparents/minders/relatives are collecting children during the school day we would greatly appreciate it if they were familiar with these procedures also. If dropping off a forgotten item please knock on the window/external door of the classroom and leave the item on the windowsill/ground. If parents/guardians wish to speak to a teacher about a specific matter they can make an appointment through Shelly in the office. Many thanks for your cooperation in these matters.

## School Calendar 2022/2023

We are currently in the process of finalising our school calendar for the year 2022/2023. When it has been finalised we will share it with parents/guardians and it will also be available on the school website.

### **School Photographs**

Please note that school photographs will take place on Wednesday 9th March in the school.

### **Fire Drill**

We held our second fire drill of this school year on 1st February. All children were absolutely excellent in remembering the procedures/steps involved and did extremely well on the day.

### **Swimming**

Our 3rd & 4th and 5th & 6th classes began swimming lessons in Aura in Dundalk on Thursday 27th January. They are really enjoying the lessons and the opportunity to learn this vital skill. Swimming is part of the P.E curriculum and we are delighted to be able to offer this opportunity to children again. Lessons will run every Thursday up until 7th April.

### **Mobile Music School**

The Mobile Music school returned to the school for 6 weeks after Christmas and finished up on Friday 11th February. The children thoroughly enjoyed the classes with Karen as they developed their understanding of the core elements of music. Children took part in a musical performance on the final day of the workshop and Karen is currently putting together a video of this. When we receive it we will share it with parents and guardians.

### **Catholic Schools Week**

Catholic Schools week took place on 24th-28th January. We focused on the main theme of "Living Life to the Full Together". All children filled a template of a person with all of the things they like to do with family and friends. Older classes wrote acrostic poems with the word "TOGETHER". All classes took part in a mass for Grandparents on Wednesday 25th January via webcam. 1st and 2nd classes went over to the church to participate in the mass with Ms. Watters and Fr. McEnroe. The Covid-19 pandemic brought so many changes and challenges to our lives. Together, as a community that is kind and cares for each other, we look forward to the future with hope and the joy of resurrection.



## Junior & Senior Infants

Our big book in January was 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Browne. We had great fun sequencing Handa's journey to show what animals she met along the way. We had a story sack during play that included character masks and puppets to help us act out the story. We loved tasting and painting the seven delicious fruits! We even wrote our own version of the story each taking our own part to write and illustrate.



We have been covering the gymnastics strand in P.E. Last week, we put on a virtual gymnastics display. Children created and performed gymnastics sequences in pairs, and videos of the show were sent to parents. We learned lots of different travels, jumps, rolls and balances. We also learned how to use equipment such as mats, balance beams and a vaulting box.



## First & Second Class

Second class are very busy preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation which will take place on Thursday March 3rd during the school day. It will be recorded and available to watch on: <https://churchmedia.tv/st-michaels-church-parish-darver-castlebellingham>. Both Fr Pat and Ms Watters would encourage all families to tune in and pray with their child on the lead up during this special time.



We got to use the ipads as part of our research for our Chinese new year projects. This was very exciting as we got to work on the ipads to gather some research for the project. We were learning all about the different animals that represent each of the years.



We made St Brigid's day crosses in school to celebrate the feast of St Brigid. Thank you to Aine Ward in 2nd class for bringing in enough rushes for the class to make them.



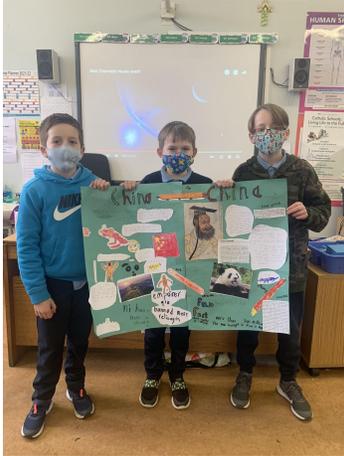
We were composing our own musical pieces based on the carnival of the animals.



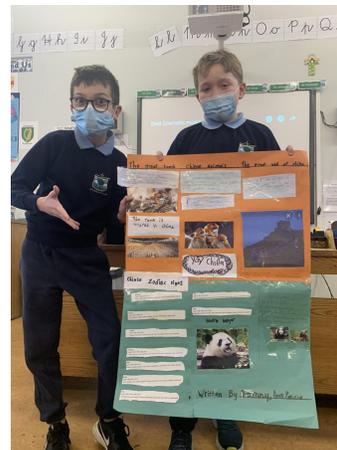
In maths we were learning all about 3D shapes and their properties. We got to carry out a 3D hunt around the school.



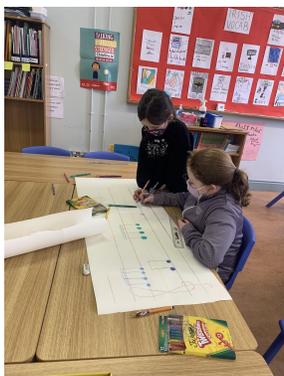
## 3rd and 4th class



We studied the topic of China in SESE and we created projects on various aspects of China such as food, animals, the Chinese zodiac, currency, the great emperor Qin and much more. They put such hard work into researching, creating and presenting these projects over two weeks.



We have been doing mobile music workshops with Karen which we really enjoyed!



We have been doing the topic of length in Mathematics. The children enjoyed measuring things around the school in centimetres and metres while also learning to convert, add and subtract units of length.



We are so lucky to have our baker extraordinaire Adam who has been busy in the kitchen making chocolate chip cookies, brownies and butterfly buns!!



## 5th and 6th class

This month the children have been working on developing their knowledge of 'The Writing Process' through the 'narrative' genre . They've been learning to develop character profiles and describe a setting and atmosphere. They are also learning to proof-read and edit their work.

In art this month the children were experimenting with 'Print'.



To celebrate St.Brigid's Day, the children had a chance to make a St.Brigid's cross. Thank you to Emily O'Donoghue for providing us with rushes and also to Dáire Callan's nanny who kindly sent in some blessed St.Brigid's crosses.





Travelling and balancing in Gymnastics

The children are also delighted to be back Swimming.



In maths the children studied 2D shapes. They combined 2D shapes to construct some interesting 3D structures.





During our music workshops the children have had great fun constructing their own staves and composing their own rhythms. They've also been exploring body percussion while listening and responding to Beethoven's 5th Symphony.



