

DARVER N.S / SCOIL DAIRBHRE

Ní Buaidh Go Dlí Eolas

Imlitir 1 2023/2024 (Newsletter 1)

Samhain (November)

School Roll No: 17315T

Principal: Emily Scully

Deputy Principal: Jane O'Hare

Welcome

Welcome to our first school newsletter of the school year 2023/2024. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep parents/guardians informed about school matters and various activities that happen here at Scoil Dairbhre.

The newsletters will be shared with parents via email 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).

Important Dates to note:

- Sunday 26th November - Christmas Craft Fair in Community Centre
- Monday 27th - Wednesday 29th November - Book Fair in Community Centre
- Wednesday 13th December at 7pm - Christmas Nativity Celebration in St. Michael's Church, Darver
- Friday 15th December - School Closed for Curriculum Training
- Friday 22nd December - school closes at 12.30pm for Christmas Holidays
- Monday 8th January 2024 - school reopens after the Christmas Holidays
- Monday 5th February - school closed for Bank Holiday
- Thursday 16th & Friday 17th February - school closed for mid term break.
- **Please click below to access our school calendar for 2023/2024**
[Darver-NS-School-Calendar-2023-24.pdf \(darverns.ie\)](https://darverns.ie/Darver-NS-School-Calendar-2023-24.pdf)

School Self Evaluation (SSE)

We have been working hard in the area of School Self Evaluation. Our chosen area of focus is “Wellbeing in Education” and data collection is now complete. This has involved staff, parent and pupil input to identify target areas of focus over the next 3 years. You will read some updates below in relation to some changes which we have already implemented. A summary School Self Evaluation Report and Plan will be shared with parents later this month via email and the school website.

Donations to support our Wellbeing Initiative (SSE)



I would like to extend a big thank you to Councillor Dolores Mingoue (Fine Gael) for her very generous donation of €600 towards our Wellbeing Initiative. This has gone directly towards paying for our new Welcome to Wellbeing and Weaving Wellbeing Programmes in the school.



I would also like to extend a big thank you to Councillor John Sheridan (Fianna Fáil) for his very generous donation of €350 towards our Wellbeing Initiative. This will go directly towards paying for specialist speakers for each class, as part of the Heritage in Schools Scheme ([Heritage in Schools Scheme | The Heritage Council](#)).

Welcome to Wellbeing and Weaving Wellbeing (SSE)

We have introduced new Wellbeing Programmes throughout the school. Infants to 2nd Class are using the “Welcome to Wellbeing Programme” and 3rd to 6th Class are using the “Weaving Wellbeing Programme”. Both programmes work to introduce the language of wellbeing, develop emotional awareness and emotional regulation skills which help to build resilience and coping strategies, develop awareness of their own strengths, develop helpful self-talk, develop social competence, self-compassion and self-worth. An overview of the programmes can be viewed through the link below: [Overview of Wellbeing Programmes](#)

Literacy Stations 1st/2nd Class - Parent Volunteers (SSE)

Literacy Stations started in 1st/2nd class last week and are proving to be a very positive initiative. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents that volunteered to help out with the reading station. Parent volunteering is something that was very successful in my previous school so I am very pleased to see that this addition has been so positively received by staff, parents and pupils alike. It is so important for children to see parents involved in education and working in partnership with school staff. We look forward to continuing with this.

Grandparents Day (SSE)

Grandparent's Day will return this year on Thursday 1st February 2024. We are looking forward to welcoming grandparents into the school to take part in lots of different activities. More information will follow closer to the time.

Class Communication Tools (SSE)

Each class teacher is now communicating with parents through their chosen communication tool. These include a class Facebook page, Class Dojo and Class Padlet. Teachers will be using these methods of communication to share the wonderful work that the children are doing with parents and as a result there will no longer be class sections in our Newsletters going forward.

Gaeilge Neamhfhoirmiúil

We have continued our work this year to improve our use of "Gaeilge Neamhfhoirmiúil" (informal Irish) throughout the school. The themes that have been covered so far have been Mé Féin, An Scoil, Bia agus Oíche Shamhna. This year we have introduced "Comhrá Ranga" which involves classes working together to practise their "frásaí na míosa" together. 5th and 6th class are working with 3rd and 4th class and infants are working with 1st and 2nd class. We have already noticed an improvement in the children's level of confidence when speaking Gaeilge and their willingness to give it a go has greatly improved! Maith sibh a pháistí!

Each month at Assembly a "Gaelgeoir na Míosa" award is presented to a pupil who the staff feel has gone above and beyond to use their Gaeilge Neamhfhoirmiúil. We have had one "Gaelgeoir na Míosa" so far this year. She has made a huge effort to use her Gaeilge throughout the day and to make conversations with the teachers on the yard and school corridors. Comhghairdeas leat a pháiste!



Gaeilge do thuismitheoirí

Below you will find Déan Comhrá 'Cúpla Focal' for Parents and Guardians. This booklet contains lots of useful phrases and vocabulary for parents across many different themes which would be relevant to daily life - we hope you find it useful!

<https://gaeloideachas.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/A5-booklet-11.pdf>

School Uniform

The school uniform standard remains very high this year - many thanks to all parents for this. We want to continue with the high standard of school uniforms throughout the year. Please see below for a list of items included in our school uniform:

- **Navy** jumper with school crest
- Pale blue collared t-shirt or shirt - with or without school crest
- **Navy** skirt/pinafore/trousers/tracksuit bottoms
- **Navy** shorts in warmer months

The following are not included in our school uniform:

- Branded items of clothing - clothes should not have logos such as adidas, nike etc.
- Hoodies
- Jumpers/skirts/pinafores/trousers/bottoms/shorts that are not navy

In the colder winter months children may wish to bring an extra fleece/zip top into school to wear in the classroom over their uniform. If doing so please ensure that this top is navy in colour. This extra top should be in addition to a coat. Coats are not suitable for inside wear due to their bulky nature.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation

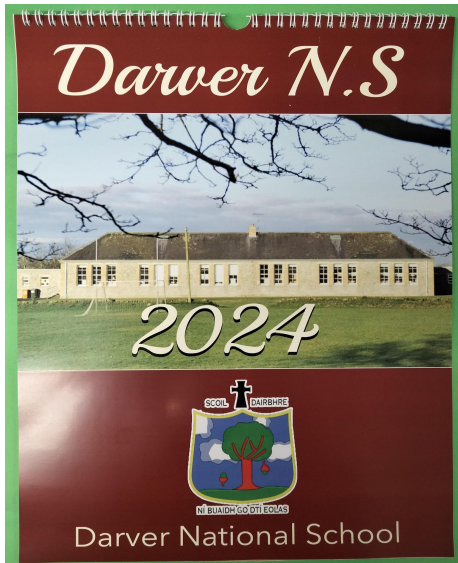
Confirmation will take place on **Friday 15th March at 11am** in **St. Peter's Church, Dromiskin**. The school will remain open on this day. Pupils from 3rd-5th will be performing in the choir on the day. More details will follow closer to the time.

First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 11th May at 11am** in **St. Michael's Church, Darver.**

Darver NS Parents' Association Halloween Party

The Parents' Association held their annual Halloween Party on Wednesday 25th October and it raised an impressive €551.80! Many thanks to the PA for all of their hard work in organising a very fun party for all who attended and a big thank you to all of the parents who supported our first fundraiser of the year. Funds raised went directly towards funding the school calendars for this year.

School Calendars



This year School Calendars were gifted to each family in the school as a token of appreciation for all of their support for the Parents' Association and school fundraisers.

A small number of School Calendars are available to buy from the school office for a price of €10 per calendar. There is a very limited number of calendars left so if you wish to purchase we would advise doing so soon. Many thanks to the Parents' Association for organising the photographs and printing of the calendars.

Many thanks for reading our Newsletter. Our next Newsletter will be released in Term 2 (January - March).

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Emily Scully

Principal, Scoil Dairbhre