



School Newsletter May 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This term is always one of the busiest, but with the weather improving also one of the most enjoyable.

Please take a close look at the many important upcoming events over the next few weeks...

Standardised Testing:

Standardised testing will take place this week between Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th of May, and also between Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th of June. Please try to ensure your child is in school on these dates as there is no guarantee that testing can be carried out with absent pupils at other times.

Active Week:

This year's Active week will take place from Monday 29th to Thursday 1st June. Pupils will need to wear their school tracksuit daily as there will be sporting activities each day. We would like to thank Confey GAA, Liffey Bank FC, Barnhall Rugby club and Liffey Celtic basketball club for offering to provide activities to our pupils during the week. Classes will be also involved in other activities, including a 'School Sports Day' on Monday 29th May, hula-hooping classes and a visit from a Circus performer.

Other Items in the School Calendar:

On Friday 2nd June the school will be closed to pupils, in conjunction with the Junior School, in order to facilitate In-Service training for staff on the Primary Curriculum as sanctioned by the Department.

School will also be closed on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th June for the June Bank Holiday.

Our 6th class Graduation will take place on Wednesday 28th June. Details will follow nearer the time.

On Friday June 30th at 12:30, the school will close for the Summer Holidays.

School Tours:

On Tuesday 30th May, 5ths will be going to the 'Let's Go' Activity Camp in DCU.

On Friday 16th June, 6ths will go to Baltinglass Activity Centre.

On Tuesday 20th June, 3rds will go to 'Zip-It' in Tibbradden.

On Friday 23rd June, 4ths will go to Causey Farm and Bog.

Student Council:

Well done to our Student Council for organising the very successful 'Terrific Thursday' fundraiser. Over 600 euro was raised to donate to GOAL for those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. They also over-saw the collection of pre-loved sports shoes for the 'In My Shoes' charity in aid of children in South African townships.

Parents' Association:

Thank you to the Parents' Association for organising the School Disco for pupils on Friday last. Also we say many thanks to the members of the committee for organising the 6th class hoodies which may now be worn by our 6th class pupils as part of their uniform.

The Parents' Association are always looking for volunteers to help out at events for the pupils. Please consider getting in touch with them if you think you can help out - even with one or two events.

Online Safety:

This continues to be a topic of real concern.

It is so important that parents/guardians inform themselves of their children's online activity. Please continue to talk with and listen to your children about their online experience.

We remind parents that the school has a FREE course open to PARENTS with Cyberschools.ie, until the end of this school year, as part of our initiative to tackle the issue of online safety. It can be accessed through our school website www.scoilsancarlo.ie or by clicking this link: <https://portal.cyberschooldirect.ie/> where you will need to create a new account. The free course requires a key code which, for our school, is **Parents-19875V**.

Other suggestions for parents are available at www.webwise.ie and on www.cybersafekids.ie

Uniform:

As you are aware, following representations from our pupils, last term our Student Council surveyed pupils, parents/guardians and staff about the school uniform. The result was an overwhelming wish to make the school tracksuit the default uniform of the school.

The Board of Management is happy to support the result of the survey.

However, as mentioned before, the changes to be made are NOT immediate; but will be introduced over the next few years.

From the start of the next school year (September 2023), the formal uniform will begin to be phased out in favour of the school tracksuit, which will eventually become the default uniform of the school.

Please note- It is absolutely the choice of parents to decide if and when their child wears the formal uniform or the tracksuit next school year. The formal uniform will no longer be stocked by our supplier 'Bernard Owens', but second-hand stock is available through our Parents' Association and generic (supermarket/store-bought) jumpers and cardigans are always acceptable.

Bernard Owens will be stocking the school tracksuit.

In order to keep costs down, generic navy (**non-branded**) tops and bottoms and white polo shirts continue to be acceptable and we will have an 'iron-on' school crest available for purchase in the school office from September.

In the new school year, we will be sourcing sets of Confirmation robes for pupils receiving the Sacrament in 2024.

A new uniform policy will issue in the new school year.

Contact Details:

Please keep the school informed of any changes in contact details that may occur in order to ensure that we can contact you without delay in an emergency situation.

Absences:

All schools are mandated to send a 'return' to the National Education Welfare Board for pupils who reach 20 absences in a school year. There is no allowance made by the NEWB on this number of days in regard to the type of absence. If a child is not at school, they must be recorded as absent. If absences are explained via Aladdin, letter, email, phone-call by parents/guardians, they are recorded as explained in the report.

Website:

Please do consider visiting our school website www.scoilsancarlo.ie for school information and news of activities.

Le gach dea ghuí

Clare Mac Hugh
Principal