



## Newsletter April 09<sup>th</sup> 2024



### Dates to Remember term 3

<u>April 12<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Confirmation 3pm</u>
<u>April 18<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>First Confession at 11:30am</u>
<u>April 30<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Sixth class history tour to Galway City</u>
<u>April 30<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Drumcondra spelling standardised test – 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> classes</u>
<u>May 1<sup>st</sup></u>	<u>Drumcondra spelling standardised test – 6<sup>th</sup> class</u>
<u>May 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>School closed (inclusive)</u>
<u>May 8<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>School closed – in school planning day Primary Maths Curriculum</u>
<u>May 14<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Drumcondra English standardised test – all classes</u>
<u>May 20<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>6<sup>th</sup> class transition to secondary school workshop</u>
<u>May 21<sup>st</sup></u>	<u>Drumcondra maths standardised test - all classes</u>
<u>May 24<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>First Communion at 11:00am</u>
<u>June 3<sup>rd</sup></u>	<u>Bank Holiday Monday</u>
<u>June 5<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>5<sup>th</sup> class school tour to Wildlands</u>
<u>June 11<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> class school tour to Turoe Pet Farm</u>
<u>June 11<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> classes school tour to Bunratty Castle</u>
<u>June 19<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>6<sup>th</sup> class school tour to Emerald Park</u>
<u>June 25<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>6<sup>th</sup> class Graduation (Provisional date)</u>
<u>June 25<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> class school tour to Lets Go, NUIG</u>
<u>June 27<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>School closes at 12pm for Summer holidays</u>

\*\*\*Staff meeting term 3 – Date and time TBC

## **Standardised Testing**

### **What is a standardised test?**

This test is used to measure a child's achievements in spellings, English reading and maths compared to other children throughout the country at the same class level or age level. The main purposes of using standardised tests are to help the teacher plan your child's learning and to inform you about how well your child is doing in spellings, English reading and maths.

Standardised tests are not intelligence tests.

### **When are standardised tests carried out?**

#### **The tests will be carried out on the following dates:**

April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Drumcondra spelling standardised test – 1 <sup>st</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> classes
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Drumcondra spelling standardised test – 6 <sup>th</sup> class
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Drumcondra English standardised test – all classes
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Drumcondra maths standardised test - all classes

\*\*\*\*If your child is absent for the test we are not in a position to guarantee administration of the test again. However, if resources allow towards the end of the year we may be able to test.

### **How will I know what the test scores mean?**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> class**

The English and maths standardised tests for first class that we use at this level are designed to be used as screening tests i.e. the primary purpose of these tests is to identify pupils who may be at risk of difficulties so that further assessment can be carried out and their needs addressed.

As such, they focus on the key concepts and skills at this level. They are not intended to capture the full range of mathematical achievement of any child. The outcome of the child's screening test at this level is presented in one of the following three 'descriptors' - criterion reached; approaching criterion; criterion not reached. These descriptors will be included in the school report in June.

The table below explains what each of these descriptors is intended to mean:

Criterion reached	Within or above the average range for pupils in first class in Ireland
Approaching criterion	In the low average range
Criterion not reached	Likely to be at risk of difficulties

The Drumcondra spelling test completed in first class will generate a STEN score ( see table below)

2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes

Your child's teacher will tell you how your child did in the test using a STEN (standard ten) score. This will be shared with parents in your child's school report in June.

STEN scores go from 1 to 10. The table below describes what the different STEN scores tell you about your child's achievement in spellings, English and maths.

<b>STEN score</b>	<b>What the score means</b>
8-10	Well above average
7	High average
5-6	Average
4	Low average
1-3	Well below average

**If my child's score is low, what does this tell me?**

A STEN score of 1, 2 or 3 suggests that your child may have difficulties in spellings, English reading or in maths.

**If my child's score is high, what does this tell me?**

A high score on the test may suggest that your child is a high achiever in spellings, English reading or maths.

As with other tests your child does in school, his result on a standardised test can be affected by how he feels on the test day or by worry or excitement about a home or school event. This means that each test result is an indication of your child's achievement in spellings, English reading and maths.

### **Anti Bullying review- 2024**

Our Anti Bully review took place at our recent BOM meeting. Please see notification of same attached.

### **Transitional Code of Behaviour**

Just a brief note to remind you of our current approach regarding our schools Code of Behaviour. Last year we formally began transitioning to a restorative approach when it comes to dealing with challenging behaviour.

This year we have continued our work in this area with external supports, as we learn and embed our practices.

Please see an overview attached of what Restorative Practice is and how we are currently embracing this approach as a whole school initiative.

All opinions, feedback is welcome.

### **Lotto Win**

Huge congratulation to Niamh Duignan who recently won our school lotto Jackpot.

We were thrilled to hear the exciting news over Easter.

Please join our school lotto to be in with a chance to win.

<https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/oranmoreboysns>





### Blast Art Programme

We are very fortunate to be part of the BLAST Art Programme again this year. Our artist is Órla Mc Govern, who is working with 1st class for the next two weeks. The classes will be learning through story-telling, improvisation, and creative writing.

BLAST aims to provide pupils in schools all over the country, time and the space to work with a professional artist/creative practitioner on imaginative and joyful projects. BLAST is a key Department of Education initiative of the Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027 which aims to foster creativity in schools focus and to provide young people with opportunities to learn and develop the key skills and competencies of collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation.



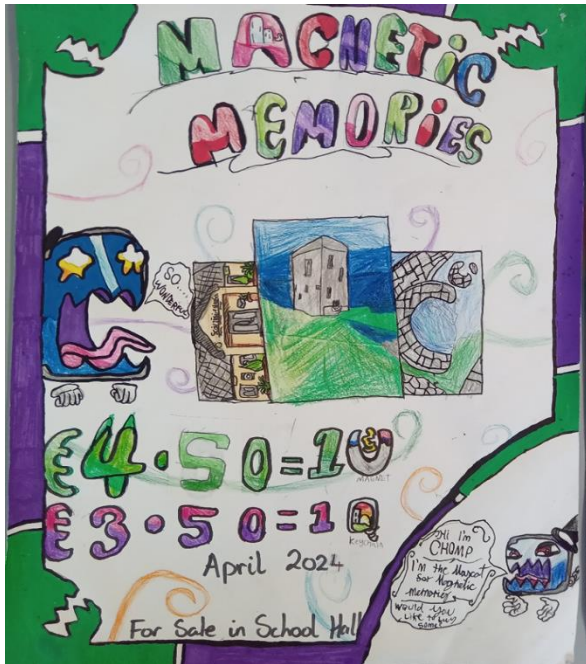
Congratulations to all 6<sup>th</sup> class who are making the Sacrament of Confirmation this Friday at 3pm. We wish the boys and their families a very special day.

### Magnetic Memories - A glowing success for Oranmore Junior Entrepreneurs!

In just four months, Ms. Tierney's fifth-class pupils created a business from scratch. The sales team will be visiting every classroom this week to showcase the Magnets and Keyrings. The boys will return to each classroom on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April where your son will be able to make a purchase.

Please encourage your son to purchase a magnet for €4.50 or a keyring for €3.50

They are a lovely gift for a friend or family member!



### Hot Lunches.

We are delighted with our Hot Lunch programme to date. Feedback from children is very good. If you have any feedback you'd like to share we'd be delighted to hear from you and pass on to the providing coming.



Pupils from Rang a 4 enjoying their nutritious hot lunch.