

Danu CSS Newsletter

December 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS/ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ♦ 2.2.26: School Closure
- ♦ 3.2.26: School Closure for Students for OIDE training for Teachers on Senior & Junior Cycle
- ♦ 9.2.26: School Closure for Students for NCSE training for Teachers on Primary Curriculum
- ♦ 12.2.26: Open Night for Modular & Parents Association Meeting for Nominations
- ♦ 19.2.26 & 20.2.26: School Closed for Mid-Term Break
- ♦ 25.2.26: BOM Meeting at 5pm in Danu CSS

A special Thank you to Santa

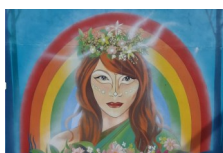
A very big thank you to Santa for taking the time to visit the children at Danu CSS. The visit brought so much joy, excitement and magic to everyone, and it was truly wonderful to see the smiles, laughter and amazement on the children's faces. Santa was so kind and patient with all our pupils, helping to make the experience positive, calm and memorable for everyone. It was a very special day that the children and staff will remember for a long time. Thank you, Santa, for making Christmas at Danu CSS extra special



Special Mention



We would like to sincerely thank Marzena for her many years of dedicated service to Danu CSS. Her kindness, commitment and care for our pupils and school community have made a lasting impact and will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. As Marzena begins an exciting new chapter and returns to Poland, we wish her every happiness and success for the future. Thank you, Marzena, for everything — you will always be part of the Danu CSS family



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Message from Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Best wishes for the New Year 2026 to all our students, families, staff, and stakeholders. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous Christmas Sing A Long production on 17.12.25. It was our best performance to date, and I wish to thank our teacher Elaine who organized this, the staff and our wonderful students for their participation and engagement with this event.

I am delighted to announce that our teacher Darragh, has been appointed as an Assistant Principal. Part of his role is the Newsletter. Best of luck Darragh!

Thank you to our new Parents for meeting with their class teachers regarding their child's IEP during January 2026. To keep in line with NCSE requirements we will now move towards a Student Support Plan (SSP) for this year. The SSP contains student information and IEP targets. We are rolling out Studio 3 training for all our Parents during Term 2. We hope that all parents will engage with this opportunity.

On 12th February 2026 from 7pm to 8pm we would like to have an Open Night for Parents and Stakeholders to see the new Modular Building. In addition, the Parents Association are asking:

All parents who are interested or willing to be active members of the Parents Association (PA) to please come along to the Open Night on Thursday 12th February @7pm. We require a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer to be appointed on the night. Anyone who is currently an active member is of course invited to express your interest to remain. The PA should meet on a monthly basis (or more frequently if and when required) and be a support to the school as well as all Danu parents. An active PA will help develop the Danu CSS community through fundraising and supporting initiatives within the school and the wider community.

Enjoy the Newsletter. Kindest Regards, Pat

Quote of the Month

'The genius of communication is the ability to be totally honest and totally kind at the same time.' John Powell.

Parent Association

We, the school, are always looking for help, support and guidance from our parents. A great way to do that is for you, the parents, to get involved with the Parents Association. Whether it's ideas on school life, fundraising, ways to celebrate different cultures or just an outlet to spend time with like minded parents, then the PA is a great way to do that. You can contact the PA directly by email, danucsspa@gmail.com.

Willow Class News

"Class Willow had a very busy and exciting month exploring our winter celebrations theme. We all enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit by taking part in the school Christmas concert, which was a great experience for all the children. We were out and about on lots of trips, including a walk in the Phoenix Park, where we explored the visitors centre and stopped by the playground. We went on our Christmas trip to ship-shape, which was lots of fun. We kept ourselves busy in class with cooking pizzas, making some lovely winter and Christmas art, and practicing everyday life skills on our trip to the shop, which the boys in Class Willow look forward to each week. It was a great way to finish up the year and a really positive end to a busy term. We're excited to return in the new year and start another fun and busy year together! - Orla"



Primrose Class News

This month has been very special in the Primrose class. We have been working so hard and enjoying our learning together!

We continued focusing on letters, practicing how to form them correctly and developing good writing habits. We are using the Writing Without Tears program, which helps make handwriting fun, structured, and engaging.

We have also been busy with numbers, working with Numicon to count, sort, compare quantities, and begin to understand mathematical concepts in a concrete and visual way.

December also brought lots of hands-on experiences: we spent time cooking in the classroom and even built our own gingerbread houses! This activity wasn't only fun, it also helped us practice fine-motor skills, cooperation, and following step-by-step directions. Santa also came to visit our classroom this Christmas, which was very exciting for the children. We also had an "Elf on the Shelf" who appeared every day and loved to get into a little mischief! The students enjoyed looking for the elf each morning and discovering what he had done.

Finally, we have also enjoyed many wonderful story times together. The children helped choose the books, which made them feel involved and interested. We are seeing great engagement, they look closely at the pictures, follow along with the story, and show lots of enthusiasm. Story time has truly become something they look forward to each day. It has been a month full of learning, laughter, and wonderful achievements. We are so proud of everything the children have accomplished!



Daisy Class News

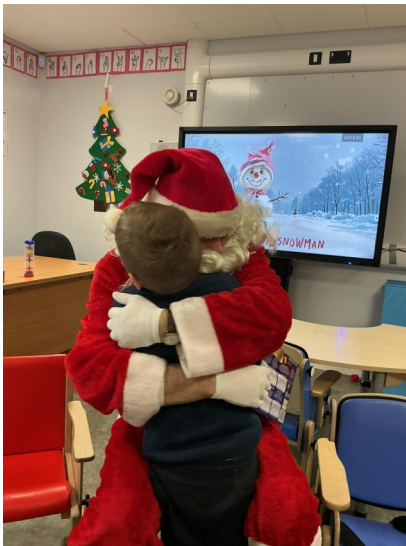
December has been a very special month in our classroom, full of excitement, music, and Christmas magic.

We spent time practising our Christmas performance, singing carols together and enjoying the joy that music brings to our group. The children were full of enthusiasm and really loved sharing these moments with their friends.

We also celebrated our Christmas lunch at school, which was a lovely opportunity to enjoy a festive moment together. One of the highlights of the month was Santa's visit! The children were thrilled, and each of them received a Christmas card with photos from the visit, which they could take home. The photos are also displayed in the classroom so we can revisit that special day anytime.

Throughout the month, the children worked on language skills, listening and attention, social interaction, and self expression, all within a warm and joyful Christmas atmosphere.

It has been a month full of wonder and beautiful memories. Thank you for sharing this special time with us.



Birch Class News

Class Birch had a very exciting and busy month in December as the boys awaited a very special visitor at the end of the month. The boys were busy practicing their line for the Christmas performance which they did a great job at. Christmas was the theme of the month and the boys enjoyed making Christmas decorations for their classrooms. We celebrated Adam's 17th Birthday this month. He shared his lovely caterpillar cake with his friends. Class Birch were delighted to meet Santa when he arrived to see them. They enjoyed the selection boxes he left for them. Class Birch would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

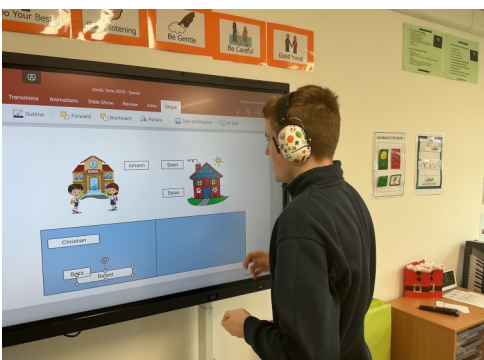
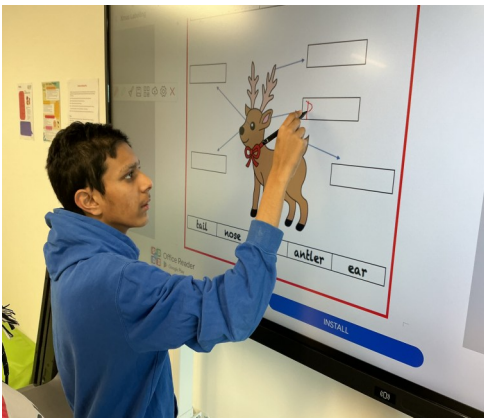


Juniper Class News

December was a joyful and busy month in Juniper class as we explored the theme of Winter Celebrations. The students learned about different ways people celebrate during the winter season, with a special focus on Christmas traditions. Through stories, crafts, music, and sensory activities, we worked on communication, social interaction, and turn taking while enjoying the festive atmosphere.

A highlight of the month was our Christmas Concert, which was a wonderful success. We are incredibly proud of all our students for their efforts, with special mention to Christian and Rafael especially who had individual performance parts in the concert. They worked hard to practise their roles and showed great confidence and determination on the day. Participating in the concert provided valuable opportunities to build self esteem, follow routines, and celebrate achievements in a supportive environment.

It was lovely to see students enjoying the season together and sharing in the excitement of this special time of year. We look forward to what 2026 has to offer. Happy New Year everyone!

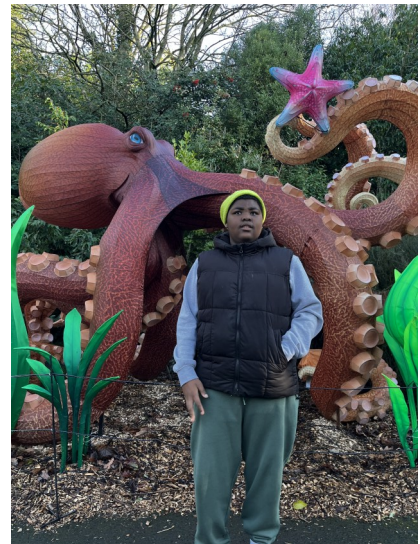


Apple Orchard, Harvest and Blossom News

December was a month full of magic, enjoyment and excitement. The students in Apple were delighted it was Christmas time and were especially excited to see Santa. Some students visited Santa in his grotto, while others were thrilled to see him visiting the school.

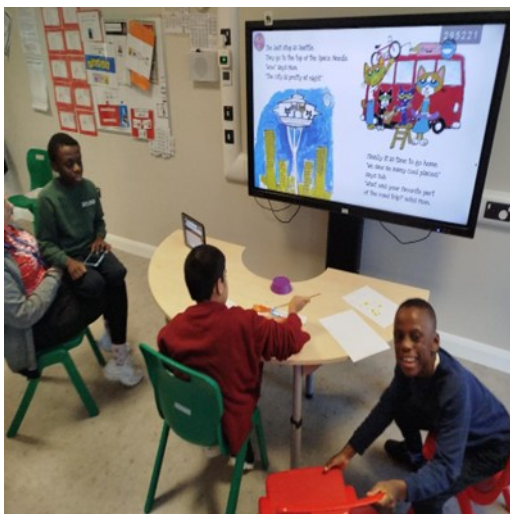
The students worked extremely hard in preparation for the whole-school Christmas performance. Some students learned to play Christmas songs on the keyboard, while others practised singing and performing, showing great enthusiasm and commitment.

To support the PLU Being Part of the Community (4.23 Move/remain near a carer/guardian when in unfamiliar places), the students enjoyed a visit to Dublin Zoo. They explored the animals and experienced the Zoo Lights, providing a wonderful sensory experience while also practising safety skills within the community.



Apple seed News

December was a very enjoyable month in Apple Seed. We listened to the story "The Gruffalo" by Julia Donaldson and took part in lots of activities such as baking cookies and dancing to our favourite song "Santa clause is coming to town". Students enjoyed a wide range of Christmas arts and crafts, and practiced our Lámh signs for our Christmas songs. We also enjoyed a special visit from Santa to Apple Seed and shared a Christmas lunch with dessert, which was a highlight for everyone. The class had great fun playing games and listening to sensory music, creating a warm and festive atmosphere throughout the month. We were delighted to welcome a new student to Apple Seed, who settled in very well and quickly became part of the class. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas celebrations, making it a positive and happy end to the term for all in Apple Seed.



Ash Class News

Ash Class have been very busy in the lead-up to Christmas and have enjoyed taking part in lots of festive learning and fun. The children have been working hard on learning Christmas songs using Lámh, and it has been wonderful to see how confidently they used signs, actions and sounds to join in. Lámh supported all pupils to communicate, participate and enjoy the music in a way that suited their individual needs.

The children also took part in the school Christmas show, which was carefully structured to support our SEN learners. The show followed a clear and predictable routine, helping pupils feel calm and confident. Each class had their own special part, with short segments that included songs, actions, visuals and sensory elements. This allowed every child to participate in a meaningful way and experience success.

Ash Class showed great enthusiasm and pride throughout the rehearsals. It was a lovely celebration of the children's achievements, teamwork and communication skills. Well done to all the pupils for their fantastic effort, and thank you to the staff and families for their continued support during this special time of year.



Hawthorn Class News

This month in Class Hawthorn, our theme was Being Part of the Community, aligning with the Senior PLU focus on Communication and Social Skills. Students learned about the importance of belonging, participation, and building positive relationships within their community.

In Curriculum area (communication, Language & Literacy), students worked on responding consistently to familiar people through greetings, short conversations, and shared activities. They practiced using verbal and non-verbal communication to express their needs, make choices, and engage meaningfully with staff and classmates.

In curriculum area (Being part of the community), students explored different roles within the school and local community. They took part in group tasks, practiced turn-taking, and learned about helping others. Through visits around the school and collaborative activities, students developed greater confidence and independence in interacting with people they know.

It has been a wonderful month in Class Hawthorn. The students have shown great progress in their communication, confidence, and teamwork. We are so proud of their efforts and the sense of community they continue to build each day.

We wish everyone a joyful Christmas and look forward to continuing our learning journey together in the New Year!



Oak Class News

This month in Class Oak, our theme was Winter Celebrations, with a strong focus on Christmas. Students learned about the origins and meaning of Christmas and enjoyed creating festive winter artwork.

In PLU Communication, Language & Literacy, students worked consistently responding to familiar factual questions. They practiced identifying how they were feeling using emotion symbols and communicating their activity choices during free-choice time. In PLU Numeracy, students engaged with ordering and sequencing as part of daily routines by creating visual schedules each day. They also worked with Numicon, matching numbers 1-10 and using the pieces to create patterns and pictures.

We had a very fun month, including celebrating Adam's 17th birthday with a party, cake, and sweets. Students also took part in the Christmas Performance, practicing their Lamh songs daily and performing wonderfully for their families. It was lovely to see so many parents attend. We were also excited to welcome a special visitor from the North Pole, and students enjoyed meeting Santa, sharing their Christmas wishes, and having Christmas dinner together as a whole school.

December was a busy and exciting month in Class Oak. The students worked extremely hard and earned a well-deserved break. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.



Home Economics Post Primary

" This month in cooking we have been developing our skills in our new cooking room. We have been working with puff pastry and learning about what we can make with it, both sweet and savoury. We have been learning how to cut foods such as fruit for our fruit smoothies and potatoes for our homemade chips ! Students have been learning how to safely use the airfryer and developing their skills taking things in and out. We have also been discovering how to use the airfryer and what the different functions do."



Fundraising

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Síle and Fiona for collecting an incredible €200 from the Danu CSS buckets in the Clonsilla Inn. This generous donation was used to purchase a Smyths voucher, which enabled Daisy and Primrose classes to buy new playground equipment for the school yard, greatly enhancing outdoor play for our pupils.

A heartfelt thank you to Garda Chris, who kindly directed St. Vincent de Paul to our school at Christmas time. Through their generosity, families received food hampers, Lidl vouchers, and shoebox gifts, which were greatly appreciated by our school community.

We would also like to thank St. Vincent de Paul and Lorna for their continued support and generous donation to our new Morning Breakfast Club, providing cereals, sugar, and milk to help our pupils start their day in a positive way.

Many thanks to our wonderful Parents' Association for their generous purchases for the new modular building, including a shed, two trampolines, a sofa, three TVs, air fryers, microwaves, and toasters. A special thank you to Dominic Smith for providing these items at a fantastic discount.

We are very grateful to BCIL, who continue to support us by providing access to a wheelchair-accessible 6-seater minivan every Monday, allowing our classes to enjoy valuable outings within the community.

A huge thank you to Harshita Nersu, who very generously donated €930 from her voluntary work with IMB. This donation has been used to purchase sensory equipment and weighted blankets, supporting the wellbeing and regulation needs of our pupils.

Finally, thank you to Localise for kindly dropping in three Christmas hampers for the staffroom, a thoughtful and much-appreciated gesture for our staff.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued kindness, generosity and support shown to Danu CSS by our wider community. Your support truly makes a difference

Happy Holidays, Team Danu!

As we wrap up the year and head into the festive season, I want to take a moment to thank everyone for their hard work, teamwork, and dedication. May this holiday season bring you joy, peace, and time to relax with family and friends.

Here's to a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and continued success and happiness in the year ahead!

Warm wishes,
Team Danu