

Danu CSS Newsletter

For March & April 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS/ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

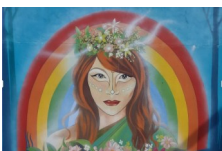
- 1.5.26 to 5.5.26: School Closed for May Bank Holiday.
- 11.5.26: Parent-Teacher IEP/SSP Review in Danu CSS 3pm- 4.45pm
- 13.5.26: School Closure for Students for NCSE training for Teachers on Primary Curriculum.
- 20.5.26: Next BOM Meeting at 5pm in Danu CSS
- 1.6.26 & 2.6.26: School Closed for June Bank Holiday.

A Special Celebration



We were delighted to mark the official opening of the new Solas Building at Danu, a milestone that represents growth, opportunity, and a strong commitment to our community. It was a fantastic day filled with positivity, connection, and pride in what has been achieved.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the occasion so special. Your support and presence truly made the day memorable, and we look forward to seeing the Solas Building become a vibrant and valued space for all in the years ahead.



Address: Danu Community Special School
Blanchardstown Road North, Dublin 15, D15P380
Phone: 01-8270755 E M A I L : school@danucss.ie



Message from Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Welcome to our Newsletter for March & April 2026. We have lots of fantastic news.

On Friday 6th March, Cian, Adam, Matthew and Malcolm were awarded their Junior Cycle Certification at Assembly 9.30am with their Parents and whole school community there to celebrate their achievements.

The Open Night for Parents and Stakeholders to see the new Modular Building on Thursday 26th March was a huge success and there was a wonderful turn out from many of our stakeholders including our Parents, Minister Jack Chambers and his local councillors, TD's Emer Currie and Roderic O Gorman, DDLETB CEO Cairtriona Murphy and DDLETB Director of Schools, Nichola Spokes, Danu CSS BOM Chairperson, Paul Mc Evoy, staff, past staff and family members. On the same evening, the new Parents Association (PA) was formed. We are delighted to announce that Alfie's mum Sarah was appointed Chairperson. Dylan's mum Fiona was appointed Treasurer.

We have wonderful news to announce: the CDNT clinic team to Danu CSS is going to increase to an additional three clinician posts for our next Academic School Year 26.27. This is super news as we continue to support our students, families and school staff.

We are delighted to welcome three new teachers for this term. Borja to class Daisy. Jessica to class Ash. Marianne to class Apple Seed for every Friday this term. In addition, we are delighted to offer Art Therapy by Ruth to six of our students on a Friday. Thank you to Elaine who organised Horse Riding taster for our students during March. Elaine has secured horse-riding session for our next school year due to the success of this. During the third term, Darragh and Ian have organised team sports for our students on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you to Fiona for organising St. Patrick's Day events, Anthony and Darragh for organising Easter events and to Marta for World Book Day.

Enjoy the Newsletter. Kindest Regards, Pat

Quote of the Month

'While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about. ~ Angela Schwindt

Parent Association

We, as a school, are always looking for help, support, and guidance from our parents. One great way to do this is by getting involved with the Parents Association (PA).

A new Parents Association committee was recently elected by parent vote on the evening of 26th March. We are delighted to announce that our new Chairperson is Sarah Nugent, parent of Alfie in Primrose Class, and our Treasurer is Fiona O'Donovan, parent of Dylan in Juniper Class.

We are still seeking a Vice Chairperson and Secretary to join the committee. Whether you have ideas about school life, fundraising, celebrating different cultures, or you're simply looking for an opportunity to spend time with like minded parents, the PA is a great way to get involved.

You can contact the Parents Association directly by email at danucsspa@gmail.com.

Daisy Class News

March and April have brought a wonderful change of pace to Daisy Class. With the sun finally coming out and the temperatures rising, the children have been noticeably more energized. This better weather has allowed us to spend much more time outdoors and in the playground, which has been great for them to run around and enjoy the fresh air after the winter.

The trip to the stables in March was a true highlight and an experience to remember. It was incredible to see the courage displayed by the students. Beyond the excitement, this activity was key to their physical and emotional development. Every child in Daisy Class succeeded in mounting and riding, which helped them work on their balance and coordination. More importantly, overcoming the nerves of handling a large animal helped their confidence and resilience, which are such important milestones at this age.

The classroom has been full of life with our recent celebrations. For St. Patrick's Day, the students had a great time dressed in orange and green for our parade. We also made green milkshakes together, which was a fun way to practice following instructions and see how different ingredients combine to change colour.

Later on, the visit from the Easter Bunny brought a lot of joy to the group. These moments are so valuable for them to have fun together and build positive relationships with their classmates through school traditions.

There is also some news regarding our classroom team. Borja has joined the class as a new teacher, which means the Daisy Class team is now bigger.

These past two months have been defined by growth and shared joy. From doing so well at the stables to enjoying our school parties, the students continue to reach their goals with plenty of enthusiasm. It is a pleasure to see them grow every day.

Daisy Class Photos



Primrose Class News

Over the months of March and April, our school has been filled with joy and celebration. We marked St. Patrick's Day with a wonderful whole-school party, where the children took part enthusiastically and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We also organized a lively in-school parade, bringing the spirit of the celebration right into our corridors. Alongside this, we celebrated Easter with a fun and engaging Easter Hunt that the children loved. Inspired by these festivities, students explored a wide range of creative activities, producing artwork connected to both St. Patrick's Day and Easter themes (Strand: Drawing/Painting and colour, Strand unit: Painting, looking and responding). As part of our Easter celebrations, the children also took part in a fun cooking activity. They made chocolate Rice Krispies nests, exploring how different materials can be combined and changed through simple processes such as melting and mixing (Strand: Materials and change, Strand unit: Materials).

We also had the opportunity to take part in a horse riding activity, where the pupils enjoyed a guided walk on horseback through the natural environment. (Strand: Outdoor and adventure activities, Strand unit: Walk).

We have also been working on developing early literacy skills through a focus on sound awareness (Understanding: Phonological and Phonemic Awareness), where pupils have been learning to recognize and distinguish different sounds within words. As part of this, they have also been engaging in activities that involve categorizing and classifying sounds (Exploring and using: Categorization), helping them to build a stronger foundation for reading and language development.

To conclude, we have also been placing a strong emphasis on group activities, where pupils have been working together and developing important social skills. In particular, we have been practicing turn-taking through a variety of collaborative tasks, helping the children to learn patience, respect for others, and how to participate actively and fairly within a group setting.

Primrose Class Photos



Willow Class News

During March and April, class Willow had a really busy and enjoyable time.

In March, our theme was Spring. We talked a lot about new life and the changes happening in nature, which led into learning about life cycles. In April, our theme was Animals, and we continued this learning by looking at the life cycle of chicks and butterflies. The children especially loved The Very Hungry Caterpillar and engaged really well with it.

We also took part in lots of activities outside the classroom. The children enjoyed swimming and horse riding, both of which were great experiences for them.

We had some lovely events too, including a visit from the Easter Bunny, which the children were very excited about, and a trip to a sensory show called Up in the Clouds that they really enjoyed.

Overall, it's been a fun and busy couple of months with lots of learning through play and new experiences.

Willow Class Photos



Apple Seed News

A warm welcome back to all our students and families as we begin another exciting term in Apple Seed. We are delighted to be back together and looking forward to the learning and fun ahead.

March and April have been busy and enjoyable months for our students across all areas of the curriculum. Our themes included St Patrick's Day, Easter, Spring, New Life, SPHE - Growing and Change, and Myself and the Wider World. We were also delighted to celebrate special occasions during March and World Book Day in April.

Students engaged in a variety of meaningful activities such as listening to the story "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" by Hoot and Tales, taking part in drama activities including We're Going on a Bear Hunt, and practicing movement skills during physical education through the "Under the Sea" workout video.

In PLU Communication, Language and Literacy, with a focus on reading, students continue to recognize and understand symbols, signs, and text through the See and Learn programme. This progress is evident in their daily communication using core vocabulary words, LÁMH signs, AAC device and Pecs.

In PLU Numeracy, students explored shape and space through hands-on sensory activities such as sorting Easter eggs, using shape sorter boxes, and taking part in Leprechaun shopping games. This shopping experience was enjoyable and memorable for all our students.

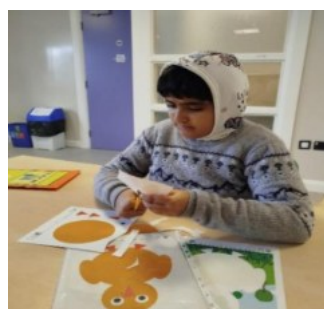
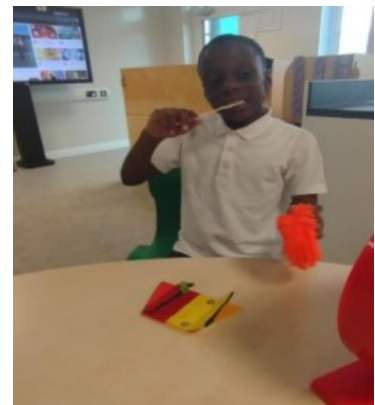
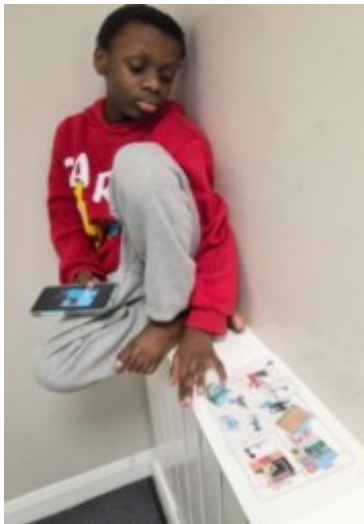
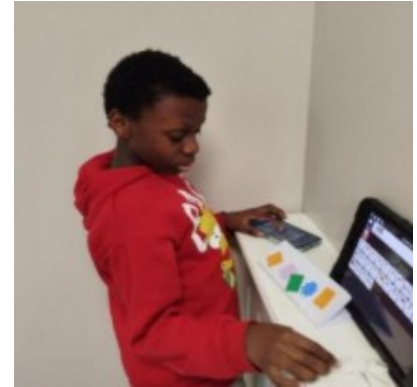
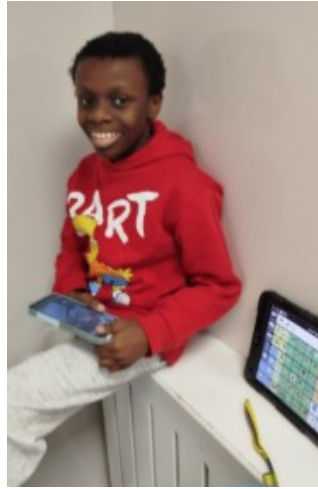
In PLU Personal Care and Wellbeing, under SPHE, Stay Safe, and RSE, students learned about personal safety and positive relationships. Activities included a Twinkl PowerPoint on being a good friend, identifying trusted adults, listening to the song "I'm Not Gonna Keep Your Secret", completing safety worksheets, exploring family harmony under Myself, and My Family, and developing fine motor skills through activities such as dressing teddy bears using snap, buttons and zips.

A highlight of March was our horse-riding trip as part of community learning. Students demonstrated independence by locating their coats, bags, and sensory items and showed increased confidence when transitioning between environments, including whole-school walks to the basketball court.

Apple Seed looks forward to what May brings.

See you next month. Thanks!

Apple Seed Photos



Apple Orchard, Harvest and Blossom News

March was a vibrant and engaging month in Apple Class, with students enthusiastically exploring the arts through a variety of activities and special events. As part of the Visual Arts strand Drawing and Painting, the class celebrated occasions such as St. Patrick's Day, Easter, and Mother's Day. Students demonstrated creativity and independence by drawing themed images including leprechauns, Easter bunnies, and chicks. They also engaged in hands-on activities such as painting flags, assembling and decorating chicks, and creating colourful rainbows. These activities provided valuable opportunities to develop an understanding of colour and its connection to seasonal and cultural events.

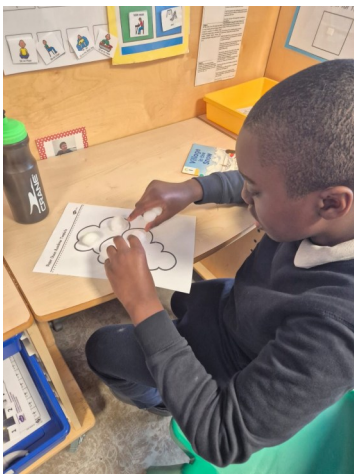
In Music, students explored the strand Composing, with a focus on the strand unit Improvising and Creating. During music sessions, they listened to a variety of sounds and began composing simple pieces using the keyboard, enhancing creativity and confidence in musical expression.

Following a two-week break, students returned to school settled, positive, and eager to re-engage with their learning. There was notable progress in literacy, particularly within the element 1.23: Seek meaning from combinations of signs, symbols, or text for enjoyment or practical purposes. Students began independently selecting books from the class library and showed great enthusiasm during reading time. It was especially encouraging to observe them bringing stories to life by mimicking animal sounds and engaging expressively with the text.

The students demonstrated increased engagement with their schoolwork, particularly in Mathematics through the strand of Shapes and Space. One student explored 3D shapes in a hands-on and meaningful way, while another showed creativity by constructing irregular shapes using cubes.

We are very pleased with the progress the students have made, especially in their ability to transition more smoothly between activities and to engage independently with their work. These developments reflect meaningful progress and are a testament to the students' growing confidence and engagement as we move into the final two months of the school year.

Apple Orchard, Harvest and Blossom Photos



Oak Class News

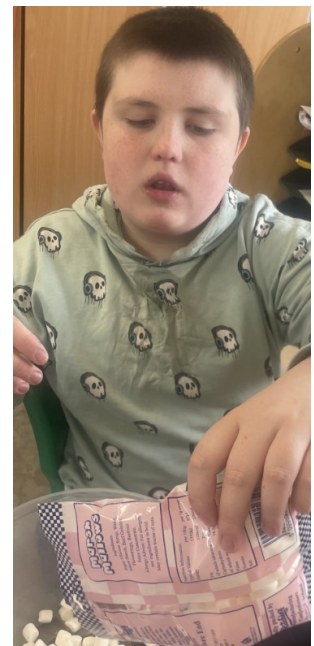
In Class Oak, we had a busy and enjoyable March and April. Our themes included St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, Easter, Spring, and New Life. Everyone in Oak Class loved preparing artwork for these special occasions. The class made Mother's Day cards for their mums, and all students enjoyed learning about St. Patrick.

In PLU Communication, Language & Literacy, our outcomes focused on recognising and understanding symbols, signs, logos, familiar words, letters, and visual representations. Students also worked on seeking meaning from combinations of signs, symbols, and texts for both enjoyment and practical purposes. To support these outcomes, students matched words to the correct pictures and demonstrated understanding by listening to or reading stories and answering questions about them.

In PLU Numeracy, the class explored the features and properties of 2D and 3D shapes, both regular and irregular, through a variety of sensory experiences. Students also participated in shopping activities where real money was used in a functional way. To achieve these outcomes, students explored shapes to create patterns and matched shapes to one another. They also practised matching money to the correct value. Each Friday, the class visits the shop to practise using money in real-life situations.

Some students in Oak Class had the opportunity to go horse riding, which they really enjoyed. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day and Easter. All students took part in a St. Patrick's Day parade, and everyone enjoyed a visit from the Easter Bunny, who brought Easter eggs for the class.

Oak Class Photos



Birch Class News

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our friend Adam who received his certificate for his Junior Cycle. We are very proud of all the Achievements of the students in class Birch.

This term we have been concentrating on Being Part of the Community (PLU 4) and using our local facilities. We have walked to the local shop and completed a purchase using our money from our wallet. We have also practiced waiting in line, waiting for our change and putting our money safely back into our wallet.

One of our students from Class Birch is also attending the local swimming pool once a week. He is transitioning there on the bus, taking part in the lesson and going to McDonalds on the way home. We are very proud of how well he listens to everyone when he is out in the community. Another student in Class Birch is exploring the new school building. He visits the upstairs building daily where he enjoys spending time in the movement and sensory room.

This term was busy with a lot of Special Occasions. We celebrated St. Patrick Day, Mother's Day, Easter and we are getting ready for World book Day next.

The boys have been busy developing their Communication, Language and Literacy skills by practising reading and writing through activities such as making cards, expressing their favourite books, and requesting to go to different places.

All the students in Birch Class have been working extremely hard over the past two months, and it is wonderful to see them go from strength to

Birch Class Photos



Juniper Class News

The past two months have been busy, engaging, and full of positive learning experiences in our classroom. It has been wonderful to see students continue to develop their communication skills, build relationships, and take part in a wide range of creative and meaningful activities.

In March, we explored a variety of exciting and seasonal themes including St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, and Easter. Students engaged enthusiastically in themed art activities, creating beautiful Mother's Day cards, festive St. Patrick's Day artwork for our parade and classroom displays, and adorable Easter chicks. These activities provided wonderful opportunities for creativity, self-expression, and pride in their work.

A continued focus throughout the month was on developing communication and turn-taking skills. Students were supported in sharing materials, waiting their turn, and engaging with peers and staff in a positive and structured way - 'JC 1.4 demonstrate turn-taking with a communicative partner'. It was very encouraging to see how well students responded, with excellent participation and engagement across activities.

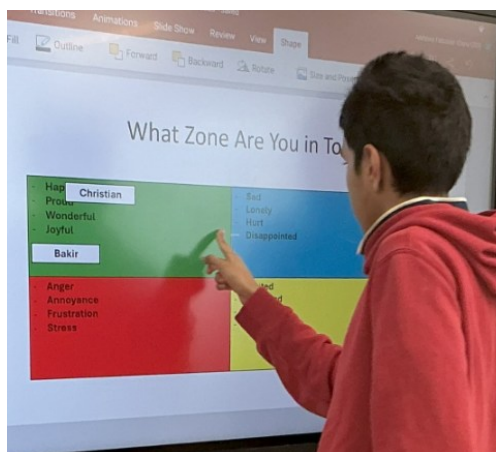
In April, our theme shifted to Spring, bringing a fresh and lively energy into the classroom. Students engaged in a variety of learning experiences, with a particular focus on developing practical life skills such as learning to tell the time - 'JC 2.26 engage with language, objects, symbols, signs, stimuli or activities associated with times of the day and/or days of the week'. These activities were interactive and meaningful, supporting both independence and confidence.

We continued to work on communication and social interaction goals, reinforcing turn-taking and encouraging students to engage with one another during paired and group activities. It has been fantastic to see students continuing to build on these important skills.

Across both months, students demonstrated great effort, enthusiasm, and positivity. Their ability to engage, cooperate, and participate in classroom life has been excellent, and we are very proud of the progress being made.

We look forward to another exciting month ahead, see you all then!

Juniper Class Photos



Ash Class News

Class Ash have enjoyed a very busy and rewarding March and April, filled with new experiences, celebrations, and lots of learning along the way.

A real highlight in March was horse riding, which the boys approached with great enthusiasm. Alan showed fantastic confidence and care as he learned how to guide and balance on the horse. It was lovely to see the calmness and big smiles that being around the horses brought to everyone involved.

Swimming sessions have also continued to be a great success. Mihran made brilliant progress this month, practicing his strokes and floating skills with excellent effort. The pool sessions are always full of encouragement and positivity, and it's wonderful to see how much confidence is growing each week.

Creativity was to the fore during art lessons, where Jamie thoroughly enjoyed exploring colours and shapes. He carefully chose his paints and worked with great focus on his artwork, showing how much he enjoys expressing himself through art.

At the beginning of March, Class Ash celebrated Jamie's birthday with a special class party. Everyone came together to share cake and wish him a very happy birthday, with lots of smiles and a great sense of community.

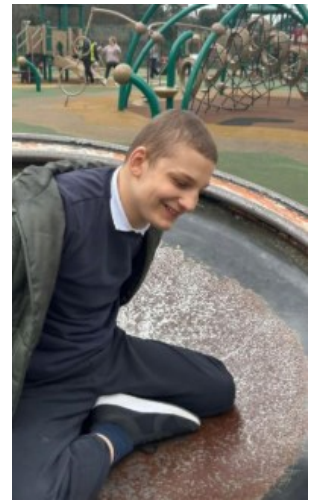
Another memorable activity was baking rice Krispie buns together. Bogdan showed great care while pouring the ingredients, and the boys took turns mixing and stirring, following each step carefully. Teamwork was excellent, and best of all, they got to enjoy the delicious treats they made themselves.

The boys also loved their trip to the park, where they enjoyed the fresh air and took turns on the swings and slides. Even without sunshine, the day was full of laughter, play, and shared enjoyment.

March also included St. Patrick's Day celebrations, with themed activities bringing lots of fun and school spirit, while April was filled with Easter themed activities, crafts, and learning experiences that created a warm and joyful atmosphere in the classroom.

Overall, March and April have been full of positivity, progress, and plenty of reasons to smile in Class Ash.

Ash Class Photos



Hawthorn Class

During March and April, Hawthorn Class focused on Being Part of the Community Curriculum Area 4.18: Actively engaging in transitioning to a new environment. This learning was supported through a range of purposeful activities that encouraged pupils to experience change, movement, and unfamiliar settings in a structured and supportive way.

As part of our St Patrick's Day parade, pupils practised transitioning around the school in a group, following a shared route through different areas. This provided valuable opportunities to develop confidence in group movement, cope with changes in environment, and engage with increased sensory stimuli, supported by visual cues and adult guidance.

The class also enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, during which pupils travelled to different locations around the school to find Easter themed images. Students identified each image and ticked it off their list, supporting understanding of sequence, task completion, and purposeful transitions between environments.

In addition, pupils participated in a horse riding outing, which allowed them to take part in a completely new activity while visiting an unfamiliar setting. This experience supported pupils in managing transitions beyond the school environment, building confidence, and engaging positively with new routines, people, and places.

Through these varied and meaningful experiences, pupils in Hawthorn Class showed positive progress in flexibility, independence, and confidence when transitioning to new environments.

Hawthorn Class Photos



Fundraising



A huge thanks to Siddarth's mum Harshita for her kind donation of €932.00.

This donation was spent on OT equipment for the senior students.

We would like to thank Vincent De Paul and Lorna for their donation for our new morning Breakfast Club providing us with cereals, sugar, and milk.

BCIL who continue to provide us with access to a wheelchair 6-seater minivan on Mondays for class outing.

Blanchardstown Garda bus for Trips out when available on Wednesday's.

Music Generation sponsored by DDLETB is now on Wednesday's.

Thanks to Pat Mc Donald's Painting Company in Blanchardstown who kindly donated 10x25 litres of exterior paint to treat the exterior school walls.

March and April continued the positive momentum across the school, with busy weeks full of learning, celebration, and community spirit. March brought a wonderful sense of pride and togetherness as we celebrated St. Patrick's Day, with students enjoying themed activities, music, and opportunities to learn more about our culture and traditions.

April was equally vibrant, as the school community came together to celebrate Easter. Seasonal activities, creative work, and shared moments helped create a warm and joyful atmosphere, while classroom learning remained focused and engaging right up to the break.

Thank you to all staff for your continued commitment, creativity, and care during these energetic months.

Your efforts ensure that our school remains a welcoming and nurturing place for all. We look forward to building on this success in the weeks ahead.

Warm regards,
Team Danu