

Danu CSS Newsletter

For May & June 2026

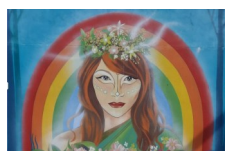
UPCOMING EVENTS/ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- July Provision - 29th June until 10th July
- School reopens and Students return - 1st September 2026

A Special Celebration



We are delighted to celebrate Malcolm on his graduation from Danu CSS this year — a truly special milestone. Throughout his time here, Malcolm has shown growth, determination, and a wonderful spirit that has made a lasting impression on everyone around him. His achievements, both big and small, reflect his hard work and the positive journey he has been on. Malcolm has been a valued member of our community, and it has been a privilege to support him along the way. As he moves on to his next chapter, we are incredibly proud of all he has accomplished and wish him every success, happiness, and continued growth in the future.



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Message from Principal

As we come to the end of another remarkable school year in Danu CSS, we wish to reflect with gratitude on all that has been achieved together. It has been a year of growth, development and celebration across our school community.

We are incredibly proud of our students and all the progress they have made. From meaningful engagement in learning, to achievements such as the Junior Cycle celebrations and whole school events, including our wonderful Christmas Sing Along, World Book Day, sports initiatives (swimming and horse riding) and community activities, our students have shown enthusiasm, resilience and joy. It is truly our privilege to lead the school and to support the students as they continue to grow into confident young people.

Our sincere thanks to our dedicated staff team, teachers, SNAs, bus escorts, Alan our caretaker and Karen our secretary, whose professionalism, care and commitment ensure that every student is supported to reach their potential. This year's positive inspection outcomes and the successful implementation of new initiatives, are a testament to your hard work.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our parents and families. Your continued support, collaboration and partnership are vital to the life of our school, and we deeply value the strong connections we share. We are delighted to have seen the growth of our school this year, including the opening of our modular building and welcoming 12 new students, both important milestones for Danu CSS.

A special word of congratulations and best wishes to Malcolm, our graduating student of 2026. We wish him and his family every happiness and success in the future.

We wish all our families a very happy and restful summer. Please remember that the CDNT teams remain available should you need support.

Kindest regards,
Pat and Annie

Quote of the Month

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." — Dr. Seuss

Parent Association

On 10th May, the Danu Annual Sponsored Walk took place in Millennium Park and was organised by Síle, parent of Cian. A huge thank you to Síle for her time and effort in making this wonderful event a success!

Thanks to the incredible involvement and support from everyone, a fantastic total of €2,560.61 was raised. These funds will go towards purchasing school-crested high-visibility jackets for both children and staff to use during outings in the community.

As we come to the end of the school year, the Parents Association and the school would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to fundraising efforts throughout the year. Your support has had a hugely positive and lasting impact on the children's school experience, and it is greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, we have lots of exciting plans for the upcoming school year, and we are always looking for help, support, and guidance from our parents. A great way to get involved is by joining the Parents Association. We are currently seeking a Vice Chairperson and a Secretary to join the team.

Whether you have ideas about school life, fundraising, celebrating different cultures, or simply want an opportunity to connect with like-minded parents, the Parents Association is a great place to get involved.

If you're interested, you can contact the Parents Association directly at danucsspa@gmail.com.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and safe summer!



Daisy Class News

May & June

May: The World of Animals

In May, our animal theme supported engaging multi-sensory learning experiences. Through guided painting, students developed fine motor skills such as pincer grasp and pencil control, helping to prepare for early writing. Communication was encouraged by identifying animals and supporting students to express themselves through speech, sign, or AAC.

Matching games helped build attention, visual processing, and vocabulary, while counting songs and animal sounds introduced early maths concepts in a fun and interactive way. We also focused on promoting independence, encouraging students to choose their own colours, materials, and books, fostering confidence and engagement. Music activities supported turn-taking and group participation.

We finished the month with a multi-sensory flower workshop using paper, coffee, and tea, allowing students to explore textures, scents, and descriptive language.

June: Summer, Science, and Water Play

In June, we took learning outdoors to make the most of the summer weather. Stories such as Peppa Goes to the Beach supported listening and comprehension, while themed activities helped reinforce vocabulary.

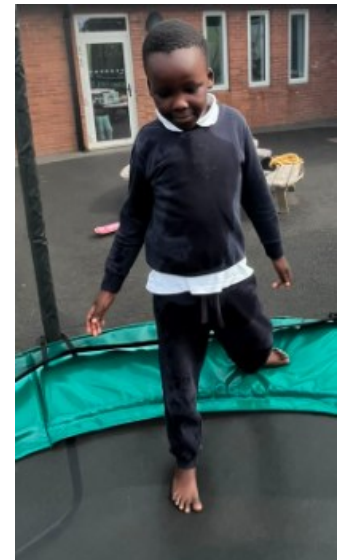
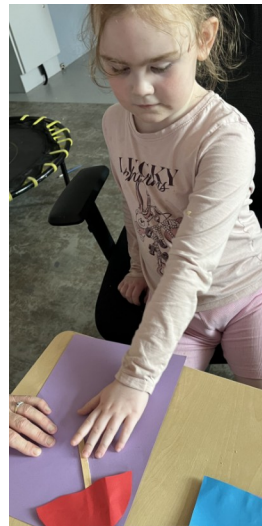
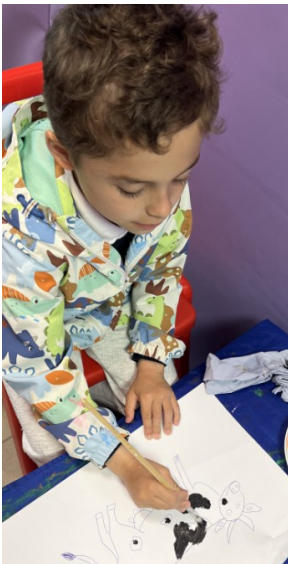
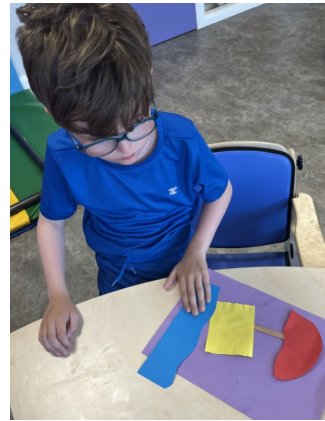
Water play became a highlight, introducing early science concepts and encouraging communication, choice-making, and sensory exploration. Fine motor skills were further developed through pouring and transferring activities. A special treat of ice cream gave students a fun opportunity to practise identifying colours and everyday vocabulary.

We wrapped up the year with an exciting trip to Go Kids Go!, where students explored a new environment, developed gross motor skills, and practised social interaction. It was a fantastic way to celebrate a successful year together.

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you a happy and safe summer break!

-Borja

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.

-Angela

Primrose Class Photos



Willow Class News

During the months of May and June, Willow Class enjoyed a fun-filled and busy end to the school year.

One of the highlights was our school tour to Newbridge House and Farm, where we had a wonderful day exploring the farm, meeting lots of different animals, and learning all about them. After our visit, we enjoyed a well-deserved lunch together at a local coffee shop.

On our daily walks, we regularly visited the community gardens, where we helped to water the fruit and vegetables and even got to taste some of the delicious fresh produce. We also continued our trips to local shops and cafés, building on our independence skills by choosing and ordering our own lunches. Back in school, we embraced the warmer weather with a variety of exciting summer-themed activities, including outdoor games, arts and crafts, sensory play, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the sunshine together. It has been a fantastic couple of months filled with learning! We are so proud of all the progress the students have made this year and wish everyone a happy, safe, and relaxing summer break!

-Orla

Willow Class Photos



Apple Seed News

A warm and joyful welcome to all our students and families as we come to the end of a wonderful school year in Apple Seed. The past few months have been filled with excitement, creativity, and meaningful learning experiences, and it has been lovely to see our students grow in confidence, independence, and curiosity.

In May, our theme was Animals, with a focus on Myself and the Wider World - Developing Citizenship. As we moved into June, our theme changed to Summer, with a focus on SPHE - Myself and the Wider World: Media Education. These themes gave our students valuable opportunities to explore their surroundings, build relationships, and develop an understanding of their place in the wider world.

Throughout the term, our students continued to develop their learning across all areas of the curriculum. In PLU Communication, Language and Literacy, with a focus on written expression, students explored mark-making and early writing in fun and engaging ways. They used chalk on the blackboard and enjoyed sensory activities such as writing in shaving foam. Students also built letters using Handwriting Without Tears resources and showed great interest in exploring signs, symbols, and text.

In PLU Numeracy, students took part in a classroom shopping experience. They enjoyed using pretend money to exchange for items and make choices, while following daily schedules supported smooth transitions and encouraged independence.

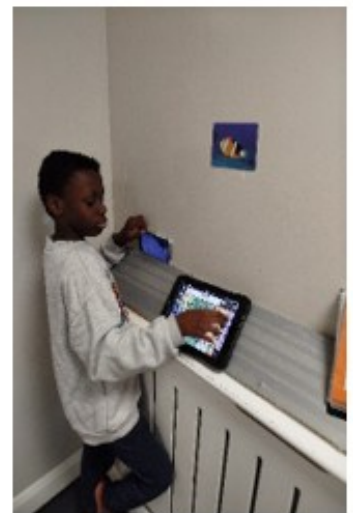
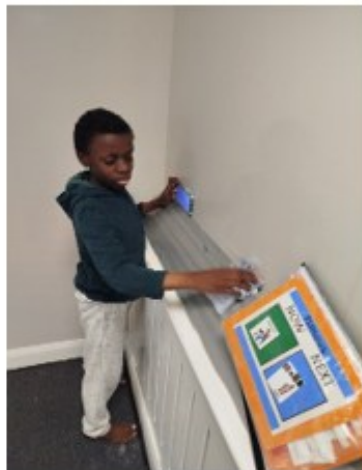
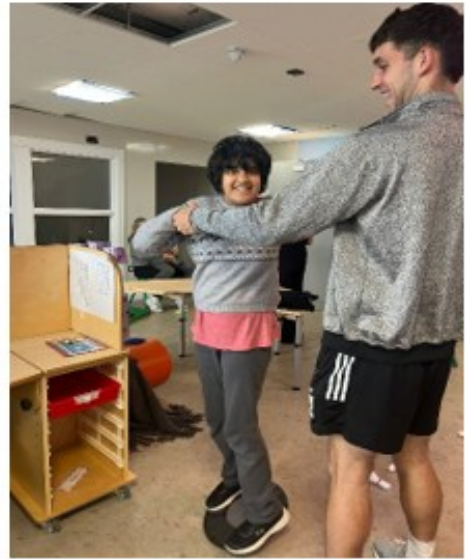
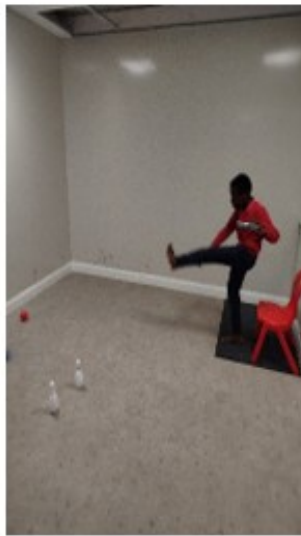
In PLU Personal Care and Wellbeing, students showed growing independence by helping to care for their classroom environment. They explored their families by identifying family members and were proud to display their artwork in the atrium. Students also learned about their school community and enjoyed listening to "The Family Book" by Todd Parr.

Students also engaged in creative and hands-on learning across The Arts, Science, and Geography. They created farm animal silhouettes and explored painting with bubble wrap. In science, they explored minibeasts through sensory play, and in geography, they learned to care for their environment by tidying up and watering plants. Students also enjoyed cookery sessions, baking scones and cupcakes, and enjoyed music generation sessions, taking turns strumming the guitar.

In Physical Education, students participated in balancing, bean bag games, throwing and catching, ball kicking, and dance as part of our Active sport week. They showed great enthusiasm while developing coordination, confidence, and teamwork.

-Maeve and Kehinde

Apple Seed Photos



Apple Orchard, Harvest and Blossom News

The Apple Class students have thoroughly enjoyed the past couple of months and, as always, have engaged in learning in a fun and meaningful way across all areas of the curriculum.

Within the PLU Communication, Language and Literacy (1.29: Place marks, signs, symbols, or texts in the correct sequence and/or with the correct orientation to infer meaning), some students began learning how to record and communicate personal information, such as their phone numbers and home addresses.

In Mathematics, the students have been exploring place value through tens and units. They have shown great enthusiasm and have made impressive progress in this important mathematical skill.

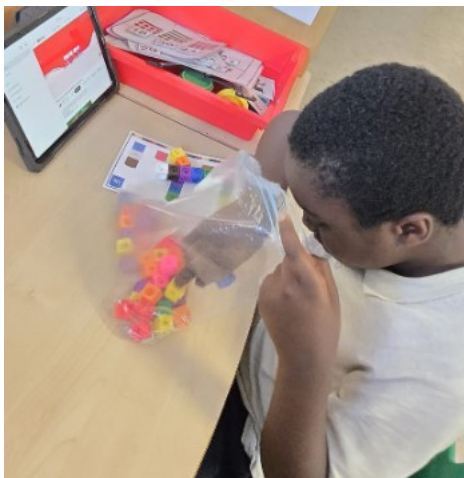
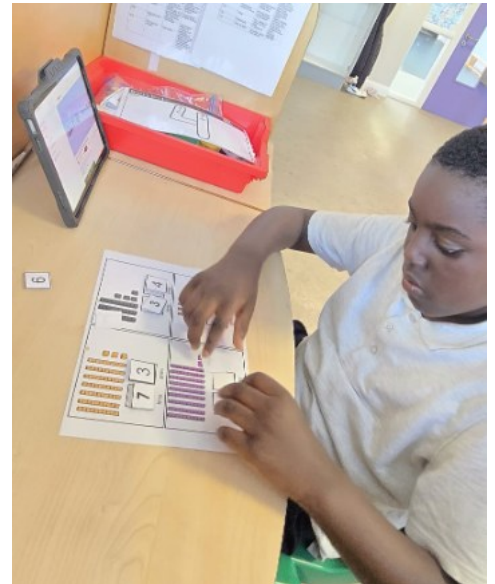
In The Arts (PLU 5.7: Work independently and/or collaboratively to produce a piece of art), students created a range of wonderful artwork in connection with recent school events. In particular, they designed and produced impressive pieces for this month's graduation celebrations.

The recent good weather has also provided valuable opportunities for outdoor learning. In Physical Education (PLU 6.26: Explore the effects of water buoyancy on self/others and other objects/floatation devices), students participated in engaging water play activities, exploring concepts such as buoyancy in a fun and practical way.

We were also delighted to welcome our new PE teacher, Jamie. The students have thoroughly enjoyed his lessons and have shown excellent engagement and enthusiasm during these sessions.

-Elaine

Apple Orchard, Harvest and Blossom Photos



Oak Class News

During the months of May and June, Class Oak explored themes of Minibeasts and Summer. Everyone enjoyed learning about the different types of minibeasts and creating some fantastic summer art.

In PLU Communication, Language, and Literacy, our outcomes focused on placing marks, sign symbols, or texts in the correct sequence. The whole class did amazingly with this outcome, learning their home addresses and matching or writing them in the correct order. Class Oak also focused on showing enjoyment while marking marks or texts and to use gestures or sounds to focus attention on these. Everyone did great with this, practicing core words, Lámh signs and pencil control activities each day.

In PLU Numeracy, the class explored and engaged with language, objects, symbols, signs, stimuli, or activities associated with times of the day. The class learned how clocks work and practiced showing the time. They also worked on Participation in activities that are used to transfer from one event to the next to show the passage of time. Everyone enjoyed practicing waiting, turn-taking, and following their visual schedules.

The last two months have been full of fun experiences. We enjoyed our school tour to Dream Point, where everyone loved exploring the different rooms and especially the huge ball pit. In June, we also had Sports Day, which was lots of fun, and everyone enjoyed taking part and finishing the day with a visit from the ice cream van.

It has been a fantastic year in Class Oak. All the students have worked incredibly hard and have earned a well-deserved break. From all the staff in Oak, we hope everyone has a fun, relaxing and safe summer.

-Ian

Oak Class Photos



Birch Class News

May and June have been very busy and exciting months for the boys in Birch, with lots more trips and activities out in the community. (PLU 4)

The boys enjoyed several bus trips, including visits to Centra where they treated themselves to some delicious donuts. We also had a wonderful day at the zoo, where we loved seeing all the different animals and learning more about wildlife. Our final trip of the term was to see Toy Story 5, followed by a visit to KFC on the way home. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the experiences and had fantastic trips out

These community outings have provided valuable opportunities for social interaction, helping the boys to build confidence, develop independence, and practise important social and academic skills in real-life settings. We are very proud of the boys for making these trips such a success and look forward to many more trips in the future.

The boys have also been keeping active this month and have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Active Week and PE lessons (PLU 6). They have had great fun developing their physical skills and trying new activities. Some of the boys particularly enjoyed participating in yoga sessions, while others worked on their coordination and ball skills by learning how to bounce and control a ball with our PE teacher. It has been wonderful to see the boys engaging enthusiastically and building their confidence through physical activity.

We would like to wish all our friends a lovely summer holiday. Have lots of fun, relax and enjoy yourselves. We look forward to seeing you all again in September!

-Fiona

Birch Class Photos



Juniper Class News

The final two months of the school year have been filled with fun, learning, friendship, and many memorable experiences. It has been wonderful to see students continue to grow in confidence, independence, and communication as we enjoyed a busy and exciting end to the year together.

In May, our theme was Animals, and students loved exploring a variety of animals through art and classroom activities. We created colourful artwork inspired by caterpillars, dogs, bees, fish, and birds, with students proudly displaying their work. These activities encouraged creativity while giving opportunities to engage with peers and share ideas.

Throughout the month, we continued to focus on developing communication skills, particularly engagement, listening, and attention. Students were encouraged to take part in group activities, follow instructions, and share resources. This linked closely with our learning goals, including JC PLU 1.4 (turn-taking with a communicative partner) and JC PLU 2.1 (exploring a range of objects and stimuli).

May also provided opportunities for community-based learning. Students visited local shops, explored the park, and enjoyed a trip to a nearby playground followed by milkshakes. We would also like to thank the parents and staff who supported our Annual Sponsored Community Walk. It was lovely to see friendships continue to grow, with students supporting and encouraging one another.

In June, our Summer theme brought many creative and active experiences. Students created colourful ice-cream artwork while exploring different textures, colours, and materials, supporting both creativity and fine motor development.

The month included exciting events such as Active Schools Week, Sports Day, and our annual school tour to the zoo, which was a highlight for many. After a wonderful day, students enjoyed a well-deserved visit to McDonald's. Students also participated enthusiastically in PE and worked hard practising songs and Lámh signs for graduation.

Across both months, students continued to build communication, social, and independence skills. It has been fantastic to see their progress and growing confidence in everyday activities. Their kindness and willingness to support one another has been a real highlight.

One of the most special moments each day has been our morning greetings, helping to create a positive and welcoming start and strengthening our class community.

As we reach the end of another successful school year, we would like to thank families for their ongoing support and communication. We are incredibly proud of all that our students have achieved.

We wish everyone a happy, safe, and relaxing summer holiday and look forward to another exciting year ahead.

-Anthony

Juniper Class Photos



Ash Class News

Over the past two months, Class Ash has been busy enjoying the transition into summer and taking part in a variety of fun, engaging activities. In May, we focused on settling into our routines, building relationships, and enjoying time both inside and outside the classroom. The children took part in group activities, sensory play, and social games, helping to strengthen their communication and teamwork skills. We also began to make more use of the outdoor space as the weather improved, which the class really enjoyed.

In June, we made the most of the beautiful sunny weather with lots of water play in the yard. The children had great fun splashing, pouring, and experimenting with water while playing alongside their peers. These activities supported both sensory exploration and positive social interaction.

A real highlight of the month was our Ice Cream Funday, where everyone enjoyed a special treat together. This created a lovely opportunity for sharing, socialising, and celebrating as a class, with plenty of smiles all around.

We also had a fantastic school trip to the farm, which was a very enjoyable experience for all. The boys did a wonderful job staying together with their group, sharing lunch, and engaging in the activities. They particularly enjoyed feeding the animals and exploring the farm, showing enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day.

Across both months, we have been focusing on the outcome "Being part of the community" (Outcome 4.4). The children have made great progress in staying with carers and their class group, especially when out in the community during our farm trip. They demonstrated cooperation, independence, and positive behaviour, and we are very proud of how well they represented Class Ash.

-Jessica

Ash Class Photos



Hawthorn Class

The final months of the school year have been full of fun, learning, and special moments in Class Hawthorn. It has been wonderful to see all students continue to grow in confidence, independence, and communication while enjoying a wide range of activities together.

In May, we explored a variety of themes through creative and engaging classroom experiences. Students worked together during group activities, building their communication and social skills. We placed a strong focus on the learning outcome Relating to Others 4.6: "Communicate an ability to connect people with their roles for being part of the community."

We supported this learning in meaningful, real-life ways. Our trip to the zoo gave students the opportunity to see community roles in action, such as zookeepers caring for animals. This helped them understand how different people contribute to the community. After our visit, we went to McDonald's, where students had the chance to practise ordering food, interacting with staff, and engaging in everyday social situations. These experiences supported students in connecting people with their roles and understanding how communities function.

The zoo trip was truly one of the highlights of the year. Students had a fantastic time exploring, observing animals, and sharing the experience with their classmates. It was wonderful to see their excitement and curiosity throughout the day.

June brought even more exciting experiences, including outdoor activities and opportunities to practise skills in real-life settings. Students continued to build friendships, work together, and show kindness and encouragement towards one another.

A particularly special moment this month was celebrating the graduation of our classmate Malcolm. We are so proud of all that Malcolm has achieved. It was a joyful occasion where we came together as a class to celebrate his hard work, progress, and success. Malcolm will be greatly missed, but we wish him all the very best as he moves on to his next adventure.

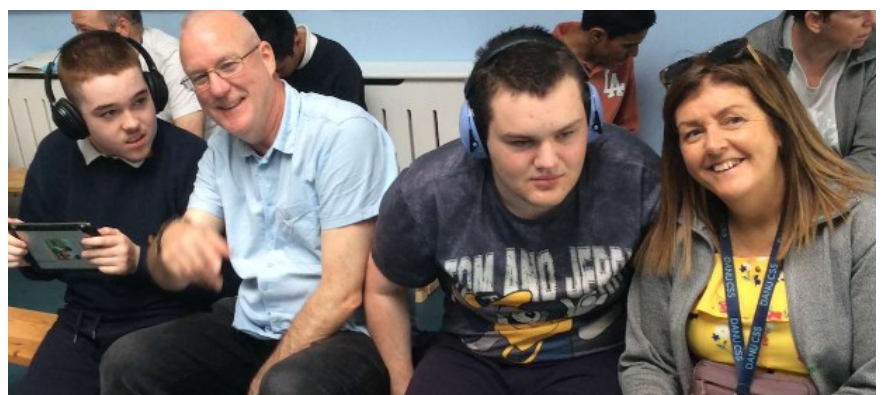
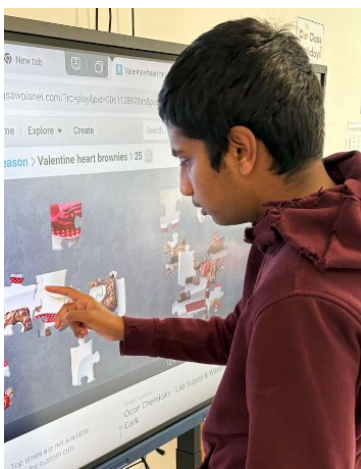
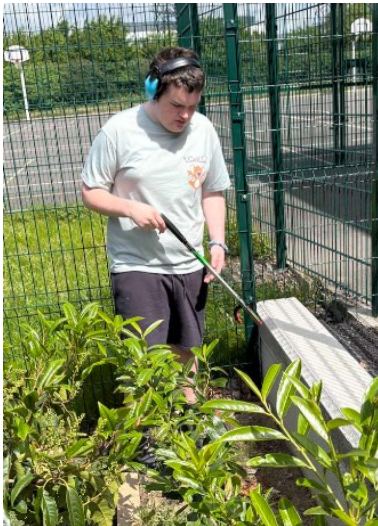
Throughout both months, students have shown great progress in their communication, social interaction, and independence. It has been a pleasure to see their confidence grow and their ability to connect with others continue to develop.

We would like to thank all families for their ongoing support throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of our students and all they have accomplished.

We wish everyone a happy, safe, and enjoyable summer break!

-Darragh

Hawthorn Class Photos



Physical Education Class

Our pupils have shown excellent engagement and enthusiasm in Physical Education this month. It has been fantastic to see such positive participation and energy across all classes.

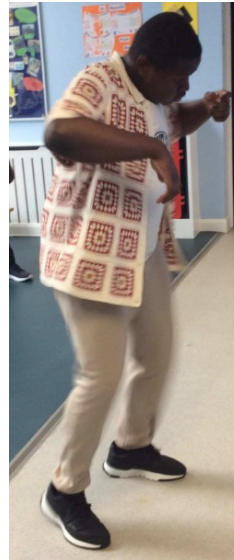
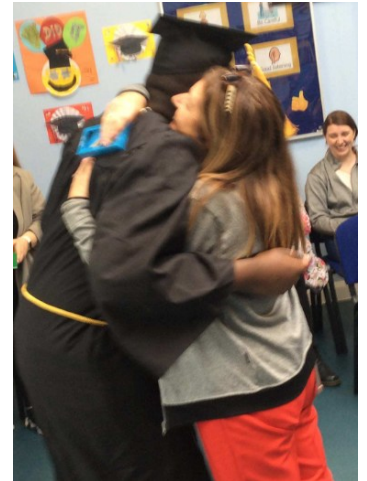
We recently celebrated both Active Week and Sports Day, which were very successful and enjoyed by all. During Active Week, children took part in a variety of activities including dancing, obstacle courses, and a frisbee competition, promoting fun, movement, and teamwork. On Sports Day, pupils rotated through a number of activity stations on the basketball court, where they had the opportunity to challenge themselves and build confidence in a supportive setting. A key focus of our PE programme has been the Priority Learning Unit (PLU) of Fundamental Movement Skills. These skills were integrated into all activities, helping pupils to develop balance, coordination, agility, and overall movement ability through games, stations, and structured play. In addition, classes have been taking part in morning walks, encouraging daily physical activity and wellbeing. Senior sport has also continued each Wednesday on the basketball court, providing further opportunities for teamwork, skill development, and enjoyment.

There is certainly plenty for pupils, SNAs, and teachers to be proud of in terms of staying active and engaged this month. We look forward to continuing this great momentum into the next term!

P.E class Photos



2026 Graduation



Fundraising

We are delighted to share the success of our recent fundraising efforts and to thank everyone who contributed so generously.

Our Annual Sponsored Walk was a fantastic event, raising an incredible €2,560.61. These funds will be used to provide high-visibility vests with the school logo, supporting our students' safety when out in the community. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Sign Hub for the banners used during the walk, Localise Castleknock for their support on the day, and SuperValu Trim for their generous food donation for our student graduation celebrations.

We also had a very enjoyable Ice Cream Fun Day, made possible through the generous donations of students, parents, and staff. This event raised a fantastic €250 for Down Syndrome Ireland.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our whole school community. Your generosity and involvement make these events so special and allow us to provide meaningful opportunities and resources for our students. Thank you all for your ongoing support!

May and June continued the strong momentum across the school, with busy weeks full of learning, exploration, and celebration. May offered opportunities for creativity and collaboration, helping students build communication, independence, and strong connections within the school community.

June brought an enjoyable close to the year, with outdoor activities and all classes taking part in their end-of-year trips. These experiences supported real-life learning and allowed students to explore new environments alongside their peers.

We also celebrated important milestones, including the graduation of one of our students, a proud moment for our school community.

Thank you to all staff for your dedication, care, and creativity. Your efforts ensure our school remains a positive and supportive place for all.

Warm regards,
Team Danu