

Danu CSS Newsletter

September 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS/ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ♦ 1.10.25: Admissions for Danu CSS Academic Year 2026/2027 Opens
- ♦ 5.10.25: World Teacher Day
- ♦ 8.10.25 from 2.50pm to 5pm: Parent Teacher IEP Meetings
- ♦ 15.10.25: Lámh Day
- ♦ 24.10.25: School closure for Halloween Holidays
- ♦ 31.10.25 at 11:59pm: Admissions for Danu CSS Academic Year 2026/2027 Closes
- ♦ 3.11.25: School Reopens
- ♦ 7.11.25: School Closure for Students for Staff Training on Child Protection Procedures
- ♦ 26.11.25: Next BOM Meeting at 5pm in Danu CSS

Welcome

We are absolutely delighted to welcome our new members of staff to Danu CSS for academic year 2025/26. Joining the amazing teaching staff of Danu are Darragh (Class Hawthorn), Enda (Class Ash), Marta (Class Daisy), Angela (Class Primrose) and Sinead (Home Economics). Joining the wonderful SNA team is Sharon (Class Hawthorn).



Darragh



Angela



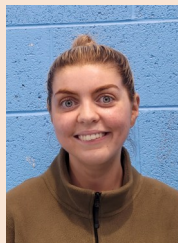
Enda



Marta



Sharon

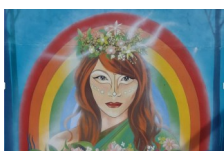


Sinead

Special Mention



A huge 'Thank You' to the community of Mountview and its surrounds who kindly helped to raise funds for Danu Community Special School through the Tesco Community Fund. Our principal was delighted to receive a cheque for €456.00. A heartfelt thank you to all involved.



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 back to our students, parents and school staff for Academic Year 2025/2026. We are delighted that all our students have settled back into school. In Danu CSS we continue to strive towards providing high standards of excellence in education and this is with parental support.

Our school improvement priorities this year are ensuring that

- students will engage purposefully in meaningful learning activities where they understand their learning tasks
- the teacher selects and uses approaches appropriate to intended learning outcomes and to students' learning needs
- students access age appropriate and relevant Relationship and Sexual Education activities that promote student understanding and wellbeing as they grow and develop.

We are delighted to see the school develop and grow in classes. We look forward to the opening of the new modular extension soon and new students attending our school. We welcome our new class teachers who have joined us this year: Darragh, Enda, Ian, Anthony, Orla, Marta, Angela, Maeve, Kehinde and our Home Economics teacher, Sinead. Thank you to the Parents who attended our Parent Open night on 25.9.25 and had the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher.

We would like to remind parents to continue to reach out to the Blanchardstown CDNT at any time regarding any concern or support for your child. Enjoy the Newsletter.

Kindest Regards, Pat

Quote of the Month

"The journey of lifelong learning begins with a single step." -
Lailah Gifty Akita

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

We have had a lovely start to the school year in Willow Class! September has been about settling into routines, building connections, and enjoying lots of fun learning activities. In Language and Communication, the children engaged with matching tasks using letters, names and familiar words. In Numeracy, we focused on number recognition, counting and matching quantities with Numicon, cards and puzzles, as well as sorting and exploring 2D shapes.

We began our "All About Me" project with activities about ourselves, our families and daily routines, and we explored emotions through books and matching games. Art has been full of colour with autumn trees, rainbow collages and self-portraits for our "This is Me" project. We also enjoyed outdoor walks to the basketball court and a visit to the shop near our school, which gave the children valuable opportunities to practise routines in the community. It has been a busy and joyful September, and we are very proud of how well everyone has settled in. We look forward to more exciting learning in October!

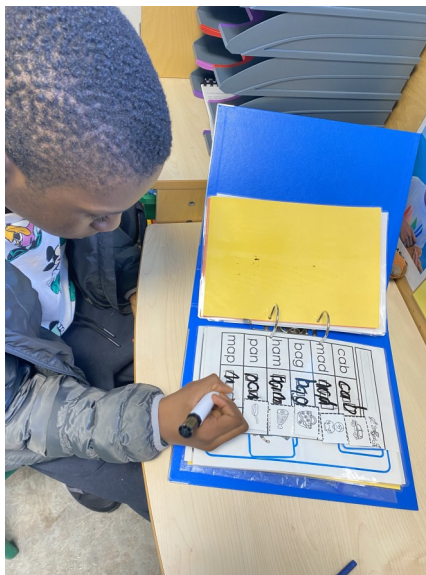
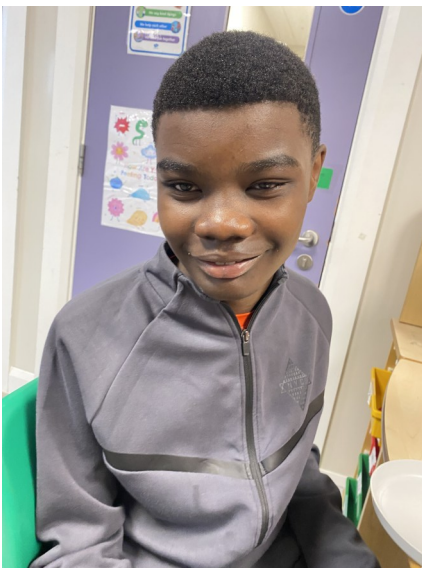


Juniper Class News

It's been a great start to the year in Juniper Class. Everyone has settled back into the school routine really well, and we've had a busy few weeks filled with fun activities and learning.

We've enjoyed local walks, trips to the shop, and going for daily walks with all the classes on the basketball court. Our theme this month was All About Me, which gave the children the chance to share their interests, express what they like and don't like, and get to know each other better. In art, we created self-portraits, which were a great way for everyone to show a bit of their personality.

We're all looking forward to the year ahead and welcoming all our new students joining Danu soon!



Apple Class News

Apple Class was delighted to welcome our students back to school this September. We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break. It was wonderful to see the students return with such enthusiasm and smiles on their faces. This month, our main focus was to help students settle back into school life and to nurture positive, trusting relationships. This aligns with the JC PLU “Being Part of the Community – Relating to Others (4.4)”. To support this, we engaged in a variety of fun and interactive activities. One highlight was baking, which provided an opportunity for students to get to know our new cookery teacher, Sinead. We also played games that encouraged interactions, communication, and enjoyment between students and staff. Throughout the month, students also worked on developing their communication skills by making choices using their choice boards, exploring new core vocabulary such as I, You, More, and Help, and using their visual schedules. These activities supported the Language, Communication and Literacy PLU - Developing Communicative Relationships (1.3). A special highlight of the month was our trip to the zoo with some students. We observed a variety of animals and even explored the dinosaur exhibit, which tied in beautifully with the Science curriculum - Living Things strand. The outing provided an exciting and educational experience.

We’re looking forward to a great year ahead with continued learning, growth, and fun in Apple Class!



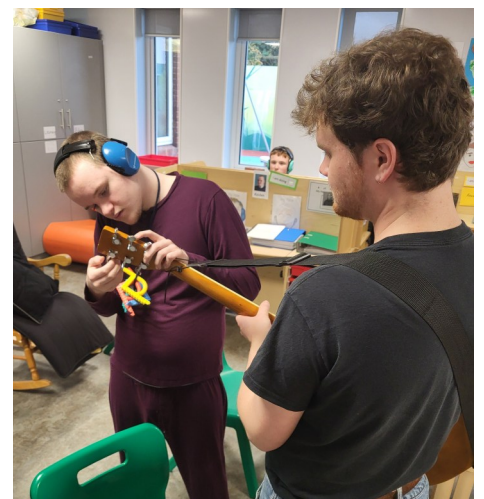
Ash Class News

We were delighted to welcome all of our students back to school after the summer break. It was wonderful to see how much everyone has grown and matured over the holidays, and we are so proud of how quickly they settled back into school life.

In September, Class Ash has really enjoyed working on our “All About Me” theme. Through this coursework, students explored their likes and dislikes, their families, and the things that make them unique. It has been a fantastic way to build confidence, strengthen friendships, and celebrate all the things that make each of us special.

Alongside this, students have been engaging in a range of other lessons suited to their learning level, including literacy, numeracy, and life skills. From practicing communication and everyday problem-solving to developing routines and independence, the class has been enthusiastic and eager to learn.

We are so pleased with the wonderful start to the school year. Class Ash is already showing great teamwork, creativity, and resilience, and we look forward to all the exciting learning still to come.

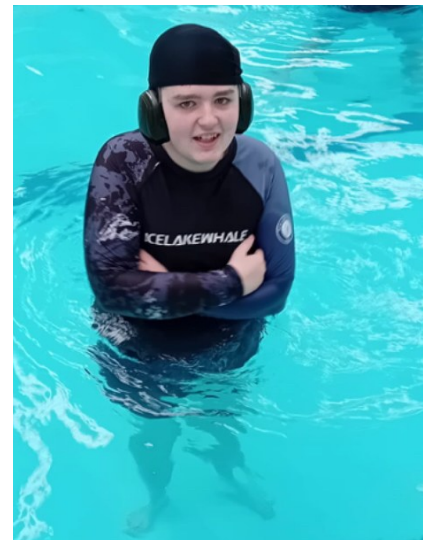


Hawthorn Class News

Class Hawthorn students kicked off the year with a focus on the learning outcome: "Visit and participate appropriately in using facilities in their environment." To support this, we made some fantastic trips into the local community. We started with a visit to the local shop and café, where students practised using money, ordering food, and enjoying their meals while seated in a public setting. It was a great opportunity to practise social skills, independence, and appropriate public behaviour.

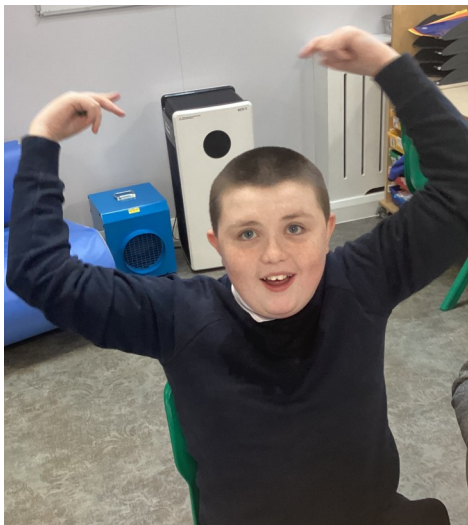
We also visited the local swimming pool, where students followed routines, used the changing areas, and participated in recreational activities safely and respectfully. Another highlight was our trip to Blanchardstown Library, where students explored the sensory room. The calm, quiet setting gave us the chance to discuss public behaviour and respecting shared spaces. In class and during our outings, we've also focused on Being Safe in the Community—practising road safety, identifying signs, staying with the group, and learning how to ask for help if needed.

We are incredibly proud of how mature and engaged class Hawthorn students have been while out in the community!



Oak Class News

It's wonderful to see everyone back in Oak Class for a brand-new school year. We hope everyone had a fantastic summer filled with fun and adventure! This month, our theme has been "All About Me," where we focused on learning more about each other and building strong connections. We are so lucky to have our own Home Economics teacher, Sinead, this year. Everyone in Oak has been enjoying the baking sessions, and we had a great time making some delicious scones together! It's been a fun and tasty way to learn new skills. The aim for PLU Communication, Language & Literacy this month was to engage in activity's requiring joint attention with one or more people, everyone in Oak did great with this target. Each day the class would work on handwriting worksheets and everyone would come up to the Clevertouch and practice their handwriting. In PLU Numeracy, the learning outcome was to recognise and/or show preferences for objects/stimuli. For this target, everyone was matching objects to the correct numbers and using the iPad daily to group the items together. Class Oak had a very special birthday this month, it was our friend Anshu's birthday; we did our best to make the day special for him. We all had so much fun when we threw him a birthday party and everyone enjoyed some cake and sweets. Class Oak loves getting out into the community! Every Friday, the class visits the local shop, where each student selects an item of their choice. This is a great opportunity for students to practice decision-making and independence. Additionally, we're committed to getting outside for our daily walks, enjoying some fresh air and exercise every day.



JC Home Economics Post Primary

This month in Home Economics we have been developing our baking skills by making treats such as fairy cakes, brownies, and scones. The students were enjoying baking using visual recipes. The students are improving their skills and getting familiar with the tools and ingredients in the skills room. Hopefully throughout the year we will see the student's confidence in the kitchen grow !



Fundraising

Thank you to....

- Mountview Tesco's for the donation of €456.00 on 11.7.25
- BCIL who continue to provide us with access to a wheelchair 6-seater minivan on Monday's that supports students getting access to swimming.
- Blanchardstown Garda bus for Trips out when available on Wednesday's.
- Music Generation sponsored by DDLETB.

Welcome back to the 2025-2026 school year! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and happy summer. As we begin this new year, let's continue to support one another, work together, and make it a positive, productive, and rewarding year for all.

Team Danu!