Danu CSS Newsletter For September 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS/ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 14.10.26: Lamh Day
- 14.10.26 from 2.50pm to 5pm: Parent Teacher SSP Meetings **(Please note this may be cancelled due to Strike Action and rescheduled for later in the term)**
- 23.10.26: School closure for Halloween Holidays
- 2.11.26: School Reopens
- 25.11.26: Next BOM Meeting at 5pm
- 1.2.26: Proposed Date for Admissions for Danu CSS Academic Year 2027/2028 Opens via D15 ACAT

Farewell to Annie Leddy



We would like to wish Annie Leddy all the very best as she leaves her role as Deputy Principal to take up the position of Principal of Rossglas Special School, Monasterevin.

Annie has made a lasting contribution to our school through her dedication, leadership, and care for students and staff. While she will be greatly missed, we are delighted for her as she begins this exciting new chapter.

Thank you, Annie, for everything you have done for our school community. We wish you every success and happiness in your new role. Congratulations and best of luck!



Address: Danu Community Special School
Blanchardstown Road North, Dublin 15, D15P380
Phone: 01-8270755 **EMAIL:** school@danucss.ie

Danu Community Special School

Message from Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff,

Welcome back everyone for Academic Year 2026/2027. 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 (SIP) this year are ensuring that

- students grow as learners through respectful interactions and experiences that are challenging and supportive
- the teacher selects and uses preparation and assessment practices that progress student's learning in the Relationship and Sexual Education (RSE) programme (Students aged 11+)

Thank you to the Parents/Guardians who attended the Open night on 23.9.26. The following was addressed

- Danu CSS will expand by 24 students during Academic Year 26.27. The Department of Education and Youth (DEY) has provided 4 primary classrooms in St. Patrick's Junior school in Corduff. This is where most of our primary students will be based. Planning is underway. What this means for all our students is that there will be a complete rejig of class lists when the new accommodation opens. We will keep you updated of this progress via Aladdin.
- Danu CSS is part of the NCSE Educational Therapy Services going forward. This means we will have access to a SLT and OT from the NCSE. However currently they continue to recruit for Danu CSS. We will let you know when the clinicians are appointed to start.
- Other good news, the Blanchardstown Avista CDNT have been awarded another 3 clinicians for the Danu CSS wrap around service for students with addresses in Dublin 15. We await the recruitment of these 3 additional clinicians and will let you know in due course when they start.
- The brand new school building is at Stage 2A and will now progress to a 22 classroom school. We ask Parents/Guardians ask local Politicians in the area to support the need for this building project to move onto Stage 2B.
- Our new web page will be launched during October 2026.
- Welcome our new class teachers who joined us this year: Gina, Aishling, Maeve, Borja, Ella, Ana, Jessie and Jamie our PE teacher. Welcome to our new SNAs Eilis, Lily May, Olivia, Kelly and Wai In and bus escort Tony.
- It is very important that every Parent/Guardian has access to Aladdin Connect app as this is the method of communicating going forward from this year. Please contact the office if you have any questions re Aladdin app.
- There is a planned strike day on 14th October 2026 for all INTO teachers and Forsa SNAs. This strike will impact our school as staff are members of both unions. We hope that this will not go ahead, however if it does the school will be closed due to health and safety as we will have no staff to open it. We will keep you informed.

Message from Principal

- 30.9.26 was Annie's last day in Danu CSS. From 1st October, Annie is newly appointed Principal of Ros Glass Community Special School. We wish her well in her new role and thank her for her contribution to the development of Danu CSS.

- We are delighted to announce that Elaine Cunningham has been appointed the Administrative Deputy Principal role of Danu CSS from 1st October 2026. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Elaine the very best in her new role.

- We would like to remind Parents to continue to reach out to their CDNT regarding any concern or support for your child.

Enjoy the Newsletter, Kindest Regards, Pat

Quote of the Month

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

– Nelson Mandela

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. We are still seeking a vice chairperson & Secretary to join us. 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.

Daisy Class News

Back to School in Daisy Class:

It has been a fun month full of play, learning and building relationships in Daisy Class. Students have been getting to know their peers, teacher and SNAs. We even celebrated our first Daisy Class birthday with a party and cake.

Communication is a huge focus for us in Daisy Class– learning to use multiple methods of communication be it visuals, AAC devices, Lámh, spoken word or gestures. All communication is welcomed and celebrated! We have practiced communicating with peers and staff throughout the school day during group work, individual work, circle time, art, PE and play time.

The theme for September was 'All About Me'. Students learned about themselves and their families. Students learned about how they have grown from when they were babies by comparing pictures of themselves 'then' and 'now'. Students loved looking at photographs of themselves as well as of family members when making 'family portrait' posters.

There was a strong focus on learning through play in Daisy Class this month. We practiced writing skills and mark making in sand, foam and paint. We also decorated our names with stickers, paint, glitter and glue. Daisy Class students learned about numbers and counting through songs, rhymes, jigsaws, messy play and art. We experimented with various textures through sensory play using cereals, pasta, pom poms, feathers and many other fun and messy materials.

Wellbeing is an extremely important part of our day and week in Daisy Class. We have really enjoyed moving our bodies and getting some exercise with our PE teacher Jamie, as well as throughout the school day through using scooters and trampolines, dancing and running races with staff and friends.

It has been a playful and enjoyable month in Daisy Class and we look forward to learning together throughout the rest of the year.

Daisy Class Photos













Primrose Class News

We have had a lovely start to the new school year in Primrose!

It has been a very positive and enjoyable return to school, with the children settling back into our routines and showing lots of enthusiasm for learning and exploring together.

This month, we have been focusing on developing Language and Communication (Requests, questions and interactions), with a particular emphasis on learning through play and using our Communication Boards to support communication during our daily activities. The children have been enjoying using these resources to express themselves and communicate with others.

We have also been focusing on group work during Bucket Time, Language and Communication (Engagement, understanding and listening), which continues to be a favourite activity in Primrose! During these sessions, we have been exploring our core words as well as our letter of the week. The children have been very happy to join in, and it has been wonderful to see how engaged and enthusiastic they are during these activities.

It has been a fantastic first month, and we are looking forward to all the learning, playing and exploring still to come!

Primrose Class Photos



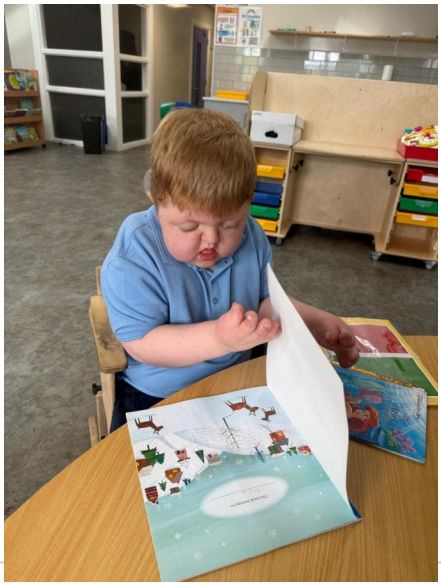
















Willow Class News

Back to School in Willow Class

After a well-deserved break, Willow Class is back and ready for the new school year.

A very special welcome goes out to the new students joining us this year. Everyone has settled into the routines remarkably well, and it is wonderful to see everyone coming back to school so happy. They have also done a great job connecting with their classmates, teachers, and school staff.

This month, we have also started a morning Breakfast Club, where the students can make their own buttered toast. They have also been working on the topic "All About Me", which has helped them get to know each other better by sharing their interests, likes, and dislikes. In art, the students created self-portraits to express their personalities.

In addition, Daily Walks on the basketball court have started up to stay active outdoors. On Fridays, trips to the local shop have resumed an activity the students were very keen to start again, and which remains one of their favourites.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and seeing what the coming months bring.

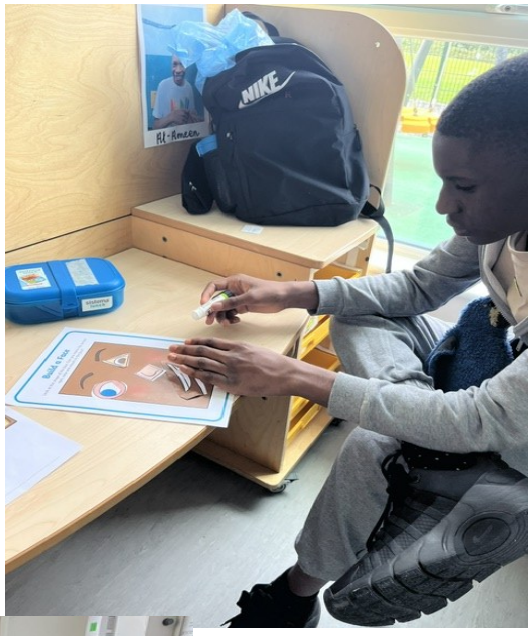
A warm welcome once again to all the new students joining Danu this year!

Willow Class Photos











Apple Seed News

September has been a fantastic month in the Apple Seed Classroom as we settled back into school routines and began exploring our new Mathematics topic: Geometry and Shapes. The students have been busy learning about a variety of 2D shapes through practical, hands on and engaging activities.

Our learning target this month is that 2D shapes can be sorted and discriminated according to their shape attributes. Throughout the month, students have been developing their understanding of common shapes by exploring how they look, feel and compare to one another.

The Primary students have been focusing on identifying and distinguishing common 2D shapes including circles, squares, triangles and rectangles. Using shape hunts, matching games, interactive activities and classroom discussions, students have been given opportunities to recognise shapes in both structured tasks and everyday environments. Many students enjoyed searching for shapes around the classroom and identifying objects that matched different shape categories.

Students working on the JCL1 outcome have been learning to recognise, match and sort familiar 2D shapes through a range of visual and hands on activities. They have explored shapes using puzzles, sorting trays, shape builders, sensory materials and matching exercises. These activities have helped students become more familiar with shape names and characteristics while developing important communication, fine motor and problem-solving skills.

The Apple Seed Classroom has embraced plenty of opportunities for active learning, with students engaging in shape songs, movement activities and collaborative games that encouraged them to work together while reinforcing their understanding of different shapes.

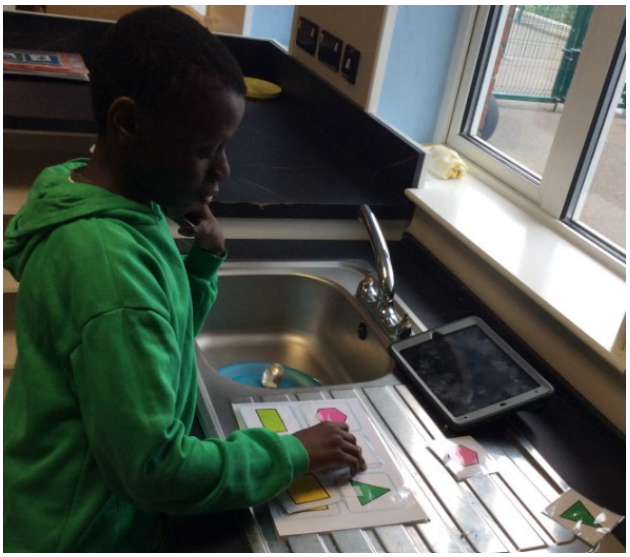
We are incredibly proud of how well the students have settled into the new school year. They have shown great enthusiasm, participation and confidence while exploring geometry and shapes. We look forward to building on these skills in the coming months and continuing to celebrate all of the wonderful learning taking place in the Apple Seed Classroom.

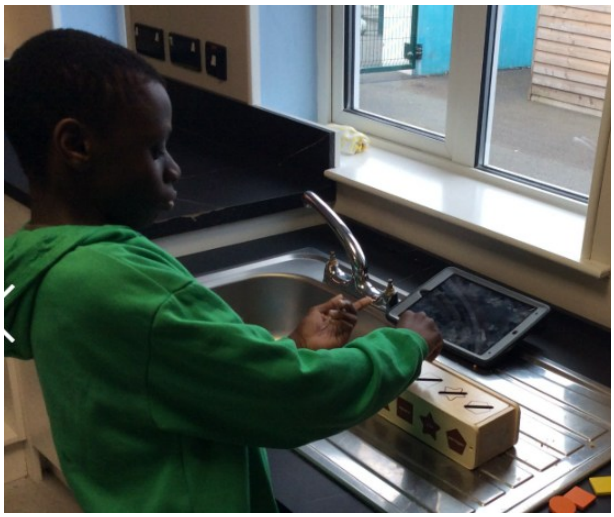
Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing more of our learning journey with you throughout the year.

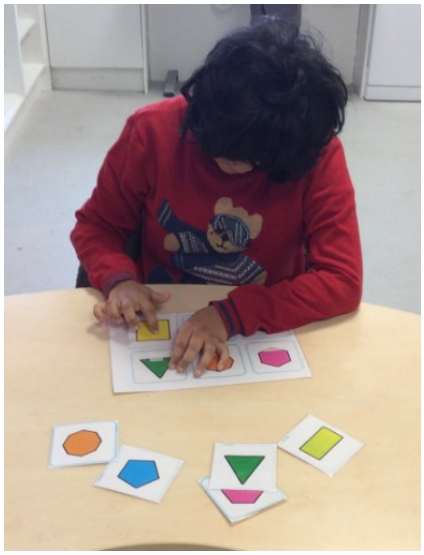
Apple Seed Photos













Apple Orchard, Harvest and Blossom News

It is so great to see all the students back in Apple Class this year. We hope everyone had a fantastic summer!

Our theme for September was "All About Me." The whole class did an amazing job exploring this theme. Some of our students created pictures of themselves while also communicating their interests to staff and requesting activities that they enjoy doing.

In our PLU Communication, Language and Literacy, the outcome was "Develop communicative relationships." To achieve this target, the class practised reading and requesting items from staff, while also learning and using a range of new core words.

In Numeracy this month, the PLU outcome was "Show awareness of environment." To work towards this outcome, the class went on a shape treasure hunt around the school. Some of our other students also completed art-based activities, such as creating pictures using different shapes.

It is great to see the wide range of preferred activities our students enjoy. Some of our students are currently exploring AI to create movie posters, while another student is improving their fine motor skills by completing cut and glue art activities. It is fantastic to see our students exploring their individual interests while developing new skills at the same time.

In Apple Class, we have been very lucky to have our friends from Juniper Class come and visit us each day. The students enjoy taking part in a variety of activities together, including art, cooking and playing games. It has been lovely to see the students spending time together, having fun and building friendships.

Again, it is great to see everyone back in school and in such great form. We are looking forward to the many fun activities and celebrations that will take place throughout the year. We are excited to see what the year ahead brings for everyone in Apple Class!

Apple Orchard, Harvest and Blossom Photos













Oak Class News

The students in Oak class have been settling into the new school year and building relationships with their peers and adults. We have been developing our skills with Communication, Language and Literacy. Focusing on developing communicative relationships and supporting our students to engage in and enjoy meaningful exchanges with a communicative partner. Through everyday classroom routines, circle time, songs, games and shared activities, students have been encouraged to communicate with both adults and peers.

We have been practising important communication skills such as turn taking, making choices, responding to others and initiating interactions. Students have been supported to communicate in the way that best works for them, including AAC, Lamh signs, gestures, body language, vocalisations and visuals. A particular focus has been on making communication enjoyable, purposeful and meaningful. Whether choosing a song, taking turns during a game, requesting an activity or simply enjoying ana activity with a friend, every exchange provides an opportunity to build confidence and strengthen relationships.

It has been wonderful to see our students becoming increasingly engaged with their friends and enjoying being active participants in their interactions with others. It has been lovely to see the students enjoying these shared experiences and becoming more confident in communicating with the students and adults around them. We will continue to provide lots of opportunities for meaningful, enjoyable interactions throughout the school day.

Oak Class Photos













Birch Class News

Welcome Back!

It was lovely to welcome the boys back to school in September. We hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer break.

The past few weeks have been all about re-establishing our school routines, and the boys have done a brilliant job settling back into their class and school routines. It has been fantastic to see them coming into school happy and ready for the day each morning.

This month, we have been focusing on **Exploring Communication**, with an emphasis on communicating to ask questions and expressing their own interests, preferences and choices.

Our theme this month has been **"All About Me"**. The boys have been busy completing word searches, answering questions about themselves and talking about their families. These activities have provided lots of opportunities for the boys to communicate, share their ideas and learn more about one another.

The boys have also been enjoying taking part in activities linked to their **special interests**. Some of the highlights have included trips to the shop to buy donuts and getting involved in cooking activities, including making delicious pancakes!

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year, and we are very proud of how well the boys have settled back into school life. We look forward to all the exciting learning and experiences still to come!

Birch Class Photos









Juniper Class News

The month of September has been busy, enjoyable, and full of positive learning experiences in Juniper Class. It has been wonderful to welcome students back to school, settle into our classroom routines, and begin another exciting year of learning together. We were also delighted to welcome a new student to Juniper Class, who has settled in brilliantly and has been getting to know his new classmates, staff, and daily routines.

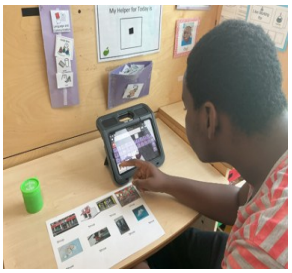
Our theme for September was All About Me, giving students lots of opportunities to explore and communicate information about themselves, their likes and dislikes, and the things that are important to them. Students took part in a variety of literacy, communication, art, and group activities linked to the theme. A particular focus throughout the month was encouraging students to communicate and interact with familiar adults and their classmates using the method most appropriate to them, including verbal language, AAC, visuals, and gestures – *JC 1.6 'Initiate communication with a familiar adult and peers.'* It was fantastic to see students engaging with one another and becoming increasingly confident within their classroom environment.
Students also enjoyed expressing themselves creatively through our All About Me art activities. These provided opportunities to explore different materials and textures, develop fine motor skills, make choices, and take pride in their finished work.

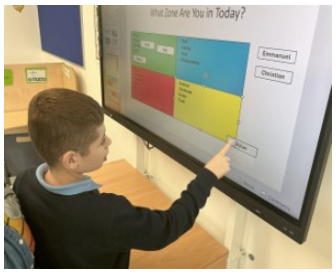
September has also been an important month for re-establishing our familiar classroom routines. Students have enjoyed taking part in Circle Time, Breakfast Club, group walks, sensory activities, PE, Choice Time, and our daily literacy and numeracy activities. These familiar routines have supported students in developing their independence, communication, and participation throughout the school day.

It has been fantastic to see the students settle back into school life so positively. They have shown great enthusiasm across individual and group activities and have enjoyed reconnecting with their friends and staff.

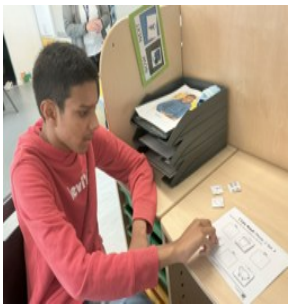
We are very proud of the wonderful start everyone has made and look forward to another exciting month of learning ahead. See you all next month!

Juniper Class Photos




















Ash Class News

We have had a fantastic start to the school year in Ash Class! September was filled with fun, learning and new experiences as the boys settled back into the classroom environment and became familiar with new routines. The boys showed growing independence and confidence as they participated in daily activities, explored new learning opportunities and began forming friendships with their classmates/

This month Ash Class has been exploring the theme 'All About Me' where the boys learned more about themselves and their classmates. Through a range of engaging activities, the boys shared their likes and dislikes and we explored their special interests. These activities encouraged communication, self-expression and confidence while helping the boys build positive relationships with others students and staff.

Circle time has been an important part of our days together. During these session, the boys practiced listening skills, taking turns and participating with songs. Sensory play was also a hit during September! The boys enjoyed exploring different textures, materials and hands on activities that encouraged their curiosity and creativity. These experiences provided the opportunity for social interaction and relationship building as a class.

All of us in Ash Class are incredibly proud of how well the boys have settled in and embraced new experiences. It has been a wonderful start to the year!

Ash Class Photos



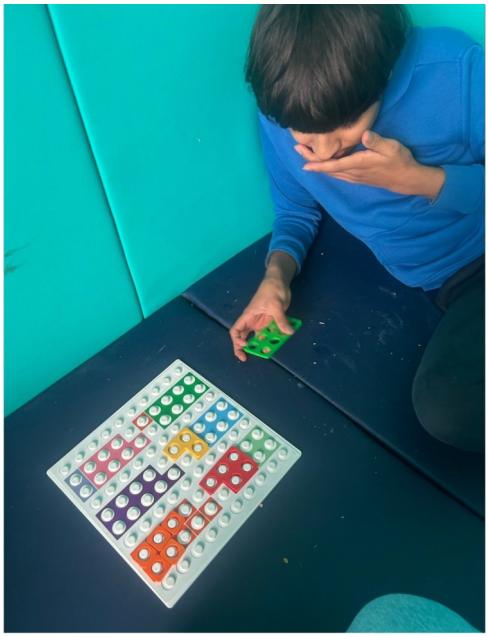












Hawthorn Class

It has been a fantastic first month, and everyone has been settling back into school routines while engaging in lots of fun and meaningful learning opportunities.

This month, our learning focused on the outcome:

Reading and Measuring Time
"Experience the physical movement of the hands on an analogue clock in a clockwise direction to indicate the passing of time."

Throughout September, students explored time through a range of practical, sensory, and hands-on activities. We used large classroom clocks, interactive games, songs, and movement activities to help students become familiar with the way the hands move around a clock face. Students enjoyed taking turns moving the clock hands themselves and observing how they travel in a clockwise direction.

During circle time and daily classroom routines, students were encouraged to look at clocks and discuss different parts of the school day. We explored concepts such as morning time, lunchtime, home time, and transitions between activities. Many students demonstrated excellent engagement by following visual schedules and anticipating upcoming events throughout the day.

Students also participated in sensory clock activities, matching games, and art lessons where they created their own clock faces representing important parts of their day.

Alongside our work on time, we focused on Looking After My Environment & Practical Skills, working towards the outcome:

"Pick up litter safely with supervision and appropriate tools (e.g., gloves, tongs)."

Students took part in supervised litter-picking activities around the school grounds and local community. They practised using litter pickers safely and learned about the importance of caring for their environment, helping to keep our school and community clean.

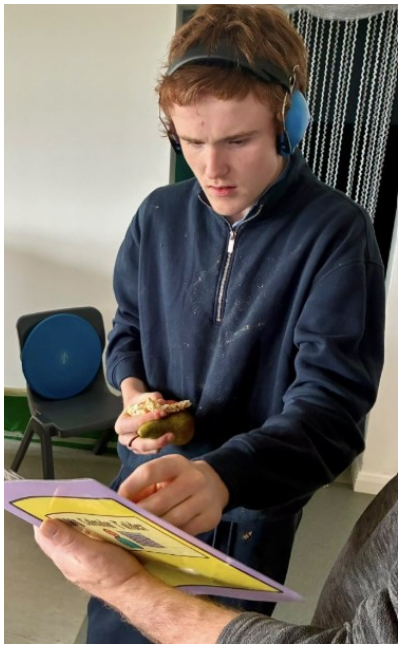
Hawthorn Class Photos













Fundraising

Fund Raising/Thank You News

BCIL who continue to provide us with access to a 17 seater Mini Bus and wheelchair 6-seater minivan from October 1st. This will support students accessing swimming and getting out and about in the community.

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

Wednesday's Music Generation sponsored by DDLETB.

Thank you to Granby for donating Susages and Burgers for the students BBQ over summer provision.



September has been a positive and successful start to the new school year, with students settling well into their routines and enjoying a wide range of learning experiences. It has been wonderful to see students reconnect with friends, build new relationships, and grow in confidence during their first weeks back.

Through engaging classroom activities, community outings, PE, music, and sensory experiences, students have demonstrated enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Staff have worked hard to create supportive and nurturing environments where every student can thrive.

Thank you to all staff for your continued dedication, care, and commitment in making the transition back to school such a success. We look forward to another exciting month of learning, growth, and achievement.

Warm regards,
Team Danu