



ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

September/October 2024

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Welcome to our September/October Newsletter

It is hard to believe that the first half-term holiday is nearly upon us. Each class have been super busy over the last eight weeks and it is lovely to see our school alive again with the hustle and bustle of our wonderful, unique and talented pupils.

We wish everyone a safe and happy mid-term break and look forward to seeing everyone back again on Monday 4th November.

New Primary 1 Pupils

Our new Primary 1 pupils are now very well settled and enjoying life in the 'big school'. They are a lovely group of boys and girls and it is amazing to see their personal growth and development in such a short space of time.



Sam Maguire Visits St. Joseph's

What a brilliant morning we had when Sam Maguire came to visit St. Joseph's carried in the very capable hands of Killeavy men Conor Magennis and Shea Magill, management team representative Ciaran McKeever and Armagh GAA ladies legend and County Board Schools' coach Aileen Magennis. All fine ambassadors and great role models for our GAA games.

There was a guard of honour entrance, a tin whistle rendition of Boys from the County Armagh followed by a good ol' singsong of the same tune. Next up were some fine questions asked by our

pupils to the panel such as; What is a typical week's schedule as an Armagh player? Who were your inspirational players that you looked up to? (Padraig Joyce, Alan Brogan and two for our very own Steven McDonnell). What is Kieran McGeeney like in the changing room? (Well 😊) What was said of Geezer in Meigh stays in Meigh 😊).

After the Q&A a lovely cake from Mary Connolly was presented to our guests but due to strict dietary pre-season conditioning they were unable to feast so all of our pupils and staff did so on their behalf. Yummy.

Each class got their photo taken with Sam and Ciaran, Shea and Conor were very generous in signing pretty much every top in the hall. Every pupil and staff member then lined the walkway to say goodbye on what was a special and memorable morning at St. Joseph's.



Halloween

On Friday 25th October we shall be holding our Halloween Fancy Dress Parade and Disco. We are very thankful to Mr Duane Keiran who will once again provide his DJ skills. This is always a much anticipated and exciting day for everyone. No need to buy expensive costumes. Press the google button and you will be surprised to see what can be achieved with 'stuff' you may already have about the house. We don't do prizes for best costumes as we appreciate the effort made by everyone. Children can bring in some party treats for class celebrations. (No nuts, gum, fizzy drinks, hard sweets eg gobstoppers etc). If anyone has any Halloween decorations going spare we would gladly accept if in good condition. Many thanks.



Why wouldn't the ghost dance at the party?
He had no body to dance with him. Wha... Ha... Ha... Ha.....

Child Safeguarding Team

Please be familiar with our Child Safeguarding Team.
Mrs Brennan – Designated Teacher for SG
Ms Moley – Deputy Designated Teacher for SG
Mr Trainor – Principal SG
(Full Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy available on school website.)



Wraparound Provision



8 - 9	Breakfast Club	£1.25
2 - 3	1,2,3 Club	£1.25
3 - 4	Homework & Activities	£2.25
4 - 5	Late Class & Activities (with snack)	£3.25

Our Wraparound Club numbers after school have dramatically increased this term, especially from 2pm to 3pm. Please book online well in advance via School Money for all time slots required to avoid disappointment.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If a child is booked in and for whatever reason is not going to attend, we ask you to follow the procedures as outlined below to avoid being charged:

1. Delete your booking on School Money (Must be adapted by midnight the night before);
2. If it is a last minute change (after midnight), contact the school office **before 10am** and school will edit booking on your behalf.

By adhering to the above instructions you will not be charged.

Unfortunately, a refund can no longer be administered in the absence of above points 1 & 2.

We are having to introduce non-refund terms as when sessions are fully booked and children subsequently do not attend without us being informed until very last minute or sometimes not at all, as this prevents others from availing of that service.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Primary 4 & 7 Sacraments



First Communion for P4 pupils will be Saturday 10th May 2025 at 11am in St. Joseph's Church, Meigh.

Confirmation for P7 pupils will be Thursday 10th April at 2pm in Sacred Heart Church, Cloughoge. School will close early at 12.30 for P1-P6 pupils. More detail will follow in due course.



Cross Country at Kilbroney

Over 500 children from 36 schools gathered at Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor today for cross country running. St Joseph's had 8 boys and 8 girls participating in what were very competitive races. Well done to all for completing what was a challenging course in damp conditions.



Food in School



In the interests of Health & Safety we ask our parents/ carers/ pupils not to allow any break/ lunch items that may contain traces of nuts.

We do have children in the school who have a severe nut allergy. The school reserves the right to withhold any food items from consumption should the need arise. Children should only bring a healthy break snack to school eg. single sandwich, pancake, cheese strings, fruit, yoghurt, plain biscuit etc. No crisps/chocolate bars allowed as we are a healthy living promoting school. Snack should be minimal, simple and quick to eat as we want our pupils to enjoy ample play time.

Friday is the **only** day designated for a small treat (crisps, small bar etc) at either breaktime snack or lunch (not both if taking packed lunch).

Aside from packed lunch, no other food or drink may be brought/sent into school – this includes **birthday cakes, party bags or party food items of any description.**

We really appreciate your cooperation and support in this matter.

Class Assemblies & Events

We are very lucky at St. Joseph's to have a bespoke stage area and we place a very high emphasis on all of our pupils having the opportunity to perform for an audience on a number of occasions throughout the year. Please see dates below in **green** for class assemblies/productions to which parents and family members are very welcome to attend. Assemblies will begin at 10:55am. P1 Christmas Plays will begin at 10am.

Thur. 25th Oct P6 Mr Shields

Fri. 25th Oct Halloween Disco

Fri. 15th Nov P4 Ms Maginnis

Fri. 29th Nov P5 Mrs Brennan

Thur. 5th Dec P2 Mrs Garvey

Fri. 6th Dec Christmas Dinner (Early Closure 12.30pm)

Wed. 11th Dec P1 Chris. Play

Fri 13th Dec Santa Fun Day

Thur. 19th Dec Carol Service 1pm

Administration of Medicine

If your child has specific needs e.g., reading glasses, inhalers etc., please inform the class teacher. The school will only hold and administer medication for children with very specific medical needs e.g. Auto-Injector Pens for those at risk from anaphylaxis, inhalers for asthma and hypo kits for diabetes. Over the counter medication/throat lozenges etc. **will not** be administered. Only up to date prescriptions with name and dosage on the label will be accommodated in school following an induction procedure involving written permission. Contact office for details.



Please ensure asthma inhalers and asthma careplans from asthma nurse/Dr. are sent into school to be kept in child's classroom.

Aladdin

We brought the theatre to St Joseph's last Friday morning when our whole school gathered in the assembly hall to watch a performance of Aladdin. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show and Mr McVerry even made his 'acting' debut by being called upon to demonstrate a few dance moves. Let's just say Strictly Come Dancing Producers WON'T be calling anytime soon.



P2 Topic People Who Help Us

Massive thank you to P2 mum Sophie who came to visit the P2 class to talk to the children about her job at the vets. They had a brilliant time learning about her important role in helping animals to get better. The children got to learn loads of interesting facts about animal welfare and enjoyed dressing up as a vet.



Health & Hygiene

As we begin a new school year we would like to increase your child's awareness of the importance of good handwashing, because, as you know, children are more prone to sharing bugs. We feel that this will help reduce the likelihood of the spread of any infections both in school and at home. We would be grateful if you would go through the handwashing steps with your child. Little rhymes such as "This is the way we wash our hands" for our younger children can make handwashing a fun experience. It is important that handwashing is carried out after certain activities, for example, using the toilet, before eating, after touching animals and before bedtime.

If a child displays vomiting or diarrhoea we kindly ask they remain at home for 48hrs after the symptoms desist.

In the event of a positive Covid test, current guidance suggests children u18 self-isolate for 3 days from the date of test.

Communication

One of our key aims in St. Joseph's is to ensure we have balanced, effective communication channels within our school community. We are only sending out essential paper communications to you that may require your signature; all other communications are being sent in the following key ways:

1. Text messages
2. Text messages with links to letters
3. Emails
4. Class Dojo (*informal class based messaging*)

Occasionally we will reinforce messages via facebook but important messages will be sent in one of the three main ways above. To that end, please ensure that we have your correct mobile number and email address. If you wish to change these please let Miriam in the office know by emailing her at mmagennis042@c2kni.net . If you do not update us, you may not receive VITAL INFORMATION going forward.

Ronan Baker Memorial Hurling Tournament

We were privileged to participate in the inaugural Ronan Baker (RIP) Memorial Hurling Tournament at Memorial Park, Killeavy at the end of September. Two St. Joseph's teams competed against their counterparts from St. Moninna's and St. Michaels in damp conditions. This was the first time our pupils participated in any sort of hurling/camogie competition and we are all very proud of their achievements. Children received a certificate and a goodie bag presented by the Baker family which was very much appreciated.



Spanish

Ola! Buenos Dias. Coma esta!

Delighted to have Miss Patricia return for Spanish lessons every Thursday. The children absolutely love her lively and enthusiastic



approach which makes learning Spanish fun and engaging for all. The cost is split into two payments on School Money for each pupil. One for now and the other in February. If you haven't done so already, please pay first instalment. Thank you.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Aveen Carr Éala Fearon Jasmine Kearney Daire Keenan Daniel O'Hanlon Thomas Rice Ethan Corless Alex Daly Grace Matthews Oisin O'Hare Ava Brady Kieran Downey Laura Garvey Sophia Shortt Jennifer Murphy Paddy Connors Ella-Mae Henning Dylan Maguire Conan McDonagh Sophie McGuigan

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Blayke King John Mullan Sadie Phillips James Rice Conor Callaghan Pearse McAteer Peadar Downey Darcie Faloon Bonnie Toner Cara Jackson Oisin Morgan Donncha O'Hare Noah Madigan Harley Freeman Megan Carr Seamus Carville Oliver Jackson Katie Hannaway Lilly Keiran Joseph Kelly Jack McDonnell Conor Winters



Dates for Your Diary

Fri. 25th October - Halloween Fancy Dress Disco

Mon. 28th October - Friday 1st November - Mid Term Break

Thur. 20th December - Early Closing @11:00am
Christmas Holidays (no dinners or after school wraparound)

Mon 6th January - Term 2 begins