

St. Joseph's National School

September

Newsletter

2024



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Fáilte ar Ais.

Welcome back to all our Pupils, Parents and Staff. A special welcome to our new pupils in Junior Infants and to new pupils who are joining other classes. We extend a warm welcome also to our new staff members, Máistir Bobby and Máistir Andrew who take up teaching roles in First and Second Classes, Múinteoir Ruth who joins Múinteoir Sarah and Gillian/ Emma (SNA) in Class Seven and Múinteoir Fiona who takes up a maternity leave in SET. Not forgetting our SNA Áine and secretary, Amy Smith who joins Regina in the office on a job-share basis.

Congratulations to happy Parents, Múinteoir Ethel and Will on the safe arrival of Baby Harry.



Thank You.

Thank you to all Parents, Pupils and Staff who have adjusted to new routines during the past few weeks. Thank you to Parents who have downloaded the Aladdin Connect App which is vital for communication .Thank you to all who have paid fees which cover the cost of Drama, French ,GAA together with art and photocopying costs. The girls have settled very well and adjusted to their new classrooms. It has been a busy month in St. Joseph's with the girls adjusting to the academic demands interspersed with Rugby, GAA, Camogie, Swimming, Art, Aistear, Music and Habitat Studies.

Dates For Diary.

October.

Sept 30th –Fri.4th : Wellbeing Week
Mon. 7th –Fri. 11th : Space Week.
Wed. 10th: World Mental Health Day.
Mon.14th –Fri. 18th –Maths Week.
Mon. 28th - Nov. 2nd inclusive :
Midterm.

Our bags are packed and ready to go.....

On behalf of my colleague, Múinteoir Caroline and myself, I wish to extend our thanks to all the pupils and parents who have been so supportive down through the years. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with a wonderful staff in St. Joseph's and we wish continued success to Principal, Mr. Mulcahy and his new team.

Slán agus Beannacht ó Múinteoirí Caroline & Geraldine.

Uniform Days.

Our uniform days for all classes this year are on Mondays and Wednesdays. There may have to be some changes as Athletics with Janice will take place on Mondays beginning on October Monday 7th for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.. There has been a very positive feedback from the girls re the introduction of navy pants as part of the uniform. Just a reminder to all Parents to label all cardigans and jumpers. Our 'Lost and Found' box is overflowing.

As October approaches the girls will no longer be allowed to wear shorts in school.

Staffing and Classes for School Year 2024/2025

Principal:	Mr. Conor Mulcahy.
Deputy Principal.	Ms. Sarah Geaney.
Junior Infants:	Ms. Julie Harrington.
Senior Infants:	Ms. Sarah Shortall.
First Class:	Mr. Bobby Kelly
Second Class:	Mr. Andrew Whelton
Third Class:	Ms. Orlaith Walsh
Fourth Class:	Ms. Claire O'Connell.
Fifth Class:	Ms. Noemi Diaz.
Sixth Class:	Ms. Anna Kingston.
Class Seven	Ms. Sarah Geaney, Ms. Ruth Nagle

Learning Support: Mrs. Marian Mc Carthy.

SET: Ms. Aileen O'Connor.

EAL: Ms. CarolAnne O'Brien, Mrs. Edel Mc Carthy. (Job-sharing)

EAL: Ms. Louise O'Regan.

SET: Ms. Fiona Bracken (Covering maternity leave for Ms. Ethel Loughnan). This post is shared with Lisavaird NS and Timoleague NS.

Special Needs Assistants: Mrs. Elma Mc Carthy, Mrs. Gillian O'Sullivan/ Ms. Emma Hunt, Ms. Carol Burke , Ms. Ciara Campbell) and Ms. Áine O'Gorman.
Secretary: Mrs. Regina Cooke/ Amy Smith. (Job-Sharing)

Board of Management.

Chairperson: Mrs. Kathleen Ryan.

Secretary: Mr. Conor Mulcahy. (Principal)

Treasurer: Mrs. Margaret Deegan

Staff Nominee: Mrs. Edel Mc Carthy.

Parents' Nominees: Mrs. Jenny Ejim, Mr. James O'Brien.

Community members: Mrs. Therese Hayes, Mr. Conor Nyhan)

New board assumed office on 1st of November 2023 and term of four years will come to an end in October 2027.

Thank You.

Many thanks to all who serve on the Board of Management and the Parents' Association. These members work tirelessly on behalf of the Parents and Pupils to help improve the School and its facilities. This past June we bid farewell to members of the Parents' Association who did trojan work over the past eight years. Not forgetting our other members and class representatives. Projects undertaken by our Parents' Association include setting up of School Library, School Lotto, Book Rental Scheme, Tennis Lessons, Provision of School Novels and Playground Equipment to name but a few.

Activities in St. Joseph's during October.

 	Track and Field Athletics Programme with Janice. (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) (Tues, Oct 1st, Mon, Oct 7th, 14th, 21st) Irish Dancing in the school hall. (3-4pm)
Tuesday  	Swimming Lessons in the Leisure Centre- Fifth Class. (1st, 8th, 15th 22nd.) Violin: Third &Fourth Class)
Wednesday  	Violin : Fifth & Sixth Creative Keyboards: Commenced 18th of September.
Thursday 	Drama with Pam Golden
Friday  	Rugby Coaching with Finbarr. (J .Infants, S. Infants, 3rd, 5th) (4th,11th,18th ,25th of October Football Coaching with Conan. Junior Infants, Senior Infants, Third and Fifth (4th, 11th of Oct) First, Second, Fourth, Fifth – (18th, 25th of Oct)

Swimming Rota: 2024/2025

Class	Dates
Sixth	3rd, 10 th , 17 th and 24 th of September.
Fifth	1st, 8 th , 15 th and 22 nd of October.
Fourth	5 th , 12 th , 19 th and 26 th of November.
Third	3rd, 10 th 17 th of December and 7 th of January.
Second	14 th , 21 st , 28 th of January and 4 th of February.
First	11 th , 25 th of February and 4 th , 11 th of March.

Swimming Lessons.

Swimming Lessons will take place in Clonakilty Leisure Centre on Tuesday afternoons.

Each class will receive four sessions at a cost of 50 euro.

Transport from St. Joseph's to the Leisure Centre is provided but the girls need to be collected from the Leisure Centre.

To ensure the smooth running of the swimming lessons the following rules will apply:

1. Tracksuits must be worn to and from the Leisure Centre.
2. Children must change into swimwear at the Leisure centre. Swimsuits are not to be worn during the school day.
3. Swimming togs (Not bikini) and swimming hat to be worn in the pool. While swimming socks are not obligatory, they are advisable.
4. Due to health and Safety issues, children in 1st, 2nd & 3rd classes are not allowed use the top lockers in the dressing room.
5. All clothes, towels, goggles etc to be labelled clearly.
6. Children must shower before entering the pool.
7. Shampoo or shower gel is not allowed.
8. On admission to the pool children will be shown to the deck area near the jacuzzi where they will line up in their groups. (Swimming Instructors assess each child before they are placed in their groups)
9. The swimming instructor's orders are to be followed and the children are expected to be on their best behaviour at all times.
- 10.No running, jumping or diving is permitted and children are not allowed to use the adult facilities (Jacuzzi / Steam room) at any time.
- 11.Children are not allowed to use the vending machines at the Leisure Centre or visit the Coffee Dock unaccompanied.
- 12.If your child suffers from any medical condition e.g. asthma, epilepsy, cardiovascular, diabetes etc, please accompany your child to the Leisure Centre and notify the swimming instructor at the beginning of each session.
13. All children must be collected at 3pm sharp at the Leisure centre. Please collect children in the foyer. If your child is walking home from the Clonakilty Leisure Centre and is not being collected by Parents/Guardians, please send in a written note to the class teacher.
- 14.On swimming days, children do not bring a school bag to school, only a bag for swimming gear and a bag for lunch.
- 15.Homework for Tuesday will be assigned on Monday and children will have their books at home to complete their homework.

St. Joseph's Street Band

On Friday 20th of September, girls from First, Fifth and Sixth Classes were delighted to participate in the Music and Culture Day in Clonakilty ahead of the International Guitar Festival. It was a great opportunity for the girls to entertain and we appreciate the wonderful support on the day. Many thanks to Mr. Mulcahy, Múinteoir Julie, Máistir Andrew, Áine, Emma (SNA) and class teachers Múinteoirí Aileen, Noemi and Anna for all their hard work preparing for this performance.



Busy Days in St. Joseph's

Schools Road Safety Webinar.

On Monday 23rd of September . Second and Third Class girls watched a very informative webinar hosted by Caroline Casey. During Cork Walking Week the girls were reminded of the importance of wearing hi-vis when walking on the roads by day /night and also the rules regarding crossing at pedestrian crossings.

Wait, Look Left, Look Right.

Buckle up when travelling in a car. Children are required to be 1.5 metre tall to enable them to sit safely in the front seat of a car.

Visitors to Second Class.

On Thursday 26th of September we were delighted to welcome two members of An Garda Síochána, Garda Emma Lee and Detective Garry Purtill to Second Class. Their main message was that their job involves keeping everyone safe and being helpful in the community. The girls learned all about the different roles of the Gardaí including the Garda Water Unit, Mounted Unit, Garda Dog Unit etc. The highlight of the visit was to trial the handcuffs, Garda hat , protective vest and utility belt etc.



Local History Project.

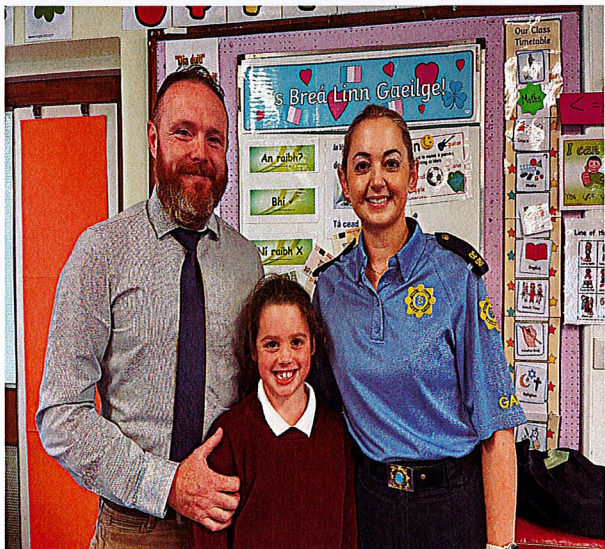


Well done to Sixth Class girls for all their research and presentation of their projects on buildings and industries in Clonakilty.

Happy SNA Appreciation Day.



The First National SNA Appreciation Day was held on Thursday September 26th . It aims to promote and celebrate the role and work of Special Needs Assistants working in our school.



Many thanks to Garda Emma Lee and Detective Garry Purtill for sharing their knowledge and giving their time to Second Class Girls.

Aistear in Junior Infants

Junior Infants started the 'Aistear' Programme with great enthusiasm. 'Aistear' is the Irish word for 'Journey' and it is a framework for learning through play. During Aistear time each group moves to a new station daily. Stations include Role play, Investigation/Exploratory, Literacy (Including iPads for phonics /letter formation etc.), Construction/Motor skills and Creative Station (e.g., Junk/Recycling Art). The girls are learning many skills from their experiences. However, this programme could not take place without the hard work, planning and great contribution by class teacher Múinteoir Julie with great assistance from Múinteoir Louise who is timetabled to work in Junior Infants every day.



Action Stations



Thank you to members of the Active Committee who organised these fun stations for First and Second Classes



We appreciate the use of the Clonakilty Sports Complex for sporting activities. Girls from Fourth, Fifth and Sixth avail of the facilities most days during lunchtime.



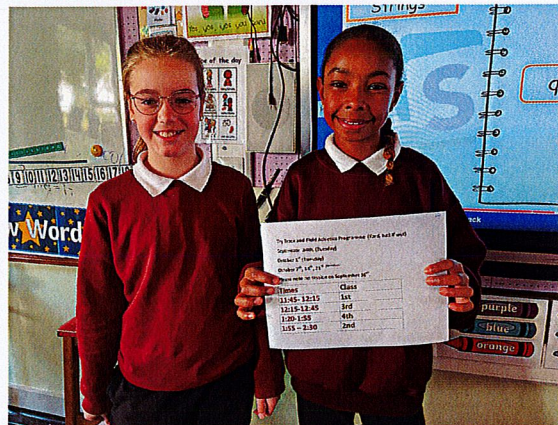
European Week of Sport

The girls from St. Joseph's were delighted to get active and moving during European Week of Sport. A range of activities including Camogie Blitz, Athletics with Janice, Tag Rugby Blitz, Relay Take Over, Active Stations, Greenway Walks were planned. Thanks to the Active Schools Committee under the supervision of Múinteoir Marian, who set up these activities.



Fourth Class girls enjoy Relay races with Janice.

Track and Field Athletics.



Members of our Active Schools Committee share the timetable for the track and Field Athletics Programme with Janice.

Athletics with Janice.



Timetable for Track and Field Athletics Programme.

Time	Classes
11.45-12.15	1st
12.15-12.45	3rd
1.20-1.55	4th
1.55-2.30	2nd

We are delighted to welcome Janice to St. Joseph's on the following dates to share her skills with the girls. The girls have enjoyed these fun sessions.

Mon. Sept. 9th.

Tues. Sept 24th.

Tues Oct 1st.

Mon. Oct 7th, 14th, 21st.

Members of our Active Schools Committee 2024/2025.

Our Active Schools Committee is made up of two girls from classes 3rd-6th.



Fun Activities in St. Joseph's

Raise the Roof!



Drama with our visiting teacher, Pam Golden is a firm favourite every Thursday. The girls enjoy the fun games and listening and observation exercises.

Playground Buddies.



Many thanks to our playground buddies who help out in the Junior Playground every morning. They ensure that every girl finds a friend.



Mini-beast Hunt for Third Class Girls.



Girls in third class enjoy a mini beast hunt in the playground.

What is in our Green Space ??



Mapping Skills



Third Class girls enjoyed a walk around Clonakilty . They put their mapping skills to the test and marked the local stream, River Feale, woodland , Gullane lake etc.

Green Schools Committee

Green Schools Committee



We are very excited to announce that a new Green schools Committee has been set up in St. Joseph's. Our Green schools Co-ordinator, Múinteoir Anna will lead the team as they explore Global Citizenship- Marine Environment. We look forward to hearing about their ideas and plans in the weeks ahead.



Green Schools Programme.

Our theme for the Green Schools Programme for the next two years is Global Citizenship Marine Environment. Global citizenship means that we are not just working for our own benefit but for the benefit of everyone all over the world. The small part we play in helping our local environment affects people right across the world and we each have a responsibility to do our bit to help one another and help the environment. The word Marine refers to life in and around the sea, the fish and plants that live under the sea and the beaches we all love to enjoy. The programme we are going to work on now will focus on the 70% of the planet that is covered by the ocean. We're very lucky here in our school because we are situated very close to the sea. It is our hope that over the next two years, we will raise awareness of the importance of the sea and the impact marine litter and pollution has on this very special ecosystem. There's a lot of ocean to protect and that is exactly what we need to do... protect our seas, our beaches and the many ecosystems that exist around them.

Over the next two years we will be looking at Marine Litter and pollution, what exactly that means and the harm caused by them to our marine environment. We will look at ways to reduce this litter and pollution and even organise a local beach clean up once it's safe for us to do so. It's a very exciting project and we hope every class will come on board and do their part to protect our seas and fish life and to make our world in and around and under the sea a better place.

Inter Schools Camogie and Rugby Blitz

Camogie Blitz in Skibbereen

A group of 13 girls from 5th and 6th class took part in a camogie blitz in Skibbereen on Monday 23rd September. The girls played St Joseph's GNS, Skibbereen, Barryroe NS and Enniskeane NS. The girls played excellently in all three games and were very unlucky to lose two games by one goal and another by only one point. They showed great heart, determination and skills in the three competitive games. Well done to all involved. Everyone had a great day and thanks to Múinteoir Marian and Caroline who accompanied the girls on this occasion.

Camogie Blitz in Skibbereen



Primary School Rugby Blitz.

On Friday 27th of September, girls from First to Sixth Classes participated in an Inter-schools blitz. This was a very enjoyable occasion for all and the girls got an opportunity to play tip rugby and tag rugby which involved very little contact. The girls played Kilmeen, Knockskeagh, Lisavaird and Gaelscoil Cloich na gCoillte. Many thanks to all Parents who very kindly organized drop-off and collection from the rugby grounds. The girls got an opportunity to walk on the extended greenway so overall it was a very active day.



Sport in St. Joseph's.

Rugby Timetable: 2024

We welcome Finbarr (Rugby Coach) who has commenced coaching in St. Joseph's.

Time	6th, 13 th ,20 th & 27 th of September	4 th ,11 th ,18 th and 25 th of October.
9.15-9.45	First	S. Infants
9.45- 10.15	Second	J. Infants
10.15- 10.45	Fourth	Fifth
11.00-11.30	Sixth	Third.

Rugby Coaching with Finbarr.



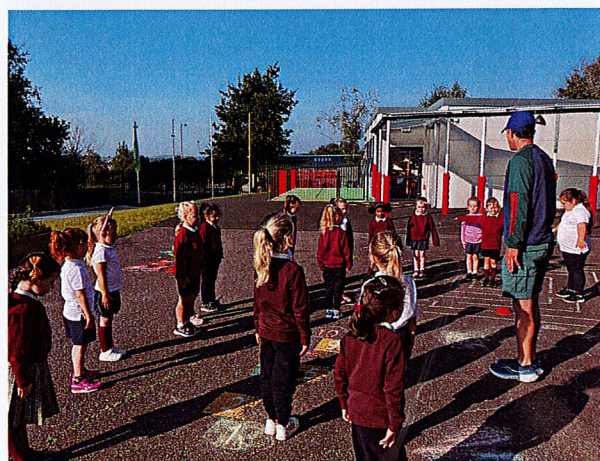
The girls love being active on Friday mornings.

GAA Timetable. 2024/2025

We welcome Conan (GAACoach) who has commenced football coaching

Time	20 th ,27 th of September 4 th ,11 th of Oct.	18 th ,25 th of October. 8 th , 15 th of Nov.
9.15-9.45	S. Infants	First
9.45- 10.15	J. Infants	Second
10.15- 10.45	Fifth	Fourth
11.00-11.30	Third.	Sixth

GAA Coaching with Conan.



Swimming Coaching.



Well done to Sixth Class Girls who have enjoyed their four sessions in Clonakilty Leisure Centre. Coaching for Fifth Class will begin of Tuesday 1st of October.