

# St. Joseph's National School

September

## Newsletter

2023



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🌐 www.stjosephsclon.com

### *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, Múinteoir Sarah, Múinteoir Claire, Ciara Campbell (SNA) and Carol Bourke (SNA). We extend our congratulations also to Múinteoir Sarah and Gillian O' Sullivan (SNA) as they take up their new roles in Class Seven.

### *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 and the Seesaw online learning App which are vital for communication and online learning.

Thank you to all who have paid fees which cover the cost of Drama, French, Zumba, 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, Art, Aistear, Music and Habitat Studies.

### *Uniform Days.*

Our uniform days for all classes this year are on Mondays and Wednesdays. 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.

### *Farewell.*

On Tues. June 27<sup>th</sup> we bid farewell to our colleague, friend and mentor, Ms. Eileen O'Mahony who has started out on her new journey in life. We wish her the best of health, happiness in her retirement.

*Go n-éirí an bóthar leat.*

### *Dates For Diary.*

#### *October.*

Tues. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Autumn Fun Club.

Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> – Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> : Space Week.

Fri. 6<sup>th</sup>: Library Workshop (3<sup>rd</sup> Class).

Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> : Space Dress Up day.

Fri. 20<sup>th</sup> : Song-singing Workshop in Clonakilty Library (6<sup>th</sup> Class)

Thurs. 26<sup>th</sup>: Visit to Blackrock Observatory. (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class)

Mon. 31<sup>st</sup> - Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> inclusive : Midterm.

### *Welcome to all Prospective Pupils.*

**St Joseph's GNS Autumn Fun Club**

Is your daughter ready for school in September 2024?

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Come along to our free Autumn activity club on **Tuesday, 3rd October 2023.**

Drop your daughter off at 1.30pm and collect at 2.15pm from the Sports Complex car park to experience Junior Infants class with fun activities.

Ring 023 8833050 to register or email secretary@stjosephsclon.com

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We would like to give you a sense of what St Joseph's GNS can offer your daughter. Please note this is not an enrolment day. We look forward to welcoming you.

## Staffing and Classes for School Year 2023/2024

|                   |                                                            |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Principal:        | Mr. Conor Mulcahy.                                         |
| Deputy Principal. | Ms. Sarah Geaney.                                          |
| Junior Infants:   | Ms. Julie Harrington.                                      |
| Senior Infants:   | Ms. Sarah Shortall.                                        |
| First Class:      | Ms. Ethel Loughnan.                                        |
| Second Class:     | Mrs. Geraldine Crowley                                     |
| Third Class:      | Ms. Orlaith Walsh                                          |
| Fourth Class:     | Ms. Claire O'Connell.                                      |
| Fifth Class:      | Ms. CarolAnne O'Brien, Mrs. Edel Mc Carthy. ( Job-sharing) |
| Sixth Class:      | Ms. Anna Kingston.                                         |
| Class Seven       | Ms. Sarah Geaney.                                          |

Learning Support: Mrs. Marian Mc Carthy.

Resource: Mrs. Caroline Condon.

EAL: Ms. Aileen O'Connor.

EAL: Ms. Noemi Diaz.

Learning Support: Ms. Ciara O'Sullivan. ( Post is shared with Darrara N.S.)

Special Needs Assistants: Mrs. Elma Mc Carthy, Mrs. Gillian O'Sullivan, Ms. Carol Bourke and Ms. Ciara Campbell.

Secretary: Mrs. Regina Cooke.

### ***Board of Management.***

Chairperson: Mrs. Kathleen Ryan.

Secretary: Mr. Conor Mulcahy. (Principal )

Treasurer: Mr. Fachtna Mc Carthy.

Staff Nominee: Ms. Julie Harrington.

Parents' Nominees: Mrs. Jenny Ejim, Mr. James Crowley.

Community members: Mr. Fachtna Mc Carthy, Mr. Robert Walsh, Mr. Conor Nyhan )

***New board assumed office on 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2019 and term of four years will come to an end in October 2023.***

### ***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.

# What's on in St. Joseph's

|                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Monday</b></p>                                                                                          | <p>Irish Dancing in the school hall.<br/>( 3-4pm)<br/>Gardening / DIY Club ( 3-4pm)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>Tuesday</b></p>        | <p>Swimming Lessons in the Leisure Centre- Sixth Class.<br/><br/>( 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.)<br/><br/>Violin: Third Class.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>Wednesday</b></p>   | <p>Violin : Fourth Class.<br/>Creative Keyboards.<br/>2-3pm: Junior &amp; Senior Infants.<br/>3-4pm: First &amp; Second Class.<br/>4-5pm: Third- Sixth.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Thursday</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>Friday</b></p>     | <p>Rugby Coaching with Finbarr.<br/>( 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> )<br/>( 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September.<br/><br/>Football Coaching with Conan.<br/>( Junior Infants, Senior Infants, Third and Fifth).<br/>( 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> )</p> |

# School Committees

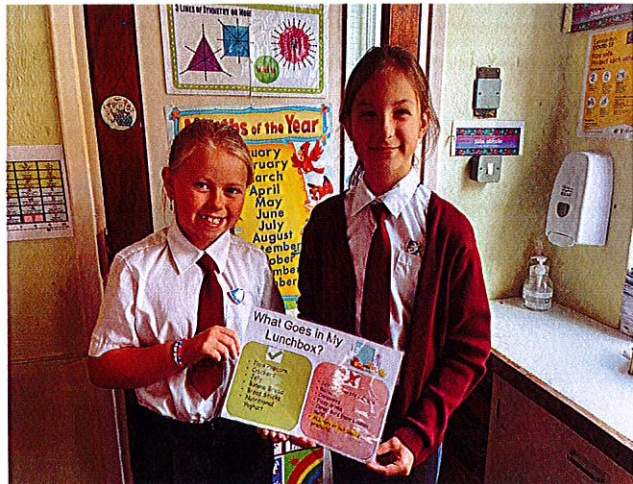
***Student Council and Amber Flag Committee.***



This year our Student Council members have taken on two roles in the school. Not only do they serve as the student voice but they also take on a role on the 'Amber Flag Committee'. They have been great role models in the school and have suggested many interesting ideas. We love hearing the birthday wishes, Wear your own clothes on the last Friday, Announcing the 'Frása na Seachtaine' and any other upcoming initiatives on the PA.



Student council members from Sixth Class remind us to use our 'Frása na Seachtaine'.



Student council members from third class remind us to make healthy choices every day.

***Pupil of the Month Award for September.***



Our First Assembly is always so exciting particularly for our Junior Infants and girls who have started in St. Joseph's for the first time. It was a great opportunity to meet everyone and also introduce members of our new committees.

***Our First Assembly.***



# 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. The theme for this year is Sustainable Energy. We look forward to hearing about their activities in the next few weeks.

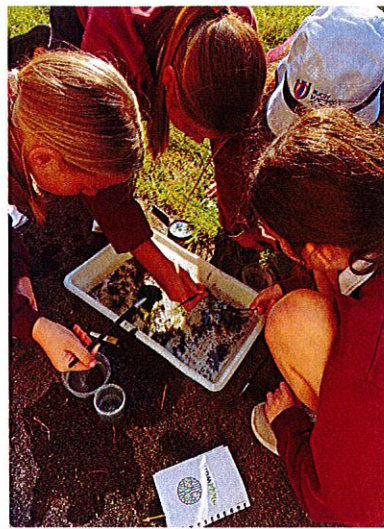
## *Mini Beast Hunt.*



Third class girls were busy using the pooters to gather plants and fauna in the school environs. They had great fun identifying 'What is in our Green Spaces?'

## *Biodiversity Project.*

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of September, Sixth class enjoyed a very exciting workshop with Kieran Cowig from Wildwork. This is a follow on project from last year which aims to give the girls opportunities to become more familiar with their local environment and nature around them. In this workshop the focus was on the river beds and the girls got an opportunity to identify the bugs and insects which were present in five different rivers.



## *Gardening Club / DIY Club.*

Girls in Fifth Class are busy painting a mural on the fence around our Fairy Garden. Many thanks to the girls who participated in our Summer programme this year who did great work painting the base coat for this project.



# Aistear in St. Joseph's

Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class have commenced 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 + 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 teachers Múinteoirí Julie, Sarah and Ethel with great assistance from Múinteoirí Noemi, Aileen and Mrs. Elma Mc Carthy (SNA) who are timetabled to work in these classes every day.



**All set to create 'My Handprint on my First Day'**



**Maisy is welcomed to every home!!!**



**First Class girls are busy collecting leaves and seeds in advance of creating Autumn Critters.**



# Sport in St. Joseph's.

## ***Rugby Timetable. 2023/2024***

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

| Time         | 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> of Sept. | 29 <sup>th</sup> of Sept, 20 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> of October. |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.15-9.40    | First                                                            | S. Infants                                                                  |
| 9.40- 10.00  | Second                                                           | J. Infants                                                                  |
| 10.00- 10.25 | Fourth                                                           | Fifth                                                                       |
| 10.25-10.50  | Sixth                                                            | Third.                                                                      |

## ***GAA Timetable. 2023/2024***

We welcome Conan (GAACoach ) who has commenced football coaching in St. Joseph's.

| Time         | 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> of September. | 6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> of October. |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                                                                  |

## **Rugby Coaching with Finbarr.**



**Second and Fourth Class love being active on Friday mornings.**



## ***Swimming Coaching.***



***Swimming lessons have commenced at the Park Leisure Club.***

## **GAA Coaching with Conan.**



**Senior Infants have great fun.**

# Swimming Rota.

| Class  | Dates                                                                                              |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sixth  | 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> of September.           |
| Fifth  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> of October.             |
| Fourth | 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> of November.            |
| Third  | 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> of December and 9 <sup>th</sup> of January.  |
| Second | 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> of January and 6 <sup>th</sup> of February. |
| First  | 20 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> of February and 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

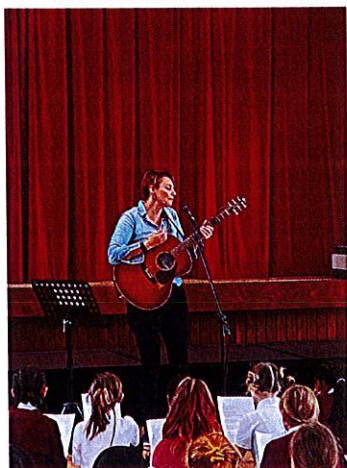
# Fun Activities in St. Joseph's

## Raise the Roof!!!

Ahead of Clonakilty International Guitar Festival, we were delighted to welcome guitarist, Liz Clark to St. Joseph's on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> of September. Our Fourth, Fifth and Sixth class girls were delighted with this workshop and everyone participated with great enthusiasm.

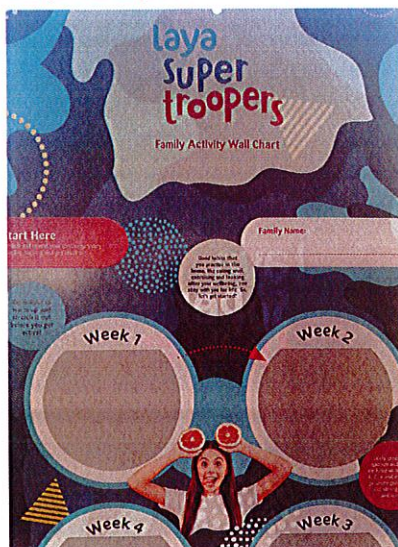


## Movement Break in Second Class.



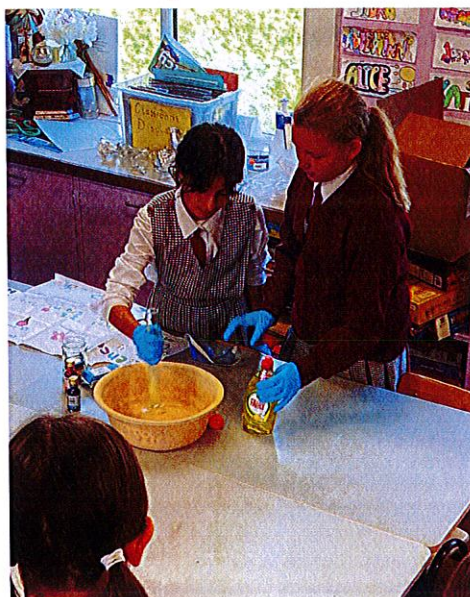
Liz Clark, one of the members of the all female band 'The Kates'.

## Laya Super Troopers Programme.



Laya Super Troopers is a free health homework programme which encourages children and their families to enjoy a healthy, balanced lifestyle by focusing on the three pillars: Physical Activity, Well-being and Nutrition. St. Josephs is one of twenty schools in Ireland who have been selected to trial the Laya Super Troopers Pilot Programme this year. Fourth Class Girls are so excited to be participating in this programme.

## Science Experiments in Sixth Class.

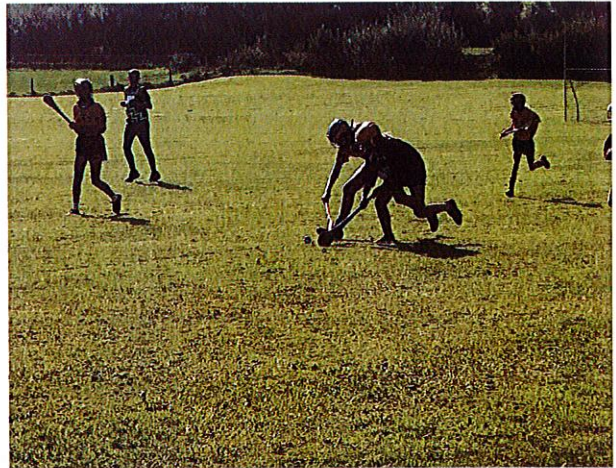


# Inter Schools Camogie and Rugby Blitz

## Camogie Blitz in Ahamilla.

A Sciath na Scol Hurling/ Camogie Blitz took place in Ahamilla on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. This was a fun non-competitive blitz which was organised by Diarmuid Duggan, Enniskeneane N.S. and Alan Foley, Skibbereen N.S. well. This is a great initiative where it is hoped a Sciath na Scol hurling/ Camogie competition will take place next year. Many thanks to the Transition students from the local schools who very kindly refereed the games. A group of girls from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes represented St. Joseph's very well. The girls played Enniskeneane NS .Coppeen NS, KnockskeaghNs nad Gaelscoil Cloch na Coillte. Everyone had a great day and thanks to Muinteoir Marian and Caroline who accompanied the girls on this occasion.

## Camogie Blitz in Ahamilla.



## Primary School Rugby Blitz.

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of September, girls from Second 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, Clogagh and Gaelscoil Cloich na gCoillte. The finale was a rendition of 'Ireland's Call' led by third class pupil, Holly O' Donovan. 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.



# Be Active Schools Campaign.

The girls from St. Joseph's were delighted to get active and moving during European Week of Sport. A range of activities including Table Tennis, Wacky Waiter and Clothes Peg relays were planned. Thanks to the Active Schools Committee and Sixth Class Girls, under the supervision of Múinteoir Marian, who set up these activities. The highlight of the week was the Tug of War. Sixth Class v Staff.

## Members of our Active Schools Committee 2023/2024.

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



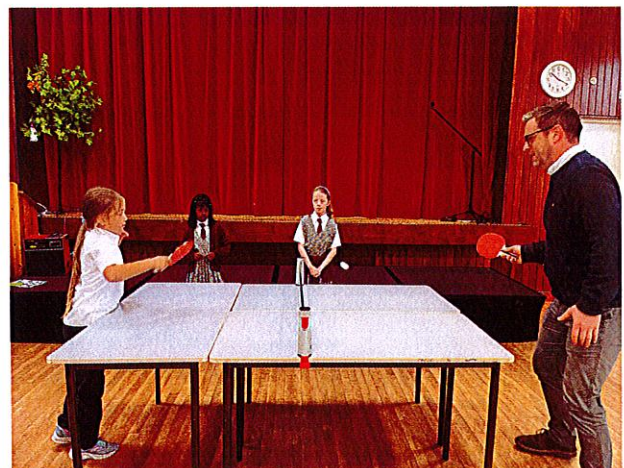
Our Active Flag Committee have been very busy this month. Not only have they organised the activities this week but they have provided each classroom with a range of playground equipment during lunchbreak.

## Happy Spectators.



Well Done to our Camogie players who represented St. Joseph's in the Blitz.

## Table Tennis.



Many thanks to Múinteoir Marian and Sixth Class who set up and organised the Table Tennis in the hall. It has been a very busy month in St. Joseph's and everyone enjoyed the fun activities.