



St. Joseph's Newsletter November 2025



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping well. It has been a busy few months in St. Joseph's. We were especially delighted to welcome all the parents during STEM week. We look forward to welcoming you again for parent teacher meetings on the **19th and 20th November** as well as the Christmas festivities in December.

Is mise le meas,

Úna O' Kelly

School Principal

Stem Week





There was great excitement here in St. Joseph's for STEM week. There were lots of fun activities taking place in all of the classrooms, e.g. Maths trails, daily problem solving, Maths board games, STEM activities, Maths art and quizzes. Classes invited parents/guardians in to engage in some maths games and STEM activities with the children also. All of the boys and girls got involved in the various activities and showed great enthusiasm for STEM throughout the week. As we continue to implement the new maths curriculum this year we encourage maths talk, playful learning in maths and using maths in real life each day. We also look forward to building on our strong STEM foundation when the new curriculum for STE is implemented in the coming years. Check out our blog on the school website and the school twitter account to see lots more photos from the week.

Intel Mini Scientist competition





Well done to Ms. Doyle, Ms. McGrath and all the 5th class pupils for presenting such wonderful science projects at the Intel mini-scientists presentation. The Intel judge was hugely impressed by all the innovative and creative ideas. It was lovely to see the collaboration and teamwork in each of the group presentations. All the classes were delighted to visit the projects too. Lots more wonderful photos of the science projects are available to view in the blog section of the school website and on the school twitter account.

Team Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal



St. Joseph's decided to take part in the Team Hope Christmas shoebox appeal again this year. The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign sending gift filled shoeboxes from Ireland to children affected by poverty in countries across Africa and Eastern Europe. Thank you to the student council for assisting the Team Hope representative as she ensured all the boxes were all safely collected. If any pupils still wish to take part they can do a virtual shoebox online. You can visit the team hope website for details.

Attendance



New data published by Tusla Education Support Services (TESS) shows that one in five children in primary and post-primary school are missing a month or more of their school year. The 2023/24 report indicates that while non-attendance is decreasing it is still significantly greater than pre-pandemic levels. TESS and the Department of Education and Youth launched a national multimedia campaign to highlight this nationwide issue and create awareness about the importance of attending school. The campaign reinforces the message that **when a child can go to school they should go to school**, helping to reduce absenteeism in schools in Ireland. Please visit the webpage with support for parents www.gov.ie/schoolattendance and view the link to a 30-second video [here](#). We remind parents that pupils should be in school every day unless they are sick. **Good Attendance and class contact time are vital to a pupil's success in school.** Our attendance motto in St. Joseph's is **H.E.R.O. (Here every day, ready on time).** **Pupils who are absent 20 days or more are reported to TUSLA and also discussed with the Education Welfare Officer.** Instruction missed while a pupil is on holidays will not be revisited again as the teacher must progress to the next stage of instruction. Pupils in receipt of support with a SET teacher who miss a lot of time due to holidays may have their support slot reduced on return. We thank you for your support with this.

U11s GAA boys and girls





Well done to the GAA U11s boys and girls football teams who put in a stellar performance all season. Thank you to Ms. Farrell, Ms. Durkan and Mr. Hodgkinson for all their hard work with the team. Thank you also to Ger for helping out.

FAI Soccer U13s boys and girls





FAI soccer league U13s: Well done to Ms. Conlon, Mr. McCormack and our U13s girls and boys soccer team who have put in stellar performances over the last few weeks. It has been a great season for both teams. The girls team put in a super performance at their final last Tuesday and just narrowly missed out on a win. This was their second final in a row in two years.

Internet Safety

In St. Joseph's we continue to use the wonderful resources on www.webwise.ie to teach pupils lessons on internet safety. There are wonderful resources for parents to access on this website also as well as online safety webinars advising parents how to use the internet safely with their children. **We remind parents that pupils should not have any social media accounts until they are 13 as required by law. The internet is a great resource when used properly but parental supervision is key to ensuring this is done safely.**

Smartphone Pact

Thanks to the parent's council for promoting the smartphone pact again this year. The parent's council will be in touch soon with this year's results. St. Joseph's supports this pact and reminds parents that mobile phones/smart devices are not allowed in the school. In exceptional circumstances, where a pupil walks home on their own and a mobile phone/smart device is needed, a permission form must be obtained from the school office.

Dates for your diary

- Parent Teacher Meetings: Nov 19th and 20th
- School closure for Child Protection Training: Nov 28th
- Christmas Fair: December 12th
- 6th class nativity play: December 16th @ 7p.m.
- School Christmas concert: December 17th 9:15 and 11:30
- Santa Visit: December 18th

Don't forget to download our Aladdin Connect App if you haven't already done so to keep up to date with news from school.

Don't forget you can also keep up with all our latest news in the blog section of the school website www.stjosephskilcock.com and on twitter @sjnskilcock

Success for all, a happy school-Learning and Growing together