

St. Joseph's Newsletter

November 2022



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Dear parent/guardian,

As you know I will be retiring at Christmas and the Board will begin the process of appointing a new Principal after Christmas. In the meantime, Ms. McNickle will be Acting Principal with Ms. Cafferkey as Acting Deputy Principal. I think they will be wonderful in their roles and wish them the very best - you will all be in very safe hands until the new principal is appointed over the next few months.

It is great to see so many of you in our beautiful new school these days. I hope you are managing to get to your Parent Teacher meetings this year and are enjoying being able to be in the school rather than Zoom or phone calls. These meetings are a very important link between home and school and the teachers are delighted to see you, in person! I'm sure you are all getting good news about your child and hope you are proud of their achievements.

Kind regards,

Ann McQuillan, School Principal

Class sizes capped due to pressure for places

Our school is very much over-subscribed and our Board currently operates a ratio of 26 pupils per teacher for this academic year, though acknowledge that some classes are larger. In 2023/2024, we will endeavour to close all classes at 25 pupils per classroom.

Our 'new' Junior Infant classes may even be smaller as the Dept of Ed recommendation is 23 pupils per teacher going forward. Due to pressure for places in our school as outlined above, we may not be able to guarantee all children access next year. The Board of Management may have to put an age condition in place. If this situation arises, we will admit 'eldest children first' until both rooms are deemed full. This means the older children will have a place while younger children may have to wait another year.

If you have a child to enrol please complete the *Shared Admissions Forms* on or after Jan 5th, 2023. Once places have been allocated we will be unable to accept later applications, even if for siblings. Parents and new families to Kilcock are naturally disappointed when they cannot get a place for their child but we need to look after the children we have in front of us each day.

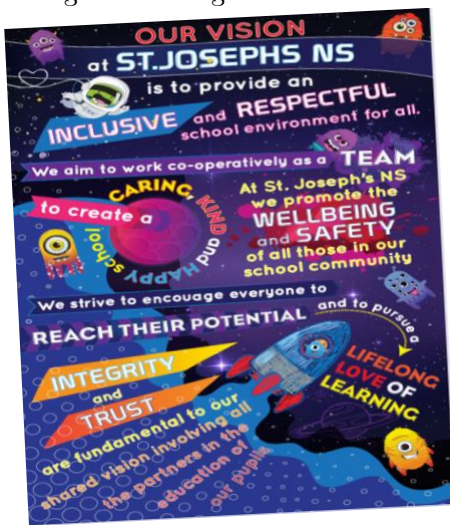
U/11 Camogie Cumann na mBunscol Blitz



Ms. McGrath and Ger Gibbons brought the U/11 to their Blitz and our girls were super. They got to the Final and then had to play extra time. They were leading until the very last minute of the game, when they were just pipped when the other team scored a winning goal. Our girls were a credit to us and we are very proud of them all.

School Motto and Vision Statement

Special thanks to **Emer Lane** who designed posters around our School Motto and Vision statement. You can see them inside the front door attached to the PE hall door. They look great and are a constant reminder to us of our focus here in St. Joseph's. **Deirdre and Stuart Sinclair** from **CONFIG** kindly paid for all the associated printing costs - huge thanks to them for their very generous donation.



School Library

Our school library is back in operation for the past few weeks and the children love it. It is lovely to see the pleasure they get from selecting a new book and taking it home. Please ensure they mind the book and return it in the same condition as they get it. Lost books will have to be paid for as we do not have an indefinite supply of money to replace books. Special thanks to Martina and her team of Parents' Council who volunteer each week to give the books to your child.

National Childrens' Choir

We had over 500 children from five different schools visit us recently as part for the National Children's Choir. This event was co-ordinated by Ms. Shiel Nolan as their Conductor and Choir Master. It was stunning to listen to their beautiful voices and they were very impressed with Ms Shiel Nolan and our lovely school too!

REMINDERS

PC Fun Fair on Friday 2nd Dec - *each class will attend on a lottery basis.*

Santa will visit us in late December so we hope the children will be on their very best behaviour.

Dates for your Diary - *full calendar on website*

Christmas Holidays: Wednesday, 21 Dec at 12 noon and school re-opens on **Thurs 5 Jan '23.**

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