



St. Joseph's Newsletter September 2022



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Welcome back to yet another year and we hope everyone had a great summer. In particular, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new pupils and staff of St. Joseph's, and a special welcome to our Junior Infant little boys and girls. We hope you have a wonderful year with us. Please come in to talk to us if you have any concerns whatsoever about your child. We need to work together as partners in your child's education and we look forward to working with you again this year.

Official Opening: We have some very exciting news to share with everyone. The official opening of our new school will take place on **30th September at 11am**. We have waited a long time for this and hope to make it special for all. We will have some invited guests and have more details nearer the date.

Healthy Lunches: We have a Healthy Lunch Policy (*see our school website www.stjosephskilcock.com*) and recommend that you read it with your child. We encourage the children to eat and drink healthily and we will generally not use sweets as a treat in school. We discourage foods that are 'high in salt, sugar or fat' and would ask you to keep these types of foods, if necessary, at home. As part of our 'Green Schools' recycling initiative **all wrappers and uneaten food go back home in the lunchbox each day** so you can monitor exactly what your child has eaten. Please bear in mind that your child really only needs a sandwich, some fruit and a drink. Some parents put in enough food to feed a few children...remember they are only away from home or 4 or 5 hours max.

Classroom Expenses: You should have received a link to pay your child's expenses. Expenses are listed for each pupil each year and all that money is used in your child's classroom each year for art, classroom resources, photocopying, reading books, etc. Please pay them as soon as you can but if you are not in a position to pay them please talk to your child's teacher or Mrs McQuillan and we will try to work out something that works for all of us.

No Uniform Days: Generally, on the last Friday of every month children wear regular clothes and we ask for a small donation of €2. You will get a text reminder. The money can be paid monthly, or if you prefer, you can pay the €20 for the year (10 months x €2) in one go through

the easy payments system. ALL children wear their regular clothes/stipulated clothing on that day whether or not they can afford the donation.

REMINDERS

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.

UNIFORMS: Please note that it is NOT necessary to buy the Crested Polo shirt, any royal blue one will suffice. Remember that our uniform is **plain navy** and **plain royal blue**, not branded or with stripes etc. Plain navy shorts may be worn if you prefer. Also, note that the uniform is completely inter-changeable and can be mixed each day as you choose. Please use a pen to write your child's name on the tags/labels so we can return them to you.

RAINY DAYS: On wet mornings the children will come directly into the school at 8:40. The children who are in the downstairs classrooms will enter the school via the front door. The children in the upstairs classrooms will enter the school via the red door (beside the astro). Remember on wet days there is always more traffic so please remember to be patient and don't block any of our neighbour's driveways. Please ensure that your child has a light rain jacket as we will be going outside to at break times unless the weather is very bad.

SCHOOL GROUNDS: Please note that you are NOT insured to be on the school grounds outside of school hours (8.40am to 2.30pm) without permission. Please do not drop off your child before 8:40am. If you wish to come earlier please remain with the child/children until 8:40 when the school gates open for all children. This is the official time we take responsibility for the children.

BICYCLES and SCOOTERS: We welcome and encourage the use of bicycles and scooters as a means of transport to school. For safety reasons **please dis-mount before coming onto the school grounds**. Bikes/Scooters can be left at our new bike racks in front of the school.

TOYS FOR INFANTS: The Infant classes are currently looking to update and add to their toy collection. Before we look at purchasing toys, we decided to see if our school community has anything to contribute first. If you have any of the toys listed below at home that you no longer need or use and would be happy to donate them to the school, we would be extremely grateful. Please ensure that any toys you send in are not missing pieces or hazardous and are in good condition. Any toys unused by the school will be donated to charity shops.

- Dolls (barbies, baby borns, any other dolls)
- Cash register/old phone
- Any type of construction blocks or resources (lego/stickle/cubes/mobilo/wooden blocks/knex)
- Castle, small house, farm barn, dollhouse furniture
- Small world people/figurines/animals/sea creatures etc.

- Vehicles

Please note we are not collecting any costumes, books, teddies or electronic toys so please only send toys relating to the above list.

Toys can be dropped into the school on Friday the 16th September. Please do not send any toys in before this date.

We really appreciate your support in this regard.

Dates for your Diary (full calendar on school website)

30th September: School closes at 12:15 for Primary Language Curriculum. Training for all staff.

Hallowe'en break commences on Monday, 31st October to Friday, 4th November.

Week of 21st November: Parent Teacher Meetings

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