



St. Joseph's Newsletter February 2024



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping well. Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024! I am delighted to be writing this as we celebrate the 1500th anniversary of St. Brigid to-day in St. Joseph's. We had a special pause for peace to-day at 12p.m. in conjunction with Solas Bhríde, the spirituality centre for St. Brigid in Kildare town.

Kind Regards,

Úna O' Kelly

School Principal

Grandparent's Day





Grandparents day was a great success this year. We were delighted to welcome all our grandparents to St. Joseph's N.S. to celebrate with us as part of Catholic School's week 2024. The theme this year was "Communities of Service". We are blessed in St. Joseph's to have a wonderful school community of which our grandparents are a huge part. It was lovely to see all the pupils perform and grandparents visit their classrooms after. Thanks to the Parent's Council for providing the refreshments. More photos to be seen in the blog section on school website.

Sporting Activities

This term in St. Joseph's we are very busy keeping active in all the classes. 4th-6th classes are currently enjoying some rugby sessions with North Kildare Rugby Club. 3rd classes and ASD classes are preparing to start swimming next week. GAA and soccer are continuing for this term also. Cumann na mBunscol will be starting up again in March for U10s and U13s. Cross country for senior classes will take place end of March. Basketball has started this term for 3rd-6th on Tuesday mornings and there will be a blitz organised for this end of February. Thank you to all the wonderful teachers and SNAs who help out with the various sporting activities.

Zumba



4th classes have been enjoying their first Zumba lesson this term with Suzanna. Great for the wellbeing and keeping fit. Looking forward to next week's lesson already!

Attendance and Punctuality

We remind parents that it is extremely important that pupils attend school each day. Our attendance motto in St. Joseph's is **H.E.R.O. (Here Everyday Ready On Time)**. It is also important that pupils are on time each morning. Late arrivals are disruptive for the individual pupil and also the class involved too. Our punctuality motto is **"On the line for ten to nine"**. However, if pupils are ill they must not attend school. In cases of vomiting/diarrohea pupils must not return to school until 48 hours after the last episode as per HSE guidelines. We encourage parents to avoid taking pupils out of school on holidays during term time also. Please remember to inform teachers through the Aladdin Connect App when your child is absent.

New Primary Maths Curriculum

Teachers received in-service on the new primary maths curriculum last Tuesday. The new curriculum focuses very much on how pupils carry out maths tasks rather than the final solution. It encourages pupils to use maths in real life situations and to engage in maths talk as they problem solve. As a school we encourage parents to use maths at home as much as possible e.g. measuring in baking/cooking, shopping, using timetables, spotting shapes etc. Allow time for your child to engage in maths talk while enjoying a real-life maths experience.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day takes place all over Ireland next Tuesday, 6th February. Here in St. Joseph's teachers will be using 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.**

Friendship Week

The school will celebrate Friendship week from Feb 19th-23rd. We aim to promote positive behaviour and friendships amongst pupils in conjunction with our anti-bullying policy. Each school was given a Cineáltas (Irish word for kindness) flag this year to highlight all the work being done in school on this. We will proudly raise our flag during Friendship week.

St. Brigid's Day



Classes from junior infants-6th have been busy engaging in lots of activities about St. Brigid to-day. They enjoyed learning about her life, her work and her special connection to Kildare. 5th and 6th classes were delighted to have the chance to make their own St. Brigid crosses with the help of John from Lara. The whole school had a one-minute pause for peace at 12p.m. in honour of St. Brigid.

Credit Union Quiz



Well done to all our senior teams who took part in the Credit Union school's quiz last Friday night. Congratulations to the U13s team who took 1st place. This team will now represent the school in the regional final at a later date. Thanks to Mr. Higgins for preparing the team.

Dates for your diary

- February 6th-Safer Internet Day
- February 7th -6th class Ceremony of Light @7:30p.m.
- February 15th&16th-February mid-term
- February 19th-23rd-Friendship Week
- March 7th -World Book Day
- March 8th-School Closure-Polling station for Referendum
- March 9th-Confirmation @10a.m.
- March 11th-15th -Seachtain na Gaeilge
- March 22nd - School closes at 12p.m. for Easter holidays

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