



St. Joseph's Newsletter September 2024



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to St. Joseph's for 2024-2025. In particular, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new pupils and staff who joined St. Joseph's, and a special welcome to our Junior Infant little boys and girls. I look forward to working in collaboration with you all again this year.

Is mise le meas,

Úna O' Kelly

School Principal

New Junior Infants



I would like to say a huge well done to all our junior infants who have settled in so well. It is wonderful to visit the classrooms and see how enthusiastic and engaged they are in their learning. It is great to see how independent they are lining up on their coloured circles in the morning and evening too. Keep up the great work!

Healthy Eating Policy

We have a Healthy Eating Policy which can be viewed on our school website www.stjosephskilcock.com. We encourage the children to eat and drink healthily and we will generally avoid using 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. **We are a nut free school and remind you not to send in any products with nuts in your child's lunch.**

Classroom Expenses

All parents should have received a link to pay their 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 & craft supplies, digital licences, classroom resources, photocopying, etc. Please pay them as soon as you can but if you are not in a position to pay them please talk to Ms. O' Kelly and payment can be arranged in instalments.

School Self Evaluation

As part of our school self-evaluation this year we will continue to work on **Literacy**. Our Talk-time Oral Language programme has been implemented and we will prioritise **reading comprehension** this year where pupils will be taught comprehension strategies explicitly. We encourage you as parents to ask your children questions about what they have read to aid comprehension.

At St. Joseph's we continue to instil a love of reading in all our pupils. Our **school library** is an invaluable asset in supporting this. We thank Martina our SNA and all the parent volunteers who ensure the smooth running of the library each week. Our library will be rehoused in a new modular building at the top of the running track over the next two months. In the mean time we will be using the foyer at the top of the red stairs to house the library.

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. Pupils may wear **royal blue polo-shirt/cardigan/jumper and navy pinafore/skirt/trousers. School tracksuit consists of navy crested jumper and navy tracksuit bottoms/navy loose fitting shorts.** Please, note that the uniform is completely interchangeable and can be mixed each day as you choose. Please ensure all your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their names. Items handed into lost property will only be kept for 2

weeks and handed on to parent's council and charity shop after this. Pupils are not allowed to wear hooped earrings, transfers, body piercings or make up. Don't forget no uniform day is on the last Friday of each month where an optional donation of €2 can be made to the school.

Punctuality and Parking

I would like to remind parents that **parking in the bus lane and on the double yellow lines is forbidden** at all times. I would ask parents to depart as soon as they have dropped off/collected their child to avoid any congestion near the school. The safety of the school community is always the top priority of St. Joseph's and I ask you for your continued support with this matter. **Any pupil who arrives after 8:50am** in the morning must be brought to the front school door by their parent/minder and **signed in at the school secretary's office**.

Children are not allowed enter the stones or wood chipping areas at the front of the school in the morning or evening time. Please ensure toddlers are supervised while waiting to collect pupils. Please ensure also that the pedestrian crossing is kept free for pupils.

Dogs are not allowed on school premises at any stage unless it is necessary to have a guide or therapy dog.

Please be punctual in collecting and dropping your children. School starts at **8.50a.m.** and children are dismissed at **2.30pm**, each afternoon (**Infants at 1.30pm**). To avoid unnecessary disruption for your child and their class please ensure your child is on time each morning. I would like to say a huge congratulations to all our pupils who line up so well in their designated class lines in the morning. It is wonderful to see how ordered and calm the yard is while pupils chat to each other in the lines. Keep up the great work!

Wellbeing

In St. Joseph's we continue to work on physical and mental well being as a school community. This year we will be rolling out the anxiety prevention and resilience building programmes Fun Friends in senior infants and Friends for Life in 5th class. Two staff members have been trained on these and supported by our school NEPS psychologist. We hope to deliver these programmes each year to at least two class levels.

Bí Cineálta New Anti-Bullying Procedures

The anti-bullying procedures for primary and post-primary schools 2013 have now been replaced by the Bí Cineálta procedures to prevent and address bullying behaviour. These procedures will come into effect from the start of the 2025/2026 school year. Last year St. Joseph's raised its Cineáltas flag during Friendship week to highlight all the good work being done in the school to promote friendship and positive behaviour. We now are working on our Cineáltas charter as the start of the new Bí Cineálta plan. The school will receive training and support during this school year to develop a Bí Cineálta policy which will replace the old anti-bullying policy for next year. We will keep you informed of any updates as the year progresses.

6th class CPR and defibrillator training



6th classes participated in CPR and defibrillator training this week. They found this very practical and most valuable. Thank you to Bernie and Theresa from the Kilcock community first responders for providing this.

Say Yes to Languages Programme

St. Joseph's is delighted to have been accepted on the "Say Yes to Languages" programme this year. After a successful mini pilot of offering French in 6th class last year with Ms Walsh, our current 6th class will benefit from a ten week language programme in French. Mr Forde and Ms. Walsh will be providing the instruction on this. We wish them Bonne Chance in the weeks ahead and look forward to hearing the pupils practising their French.

Cumann na mBunscol Football



U11s Football: Well done to the U11s football teams who have put in a stellar performance so far in Cumann na mBunscol. All of the boys and girls have played fantastically. Thank you to Ms. Farrell, Mr. Hodgkinson, Ms. Durkan and Ms. Campbell for all their hard work with the team. Thanks to Ger for helping out also. Best of luck to all involved for the rest of the competition.

Soccer



FAI soccer league U13s: Well done to Mr. McCormack and our U13s boys soccer team who have got off to a great start this week with the FAI soccer league. Thanks to Máire for helping out also. The girl's team will be heading off to their first match this Friday. Best of luck to all involved for the rest of the competition.

Digital Learning Plan



Our school digital learning plan has been recently updated and available to view on the school website. As a school we endeavour to use digital resources to enhance teaching, learning and assessment at each class level. We would like to say a huge thank you to the parent's council for fundraising our purchase of Beebots last year and Lego Spike sets this year. These are wonderful resources for coding and digital learning which classes are really enjoying using.

Maths Week 2024

St. Joseph's N.S. will celebrate maths week 2024 from the 14th-18th October where the pupils will engage in lots of fun maths activities with their teachers. Pupils will enjoy exploring different real-life maths problems, using their maths eyes, maths trails, maths quizzes and engaging with maths activities on the maths week website. We hope to also invite parents in to play maths games with their children in different classes. This was a huge success last year. Visit the maths week website www.mathsweek.ie for more details.

Dates for your diary

- **Sacraments meeting for parents October 8th at 7p.m and 8p.m.**
- **Maths Week 2024 October 14th-18th**
- **Parent's Council A.G.M. Tuesday, 15th October at 7:30p.m.**
- **Application for Admissions 2025/2026 opening up on Oct. 25th**
- **Hallowe'en mid-term break: Monday, 28th October to Friday, 1st November inclusive.**
- **Science Week November 13th-17th**
- **Parent Teacher Meetings: 20th and 21st November**

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 keep up with all our latest news on the blog section of the school website www.stjosephskilcock.com and on twitter @sjnskilcock

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