



St. Joseph's Newsletter September 2023



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to St. Joseph's for 2023-2024. 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 school year.

Is mise le meas,

Úna O' Kelly

School Principal

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

St. Joseph's N.S. will now begin a new cycle of school self-evaluation in the area of literacy. To begin the process we will gather evidence from parent questionnaires, pupil questionnaires, teacher questionnaires and standardised test results. A questionnaire on Reading will be sent to all parents in the coming weeks. We would appreciate if you could fill this out and return it when it is sent home. We thank you in advance for your help with this. 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.

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/loose fitting shorts. Please, note that the uniform is completely inter-changeable and can be mixed each day as you choose. Please ensure all your child's uniform is **clearly labelled** with their name. 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 a 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.

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!

Bicycles and Scooters

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

Internet Safety

An internet safety talk takes place online with Trend Micro at 7:30p.m on October 3rd next. You can register at the following link. <https://www.trendmicro.com/internet-safety/eventsie>

We remind parents to be vigilant at all times and ensure that their children are not on any social media groups. We advise you to continue to check out the parent's section of the webwise website www.webwise.ie which has wonderful advice and support for parents.

Camogie



U13 Camogie

Well done to the U13 Camogie team who played their first match last Friday in Cumann na mbunscól. All of the girls played fantastically. Thank you to Ms. Farrell, Ms. Walsh and Ms. Wynne for all their hard work with the team. Thank you also to Ger Ryan Gibbons for helping out.

Soccer



FAI soccer league U13s: Well done to Mr. McCormack and our U13s girls and boys soccer team who have put in stellar performances over the last few weeks. Very exciting and proud moment for our girl's team who historically are the first girl's soccer team ever in St. Joseph's! Best of luck to all involved for the rest of the competition.

Athletics



Congratulations to all the pupils from 4th, 5th and 6th class who took part in the cross country running in Kilcock GAA club last Tuesday. Great performance by all. Thank you to Ms. Doyle for training the pupils and preparing them for Tuesday.

Maths Week 2023

St. Joseph's N.S. will celebrate maths week 2023 from the 16th-20th October where the pupils will engage in lots of fun maths activities with their teachers. Pupils will enjoy exploring different maths problems, using their maths eyes, maths trails, maths quizzes and engaging with maths activities on the maths week website. A whole school problem-solving maths fair will be held in the hall this year where classes will be able to share and present maths problems with other classes. Each class will visit the hall on this morning. Parents are free to drop in too if they wish. We hope you will have some fun with maths at home too. Visit the maths week website www.mathsweek.ie for more details.

Dates for your diary

- Smart phone code meeting Thursday October 5th at 8pm.
- Sacraments meeting for parents October 12th at 7p.m and 8p.m.

- Maths Week 2023 October 16th-20th
- Meeting re: election of parent nominees to BOM Tuesday, 10th October at 7:30p.m.
- Parent's Council A.G.M. Tuesday, 10th October at 8p.m.
- Hallowe'en mid-term break: Monday, 30th October to Friday, 3rd November inclusive.
- 22nd & 23rd November: Parent Teacher Meetings

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 school website www.stjosephskilcock.com and on twitter @sjnskilcock

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