

St. Joseph's Newsletter

October 2022



Website: www.stjosephskilcock.com

Ph: 6287-628 6757300. 6757301

E-mails: office@stjosephskilcock.com OR principal@stjosephskilcock.com

Dear parent/guardian,

I hope you have had a good first half term with us and that your child is working well whilst also enjoying school. I am looking forward to seeing all the costumes on Friday and as always if your child doesn't wish to dress up for whatever reason they should wear their own clothes as it is a No Uniform Day. I hope you have a lovely Hallowe'en and look forward to seeing you all again after the break.

Kind regards,

Ann McQuillan, School Principal

Active Week

This past week, we were delighted to have our annual *Active Schools Week*, albeit slightly earlier than in previous years. Mr Forde, Mr. Higgins and Mr. Sweeney organised our Active Schools Week and it is certainly proving to be a great success with both staff and pupils. Thankfully the weather worked with us for the most part!

We are hoping that by incorporating our Active Week earlier in the academic year, we can promote an active and healthy lifestyle amongst all of the boys and girls for the remainder of the academic year. It was fantastic to see the children trying lots of new sports, games and activities right throughout the week, finally finishing off a super week with our ***Spooktacular Halloween Walk on Friday*** morning! Well done to all who took part throughout the week! We can't wait for Sports Day in June!

Class sizes capped due to pressure for places

Due to the pressure for requests for places in our school the Board of Management has decided to cap class sizes to **25 pupils per classroom** going forward in line with the recent budget of class sizes of 23 per room. We have classes with more than this number and unfortunately we cannot reduce the size as the children are physically here with us.

Furthermore, if your child is absent for **20 consecutive school days** we are obligated as per the Rules of National Schools to take them off the Roll Books. They will need to re-apply for a place in our school on their return from holidays, should there be a place available for them. If there

are mitigating circumstances such as serious illness the Board of Management may be able to intervene and support the child's re-application. Sadly, as we are under pressure for places we cannot guarantee a place for them.

School Library

Our school library re-opened last week much to the delight of our children. It has been closed since the onset of COVID 19 and we are delighted to have it back again. Huge thanks goes to our **SNA Martina** and her team of parent helpers, **Marta, Jane, Elaine, Tanya, Christine, Frederica and Emily**, who made this possible. Please track the book(s) your child receives and return them each week when they will receive a new one. Should they accidentally lose a book or damage it, you will be asked to purchase a replacement copy of the book for the Library. Without this arrangement it would not be possible to run a free library for the children and we hope you understand our situation. Parents volunteer their time free of charge each week to come to school to give your child books and I thank them on your behalf.

Maths week

Ms. Cafferkey and her team of teachers, **Ms Campbell, Ms Scanlon, Ms. Murray and Ms. Walsh** organised a fantastic Maths Week last week. The children were busy using their Maths eyes throughout the week as they engaged in Maths Trails, Problem Solving Circuits, Maths Games and much more! Well done to all of the children for taking part and a huge congratulations to **Aisling Halligan** in Sixth class for having the closest guess in the Conker Challenge. There were 476 conkers in the bucket and Aisling guessed 475!

PT Meetings

These are scheduled for **week of 21 November, 2022** and we hope you can attend in person this year. Face to face meetings are much more appropriate for children in Primary school. However, should you not be able to attend in person, we will endeavour to accommodate you with a *Zoom* meeting. Please arrange to meet with your child's *Support Teacher* should they be in receipt of additional help in school. We hope to have **Aladdin Connect** available for you to book appointments but more information about this nearer the time. We work in partnership with you and we need your input about your child, to help us teach and better understand them. Looking forward to seeing you all around the building during that week.

U/11 Camogie



Congratulations to our girls who formed part of the U/11 Kilcock Camogie team who became County Champions at the weekend. Well done to them all and Emer even scored a hat trick!

Coach Conor

Bright and early on Wednesday mornings before school our 3rd and 4th Class girls and boys are training for hurling and camogie with Coach Conor, volunteers from the GAA and staff from the school. They have great fun as well as learning lots of skills. New boys and girls who would like to join us at 8:15 am on a Wednesday would be more than welcome.

St Coca's AC Cross Country Event

Well done to the St Joseph's pupils from 4th to 6th class who participated in the St. Coca's Cross Country event on September 23rd at Kilcock GAA club.



All students ran well and we were delighted with their participation. Congratulations to Oskar Izbinski in 4th class who came 2nd in his heat. Also, to Julia McKeon and Clíodhna McNickle in 4th class who came top 10th in their category. Congratulations also to Luke McKeon in 6th class who placed 1st in his race. Special thanks to Ms Doyle and Ger Gibbons brought them on the day and the children participated wholeheartedly.

REMINDERS

School Uniform: Children should wear **Royal blue tops**, (*polo shirts, cardigans or sweatshirts*) and **navy bottoms** (*tracksuits, skirts, pinafores or trousers*) without logos, unless the school crest. Some children are wearing light blue polo shirts, navy tops, or black bottoms, which are not part of our uniform. Our school rule says: '*Wear what's allowed, make St. Joseph's proud*' and 'Steps' will be applied for children not wearing the correct uniform after Hallowe'en. Please support us by ensuring your child wears the proper uniform to school each day.

Attendance: You are aware if your child misses 20 days over the school year we are legally obligated to report them to TUSLA. Please send reasons for absences through Aladdin Connect so we can have the information required by the TUSLA Education Welfare Officer, should your child exceed 20 days.

Lost property: We have lots of lost property which will be disposed of over Hallowe'en break. Please come in before Friday if you are missing any items of uniform. If you cannot find your child's lost item please feel free to take a similar one.

Dates for your Diary - *full calendar on website*

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

PT Meetings: Week commencing 21 November, 2022

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