



St. Joseph's Newsletter February 2025



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping well and you enjoyed a lovely St. Brigid's long weekend. Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025! As St. Joseph's steps into spring, we look forward to sharing news from the various activities and events in the school.

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 2025. The theme this year was "Alive in Christ" supporting and animating each other. We are blessed in St. Joseph's to have a wonderful supportive 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 classes will be starting their first Zumba lesson this term with Suzanna. Great for the wellbeing and keeping fit. They are looking forward to getting started! 3rd classes and ASD classes are currently enjoying swimming lessons each week. GAA and soccer are continuing for this term also with coach Conor and coach Eoghan. 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. Rugby blitzes for senior classes will also take place over the coming weeks in north Kildare RFC. Thank you to all the wonderful teachers and SNAs who help out with the various sporting activities.

Parking

I would like to remind parents that **parking in the bus lane and on the double yellow lines is forbidden** at all times. Please do not park in the blue disabled parking spaces as these are designated disabled spaces and must be kept free for those who really need them. 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 and **refrain from climbing on bars of bike shed or kicking up against bike shed perspex cover**. Please ensure also that the pedestrian crossing is kept free for pupils.

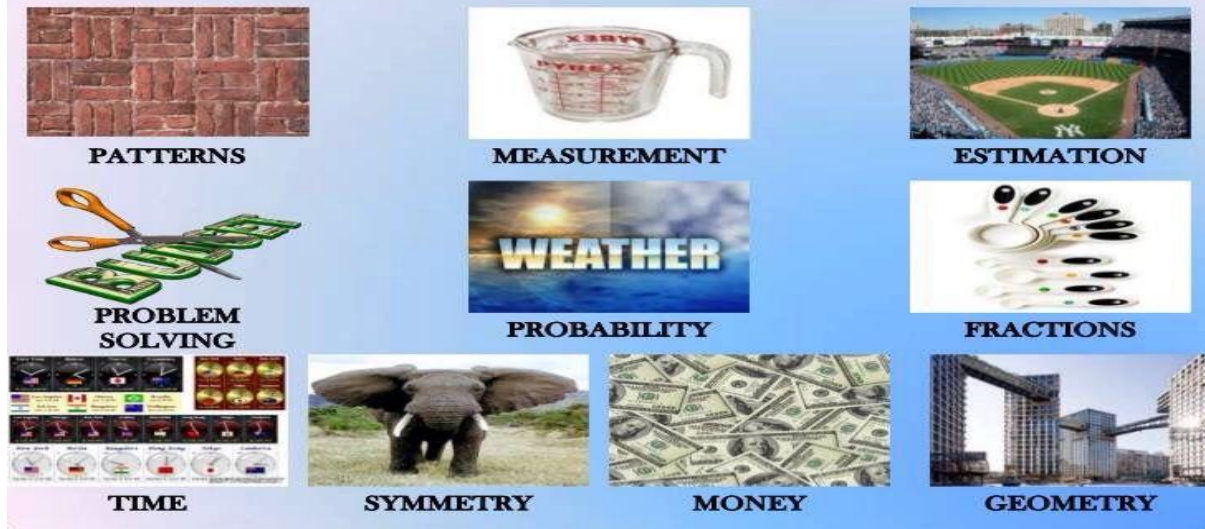
Dogs are not allowed on school premises at any stage unless it is necessary to have a guide or therapy dog.

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 Every day 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 remind parents not to take pupils out of school on holidays during term time. If a pupil is absent for 20 consecutive days they must be removed from the school roll as directed by DES circular 33/2015. All absences of 20 days are reported to the education support service of TUSLA.** Please remember to inform teachers through the Aladdin Connect App when your child is absent and give an explanation for each absence.

New Primary Maths Curriculum

MATH IN DAILY LIFE



Teachers will receive in-service on the new primary maths curriculum on Thursday the 14th February. 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. It encourages play based learning both at junior and senior level using concrete resources where possible. 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, patterns 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 Thursday, February 11th. 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

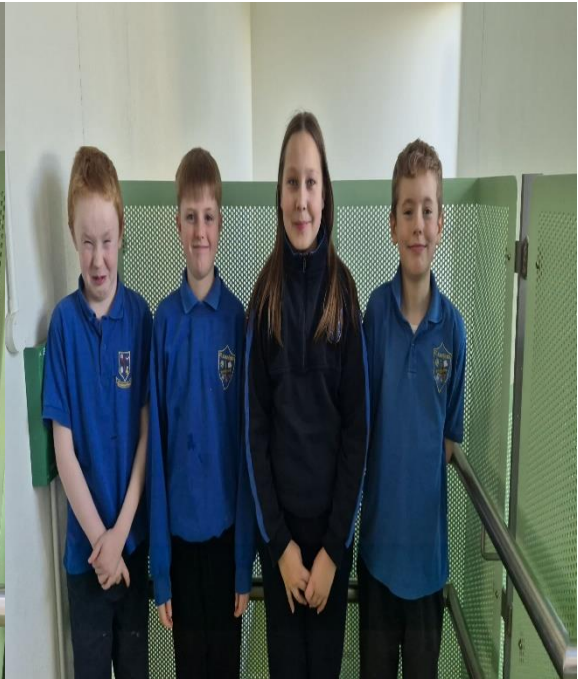
The school will celebrate Friendship week from Feb 10th-14th. We aim to promote positive behaviour and friendships amongst pupils in conjunction with our anti-bullying policy and the new BÍ Cineálta policy. Our theme this year is "Being a good friend" We will have class friendship themed art/poetry competitions, daily friendship reflections on the intercom and a launch of different yard games to play with friends at break times. Classes will discuss ideas for a new child friendly version of the BÍ Cineálta policy also.

St. Brigid's Day



Classes from junior infants-6th have been busy engaging in lots of activities about St. Brigid. 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 Laragh .

Credit Union Quiz





Best of luck to all our U11s and U13s teams who are taking part in the Credit Union school's quiz this Friday night. We know you have been practising hard and will put in a great performance. Thanks to Mr. Higgins for preparing the teams.

Sponsored Walk

A sponsored walk will take place on **March 7th** to help 6th class raise money for a mobile defibrillator which can be brought on school trips, matches and events. This is part of work on their diocesan confirmation theme "children supporting children" and "without him we are nothing". A short walk will take place for the whole school on the morning of March 7th. A sponsored walk card will be sent home to each family in advance of the walk. Please return card and money to your child's class teacher by March 12th. All donations are welcome no matter how small. Max donation allowed per family is €10 and the card will comprise of five €2 lines. Parents are more than welcome to participate in the sponsored walk also. Walking routes for different class levels will be decided nearer the time. Bernie Downes from Kilcock first aid responders will provide staff training on the defibrillator at a later stage this year and next school year. Well done to our 6th class pupils for coming up with this idea and organising the sponsored walk ahead.

Dates for your diary

- February 5th -6th class Ceremony of Light @7:30p.m.
- February 10th-14th Friendship Week
- February 11th Safer Internet Day
- February 14th School closure for pupils-Maths in-service
- February 17th-21st -February mid-term

- March 6th -World Book Day
- March 7th Short sponsored walk
- March 10th-14th -Seachtain na Gaeilge
- March 14th School closes at 12p.m. Bí Cineálta in-service for staff
- March 14th Parent's Council Quiz night
- March 17th St. Patrick's Day parade
- March 22nd Confirmation @2p.m.
- March 29th First confession 11-12
- April 9th National Children's Choir Concert 4th class
- April 11th 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