



Can you believe another year has passed and we are preparing for a glorious summer break with beautiful weather! One must be optimistic! Looking back, we at St. Joseph's have had many occasions of celebration. Silverware from Santry Athletics and Cross Country Runs was in abundance. A great achievement to reach hurling and football finals and semi-finals culminated in a win for one fortunate team in Croke Park. Hollywood looks like the destination for many of the 6th Class boys who won the Board Gáis Student Theatre Award. Celebrations to commemorate 100 years since one of the key moments in the foundation of the Irish State, led to the school writing their own Proclamation for an Ireland of the future. A Christmas Flash Mob with boys dancing to Jingle Bells rocked Terenure as did the boys who sang Christmas carols on Grafton Street for many hours for charity. On the back of such a great year, all bodes well for 2016/2017 with new horizons in view.

A calendar for the school year 2016/2017 is included on the back of the newsletter.

Farewell to the boys of 6th Class/Welcome Junior Infants 2016: The end of June will see the departure of the boys from 6th Class with a sense of sadness and achievement for us all. The boys have had a long association with us and have contributed enormously to the life of the school. We have watched them grow from the tender years of junior infants into adolescents and we wish them well in their new schools. A special graduation Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 28th June in their honour. And as we say farewell to our boys from 6th Class we also welcome our new Junior Infants. We hope they will have a happy and rewarding time in St. Joseph's.

Board of Management: We extend a special word of thanks to all members of the Board for committing themselves to such an important voluntary service on behalf of our children, parents and staff of the school.



Parent Association: St. Joseph's is most fortunate in having a very dynamic and committed Parent Association Executive who give so much in attending to the welfare of the school. On behalf of the Board of Management and teachers we express our profound gratitude to them. Also thank-you to all the parents who contribute so generously to the maintenance and upkeep of the school. The tangible response by parents to our school voluntary contribution appeal is a great source of support and strength to us all.

Message from St Joseph's Parent Association: *“On behalf of the Committee I take this opportunity to thank the parents, boys and the teachers for all your support and practical help during the past year. You have responded to all of our requests for support and consequently our fundraising and social ventures have been very successful.*

Our fundraising activities this year included the sale of personalised Christmas cards, the Christmas Cake sale and raffle and two “Bags2School” Clothing collections. The money raised from these activities have helped part fund the following: school texting service, science and nature studies, ICT improvements, music equipment, AR programme (shortfall), sports' equipment, and sports' evening costs, farewell gifts for 6th Class pupils, dry-cleaning and replacement of some Communion and Confirmation Blazers, New Parents' Evening and graduation evening refreshments.

We also helped the school in organising the following activities: Talks on supporting our children's mental health, transition to secondary school and relationship and sexuality education. We have assisted the school in counting and writing voluntary contribution receipts. We have

organised popular events such as the School Social, the Art Exhibition and social functions for the new parents, First Holy Communion and Confirmation parents and for the parents at our graduation ceremony. We organise other practical items such as the 'Blazer Rental' for Holy Communion and Confirmation classes.

Throughout the year, you can keep up to date with our activities by checking our Parent Association notice board or our school website.

*Our AGM will be held on **Monday 26th September 2016**, I hope to see you all there. Wishing you all a lovely summer and we look forward to your continued support and involvement next year”.*

Maggie O'Neill

Insurance: The Board of Management is concerned in relation to its duty of care to the large number of pupils who come into the school grounds and premises before the official starting time of 8.50 a.m. The school insurance applies to pupils only within school hours and during teacher supervised activities outside of school hours.

The Board cannot accept responsibility for pupils arriving before 8.50 a.m. A similar situation arises in relation to caring for pupils after school hours. The Board does not accept responsibility for pupils who await collection after 2.30 p.m.

Personal Accident Insurance: The Board of Management requests all parents to subscribe to the Personal Accident Insurance Scheme. Details of the scheme are outlined below at a cost of €6.00. This premium has been included in the children's school expenses payable in September.

- ***Operative Time:*** 24 HOUR COVER i.e. while participating in school related activities, including travel to and from such activities and also in the course of social and leisure activities outside school hours, to 31st August 2017.

- ***Schedule of Benefits***

Death by Accident	€30,000
Permanent total loss of sight in one eye or use of one limb	€100,000
Permanent total loss of sight in both eyes or use of both limbs	€150,000
Permanent total disablement	€200,000
Total and irrecoverable loss of hearing in one ear.	€40,000
Total or irrecoverable loss of hearing in both ears.	€100,000
Medical expenses (including ambulance) not recoverable from any other source	Up to €50,000
Dental expenses not recoverable from other sources	€50,000
Loss of Speech	€40,000
Hospital confinement payable €20.00 per day (maximum 90 days)	Up to €1,800

School Attendance and the Education Welfare Act 2000: Parents are advised of the following requirements regarding school attendance under the Education Welfare Act. Section 21 of the Act obliges the Principal of the school to maintain a record of:

- (i) ***all pupil absences for each school year and***
- (ii) ***the reasons for each absence.***

The school Principal is obliged to notify the school's Education Welfare Officer when a pupil is absent for **twenty or more school days** and when a pupil is not attending school regularly. In order to implement these requirements, the Board of Management has decided that when a pupil returns to school following absence, the class teacher should be informed in writing of the reasons for the absence (email is not acceptable). The school is obliged to keep the written records which may be inspected by the school's Education Welfare Officer. Also your child's name/address/date of birth and phone number are forwarded to the HSE on request for the administration of health services in the school such as school medical and dental schemes.

School Uniform: Thank you for your co-operation in implementing the school policy on school uniform. It is still important to remind some of our pupils that they are requested to wear a plain white tee-shirt – logo free – with their track-suit on PE days. It is important for the boys to have an identity mark on items of clothing such as tracksuit top and bottom, sweater, tie and coat.

Mobile Phones: Children with mobile phones must have them switched off during school hours and during school led activities. Phones will be confiscated and parents informed if pupils use their phone in school without seeking permission from their teacher. Mobile phones with photographic or recording capability may not be used in any way which will offend the privacy of any school individual and/or be damaging to the reputation of the school.

Dogs: Parents are advised that dogs should not be taken into the school grounds or premises as the Board of Management is concerned that an accident could arise if a dog became upset or stressed for any reason.

Party Invite Rules: Invitations to birthday parties can sometimes cause upset in the classroom. We would ask boys and parents to exercise discretion and sensitivity when issuing party invites. A text invite to children in the evening would be more appropriate as party invites may only be distributed in class if there is an invite for the whole class.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

1916 Celebrations: In participating in the 1916 celebrations the boys showed a keen interest in that era of Irish History and many different themes have been explored in History classes from infants to 6th Class. Educational trips were organised to locations of interest including the National Museum, Arbour Hill Cemetery, Pearse Museum and the 1916 GPO Exhibition. If you want to extend your child's knowledge and understanding of Irish History a follow up visit to any of the above venues comes highly recommended.

No doubt the highlight of Proclamation Day on March 15th was the visit of Ms. Úna Fletcher and her husband to the school. Úna, who lives locally is a daughter of John ‘Blimey’ O’Connor who was a member of the Kimmage Garrison and fought in the GPO with Pearse, Connolly and Collins. Úna answered questions with enthusiasm and warmth. The story was featured in the Irish Independent and the Southside People on 16th March. A big thank you is due to everybody who helped to make the day a very special one in the history of St. Joseph’s. Next year we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of our school.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion: Congratulations to the boys from 6th Class who were confirmed by Mon. Paul Callan on 11th February and also the boys of 2nd Class who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday 14th May. We thank all those involved for the tremendous work in preparing the boys for their special day.

Charities: The Society of St. Vincent De Paul has once again extended a special word of thanks for the wonderful gifts that were presented at our Toy Sunday Mass. Thanks also for the great response to our Christmas Shoebox Appeal and the Trocaire Lenten Campaign. Your generosity will make a real and lasting difference to the lives of those in need.

Bord Gais Film Awards: The story of “Hide and Seek” began following the Terenure Spring Drama Competition in 2015. The entry forms for the Bord Gais competition arrived the following week and it seemed as if destiny was beckoning with a lengthy and demanding script of over 8000 words - the task was far from easy. The story was based around the brave deeds of the parents and grandparents of Liesbeth Langford who lived in Holland. A child of six years, her family sheltered Jewish children, at huge risk to their own safety during the course of the war. Aspects of the life of Tomi Reichental, a survivor of Bergen Belsen concentration camp were also used to make up the script. All done and dusted, the final cut of the DVD was sent off and life returned to normal. Until that is February 2016 when the boys were shortlisted for an award and invited on May 5th 2016 to the Bord Gáis Theatre for the final award



ceremony. When the words “St. Joseph’s from Terenure” were heard, euphoria ensued. We were awarded the ‘Judge’s Choice Award’. The hours of hard work, learning scripts, finding locations, costumes, wigs, out-takes and great bonding had paid off in many different ways.

Unbeknownst to the boys, Leisbeth who was sent a copy of the film by Mr. O’Flynn was so taken by it she flew over to meet the boys in person. And so, following the award, the boys were back to the normal class routine when in walked Leisbeth Langford. To add to the surprise visit, the Dutch Ambassador attended and the whole event was covered by BBC Radio Saturday Live and is on our website. Liesbeth appeared on Ryan Tubridy’s morning radio show with Mr. O’Flynn (scriptwriter) the following day to tell her amazing story (also on website). It was a fitting end for a great class. Emails poured in from all over the world from people who had heard the story. A wonderful story – Hollywood watch your back!

ACAE Awards: For the second year St Joseph’s were represented by the boys from 4th Class in the ACAE Creative School Awards held in the Ark in Temple Bar on 31st May. Their project “What can I Say” won an award, the second in two years for the school. Their project involved writing short stories for Ms. Donovan’s 1st Class using the names of each pupil in the class to encourage the boys to read.

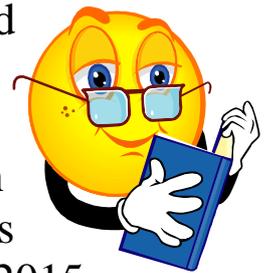
Quiz Teams: Our school quiz teams had two outings this year. The Rathfarnham Credit Union quiz was held in Knocklyon in January. Our four teams all did well finishing in the top six out of twenty teams while one of our senior teams tied for 2nd. At the Zion parish school quiz recently, we were represented by two teams mainly from 5th class and they also did very well, finishing 1st and 2nd.

Green Schools: And here we go again! We have worked hard all year and our efforts have secured our 6th International Green School Flag! This time it was for our work on “Global Citizenship - Litter & Waste”. On Tuesday May 24th a few boys went to the Helix and received our flag and award. Naturally, awards like this are only achieved as a result of

hard work and enthusiasm as shown by the Green Team and by the pupils and teachers in St Joseph's. Our sixth flag-raising ceremony took place recently and our next Green Schools' Project will come under the banner of "Global Citizenship" with the sub theme "Energy".

An Post Handwriting Competition: We combined the handwriting competition this year with the historic commemorations of 1916 Rising. Consequently, the themes were the Easter Rising, the Proclamation and the stories of families who lost children during Easter Week. The senior boys discovered that handwritten letters/diaries/ledgers are a treasured part of our national archive. We should all take pride in our handwriting. Neat and legible handwriting will help the boys greatly in their exams in secondary schools and beyond. Congratulations to all the boys who received certificates from 'An Post' for their efforts.

Accelerated Reading: Congratulations to the boys who read and successfully completed quizzes on 11,700 books this school year. Only scores of 85% or higher are recorded. The boys have read 175,947,838 words in total – quite an achievement. We very recently celebrated with the 58 boys who have read more than a million words since September 2015.



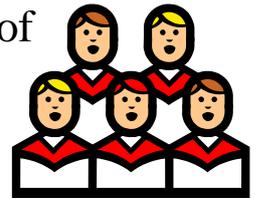
Our Accelerated Reading program was launched in September 2009 and it has been going from strength to strength. Each pupil from 1st to 6th class was tested at the beginning of the year and was then assigned a range of books that were appropriate to his age and his reading ability. Growth is measured by further testing during the year. This has been a highly successful project in which technology is used to promote, develop and monitor reading levels of each boy in the school.

Information on how you can access **Home Connect** which gives you access to your son's progress and parents' guides on the programme may be found on the school website <http://stjosephsterenure.ie/ar/>. By entering your email address in Home Connect you can receive emails with your son's score each time he completes a reading quiz. We would like to thank St. Joseph's Parent Association for their financial assistance with AR.

The Dublin City Public Libraries has asked us to publicise their national summer reading initiative where young readers are required to read six books of their own choosing over the summer months. Each child who registers will record his/her progress on a reading card which will be stamped each time they return a book. Those who complete the challenge will be invited to an event in their local library in September to celebrate participation and will receive prizes. All summer events are free and details can be had at <http://bit.ly/dcpl-summer-events>.

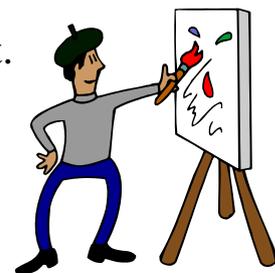
Musical Activities this year: It has been another varied musical year here at St. Joseph's. A welcome mass started us off, the music supplied by a strong 5th and 6th class choir. The boys from Ms. Molloy's 4th and Mr. Ó Riain's 5th class had a very busy schedule. From September they were busy learning lines and 2-part harmonies for the **Confirmation ceremony**. They will be sing at the **Farewell Mass** for our 6th class boys.

Toy Sunday, always a stirring occasion, involved many of the senior pupils in the school. The singers and recorder ensemble co-ordinated to make it a very beautiful musical celebration of the birth of Jesus. Meanwhile the Infant classes warmed our hearts with their almost-professional **Nativity Plays**. In early March, Ms Maher and Ms Murphy brought their 3rd classes to perform in **Córfhéile na Scoileanna** in the National Basketball Arena. Augmented by the **Offbeat** morning music club, they sang and played in a total of 9 parts at one stage, showing much control, concentration and musicality. It was lovely to have so much support in the audience. Ms O Riordan's recorder ensemble delighted the audience and the judges with their exciting, tuneful and lively performances of multi-part pieces on the same night. They never fail to impress.



First Communion time followed, and Mr O Flynn's 4th and Mr Brennan's 5th class both worked hard learning all those new and difficult words, melodies and harmonies. Accompanied by Ms. Harte and Ms. Margarita and with Ms Maher conducting, they tunefully filled the church. The school hall heaved to the rhythmic beat of Irish music when the students of St. Augustine's School came all the way from Blackrock to perform and teach our 3rd Class pupils to play a little. Congratulations to all our musicians – play on!

Art Exhibition: A huge effort was made by all the boys for St. Joseph's Annual Art Exhibition which was held in May and arranged by the Parent Association and Ms. Durkan. A special thanks goes to parents Denis and Lucy O'Reilly for providing the art display stands at great expense both financially and time-wise. The standard of art work was extremely impressive across all age groups and was enjoyed by all in the Terenure community.



Comenius Partners: Our Comenius Project has come to an end but we still maintain close links with our partner school in Barcelona. In May we welcomed 17 boys and girls from Sant Ignasi school to St. Joseph's. We had many shared activities during the week and the visitors attended some of our classes, co-operated in joint ICT projects, were introduced to Scratch programming, and were entertained by song and dance supplied by our talented boys. The highlight for many of our visiting students was when they were welcomed into the lives of our families from St. Joseph's for an afternoon. We would like to sincerely thank all the parents and the boys for making them so welcome in your homes and taking such great care of them.

ICT: ICT is not a subject on the Irish curriculum but it has long been a core tool in delivering and supporting the curriculum in St. Josephs. This year we continued coding with Hour of Code and Scratch Coding. Coding improves the boys' skills in problem solving as well as giving them a better understanding of computer programs.



We have also been using Word, Excel, Publisher, Moodle VLE, Online Assessment tools, Accelerated Reading, Art programs and filing procedures. Internet Safety as always is a very important part of our work and is emphasised during each and every ICT lesson as well as during our incidental and SPHE lessons at school. This year we also introduced Learnstorm by Khan Academy and three boys were invited to DCU to participate to celebrate their hard work.

Upgrade: For the past year we have been using our new tablet / laptop computers in the classrooms. We have one computer per pupil in the classroom. We continue to use the computer room which has been equipped with 16 computers and 16 laptops. Our network has been upgraded due to the generous donation of network switches and our broadband has been upgraded. Our wi-fi system will be upgraded for the coming school year to cater for the increased demand.

School website: We use the school website to display and publish pupils' work, celebrate achievements in all aspects of school life and inform parents and others of school activities. It is regularly updated and can be accessed at www.stjosephsterenure.ie. There are also links on the school website to teachers' class blogs and other useful resources. Please add it to your favourites and keep informed. You can follow us on Twitter @stjosephsbns

Active Week: After Easter with longer evenings and better weather we had our Active Living Be Healthy Week. Over eight school days we engaged in a wide range of activities such as yoga, athletics, fun runs, dance, bleep tests, healthy lunch box competitions, sports taster sessions and many talks, all designed to encourage the children to adopt an active lifestyle and a healthy diet. We were delighted to have our German PE teacher, Ms Melina, with us for the week. Her PE lessons earlier in the year have, no doubt, helped to raise the level of fitness of all the boys. Unfortunately, we are losing Melina to Munich University where she has already started working and studying for her PhD. We wish her well.

Sports Evening: "Cool and cloudy with scattered outbreaks of light rain and drizzle" - said the weather forecast on Thurs. May 26th and so it transpired in contrast to some great summer weather in the two weeks that followed. However, this didn't deter the several hundred boys, their parents and sisters who turned up determined to have fun at our 44th annual sports day. Sprints, novelty races, relays and 500m races for the older boys made for a hectic programme of activities lasting almost three hours. Well done everyone!!

Autumn Football League: Having been lucky with the weather our 2nd, 3rd and 4th Class Football League went according to schedule. We wish to thank Nick and Ken in the VEC Grounds for facilitating us yet again in the use of their grounds and to all the teachers, referees and especially the boys who provided such quality football over the weeks. We wish Nick (who has been a great friend to St. Joseph's for many years) a happy retirement.

Athletics: Our athletics season started in February with the SDCC cross-country. This was a series of three days with races for 3rd to 6th held in Tymon Park. Over the three days 138 boys from St. Joseph's got the chance to represent the school, with many scoring in the top ten points for the school team and a few winning their races. We then had a finals day in early May in Clondalkin and to our surprise and delight, when all the points were added up, we were declared the overall winners of the boys' section, proving we are the fittest school in South Dublin! Our thanks to Paula Swaine and Alison Silke at SDCC for their work in organising this fantastic event.

On to Santry at the end of May and some intensive hurdling practice paid off with a gold and a bronze. We also performed well in the jumps and shotput just missing out on the medals, while our 600m runners proved our fitness levels with a gold and a silver. In sprints, we had two finalists. This year's highlight was the 4 x 100m relays. Competing with 31 other big schools in Section A is always difficult and the Under 12s, in a tough semi-final, were unlucky to miss out on a place in the final while the Under 14s held on well for a bronze medal in some high class company. It was the fourth year in a row that this group were on the podium which is a fine achievement. The Under 10s were all making their first appearance in Santry. They had worked hard with Melina to get the baton changes right and on the day, all went to plan as they got the baton around just ahead of Foxrock, to bring home the cup and the gold medals. The Under 11s, all from Mr. O'Riain's class, having had a baton mishap last year, made no mistake this time for a comfortable win in the final and our second cup in a few minutes. To all who trained regularly, we say well done and remember that taking part and enjoying

being fit is much more important than winning medals. We hope to start our athletics preparation for next year in September with regular training and there are also more cross-country runs being planned-including one for Bushy Park, so all interested athletes from 2nd class to 5th should get out and stay fit over the summer!

Senior Football: Sciath na nGearaltach Winners: Our two Senior Football Teams enjoyed representing the school during the autumn with several fine, sporting displays. Victory against Clondalkin, defeat by Ballyroan in a cracking match (2-20 to 4-10) and a draw (2-12 apiece) with subsequent cup winners, St Pius, left us in the shield section of Div. Two senior football. A quarter-final victory over Ballymun and a closely contested semi-final victory, 3-7 to 1-11, versus Killester in Whitehall had us facing Bayside in the shield final in Croke Park at the end of October. It was a tough battle with some fine footballers showing their skills on both teams but a goal in each half proved to be the vital scores as our defence kept a clean sheet with 2-10 to 0-12 being the final score. A special word of thanks to all the parents who helped us with transport and washing of jerseys.

Junior Football: This year we entered two junior teams so a large number of boys were representing the school every Tuesday in September and October. Training with Ms. Byrne and Mr. Hallinan was keenly contested and our first team, competing in Div. One, faced stiff opposition. They were involved in some very close matches, drawing with St. Mary's, losing to St. Pius and recording good victories over Bishop Galvin and Lucan. The second team used over 40 players, including some boys from third class. They won three and lost two of their five matches and later came within a whisker of winning the shield at the Terenure College tournament. Some of these boys will be moving on to the school senior teams in September while many others are young enough to play junior for another year so the future of football in St. Joseph's seems to be in safe hands. Thanks to all parents for their support.



Senior Hurling: The Senior Hurlers began their training in the VEC Grounds in December 2015. We enjoyed our annual hurling blitz with St. Pius X, Scoil San Treasa and St. Mary's. Following that the league started in March with narrow defeats against Bishop Galvin and Holly Park. The team were not too disappointed because the performances were improving with each match. A victory against Ballyroan and a win against our local rivals St. Pius put us in the semi-final against Scoil Fiachra. We had a great first half but sadly midway through the second half the tide began to turn and a late point was not enough to see us make it to the final. Many thanks to all the players, parents and teachers for their commitment and support.

Junior A Hurling: The Junior A hurling team performed very well this year and finished the season as runners up in Division 2. A great start to the season saw us defeat Bishop Galvin and Ballyroan. We also picked up the points against St. Brigids, Foxrock. This left us with our final game against St. Pius to decide who won the league. Despite having two injured forwards, the team battled extremely hard right to the end with St. Pius just pipping us by 2 points. It was a great season for all concerned and the future is bright for our Senior team next year.

Junior B Hurling: The Junior Bs had a great year. After a loss to a very strong St. Mary's side, the team went on to win every remaining match in their league, beating Scoil Mhuire and St. Pius. They also won every game in a blitz at St. Mary's to finish off the year.

Message from Mr. Hallinan:

We have just finished our swimming lessons for the year which began way back last September in Terenure Swimming Pool. We had some nail biting finishes in our recent galas and a huge number of parents were entertained by some marvellous competitive races. A special thanks to coaches, Darina, John and Andrew for all their work during



the year. Also, I'd like to express my thanks to the parents for their continued support and dedication throughout the year and I hope their efforts and coaching were evident in the galas.

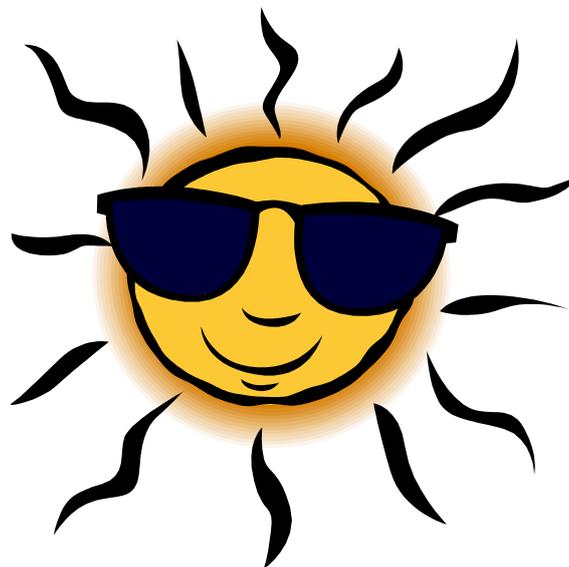
I look forward to seeing you in September when (if we have sufficient numbers!) we will again begin, not only our preparations for next year's Galas but more importantly teaching more children how to swim and improving those who can already swim. I will be sending out a school text and email at the beginning of September to remind you about the swimming for the forthcoming year. If you are interested in your child swimming next year please let me know in September or let Josephine in the office know. Thanks again! In the meantime -

REMEMBER! - ALWAYS BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU ARE SWIMMING, SWIM ONLY IN A SAFE PLACE, NEVER ALONE AND ALWAYS WITH ADULT SUPERVISION.

E. Hallinan

Finally: We look forward to the school holidays which begin on ***Thursday 30th June at 12.00 noon for infant classes and 12.30 for the rest of the school.*** We hope everybody will have an enjoyable and safe summer.

We re-open on Thursday 1st September at 8.50 a.m. 'Till then – Slán.



CALENDAR FOR 2016/2017

School Opens Thursday September 1st

Oct: The school will be closed from Monday 31st Oct to Friday 4th November inclusive. (Halloween)

Dec: The school will be closing Thursday 22nd Dec 12.00/12.30 p.m. Re-opens Mon 9th Jan.

Feb: The school will be closed on Monday 20th February to Friday 24th Feb inclusive

March: Closed Friday 17th March (St. Patrick's Day)

April: **Easter:** The school will be closing Fri 7th April at 12noon/12.30 p.m. Re-opens Monday 24th April.

May: Closed 1st May

June: Closed Monday 5th June

Summer Holidays – Fri 30th June