



I'd like to begin by acknowledging that St. Joseph's has been on a winning streak this year and I am so proud of all our boys for their effort, sportsmanlike behaviour and graciousness in all their endeavours. The boys displayed extraordinary character and this year we were fortunate enough to have won many competitions, bringing cups, medals and awards back to St. Joseph's.

A calendar for the school year 2017/2018 is included on the back of the newsletter.

As the school year draws to a close St. Joseph's will see a significant change take place in St. Joseph's when our Deputy Principal, Mr. Declan Donnelly retires. Declan has been a central figure in St. Joseph's for 40 years fulfilling many teaching roles. He taught 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class for many years before introducing IT to the school when most other schools were struggling to adapt to the speedy progression of the digital age. Declan devised systems to create the interactive learning environment and continued the on-going maintenance and upgrading of the systems over the years. He is leaving behind a system that is so well set up that it can be managed with ease after his departure. It is not an understatement to say that many of the school awards and prizes might not have been possible but for all the technology we had to back them up. Declan's IT expertise could have taken him elsewhere and in many directions but he chose to give a lifetime of loyal dedication to St. Joseph's – an amazing man to whom we are forever indebted.

***Farewell to the boys of 6<sup>th</sup> Class/Welcome Junior Infants 2017:*** The boys from 6<sup>th</sup> Class who will transfer to 2<sup>nd</sup> level schools are always prominent in our thoughts at this time. These boys have contributed in a very special way to the life and events of the school. We have watched them grow from junior infants to young adolescents and we wish them well in their new schools. Go n-éirí leo. A special Mass will be offered for the boys and their families in St. Joseph's Church on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June. At the other end of the scale, the eight-year cycle begins once again for our two classes of junior infants and we hope they will have a happy and rewarding time in the school.

**Board of Management:** We extend a special word of thanks to all members of the Board. School management is a complex process which demands wise and consummate skills and we are most grateful to our Chairperson – Fr. Bradley, parents, teachers, and community representatives for their voluntary commitment to St. Joseph’s School.



**Parents’ Association:** St. Joseph’s School is most fortunate in having a very dynamic and committed Parents’ Association Executive who give so much in attending to the welfare of the school. Their incessant work on behalf of us all is very much appreciated. A special word of thanks to Ms. Pauline McTague and Ms. Deirdre Smith/McCabe whose boys leave the school this year. Pauline and Deirdre have done Trojan work on behalf of the school for many years and we wish them well. The Annual General Meeting of the Parent Association will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The annual voluntary contribution collected by the Parent Executive is vital to the maintenance and upkeep of the school. The tangible response from all our parents to our appeals and functions is a great source of support and strength. Thank you!

**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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

***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***

### **CELEBRATING 150 YEARS**

This year we celebrated our sesquicentennial of providing primary education for boys in Terenure. Needless to say, we had many special events to mark such an auspicious occasion. For a week in November we had a week-long celebration with our present day pupils. We had our well known past pupils visit the school. Danny O'Reilly, the lead singer with the Coronas performed a private concert for the boys. Dublin hurlers Neil and Christopher Bennett and Jack McVeigh and Dublin footballers, Eoghan O'Gara and Denis Bastick also joined the celebrations. The Sam Maguire Cup was brought along to encourage the boys to keep playing sport.



The junior boys released 150 green and black balloons in the school yard. Each class produced a history project under the banner “Reeling in the Decades” and they were displayed in the school hall. Past pupils were invited to join us as we celebrated our great history.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> St. Joseph’s Parish and the Presentation Girls’ School joined us to celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph. Later in March a commemorative stone was unveiled by Minister for Education & Skills, Richard Bruton in the school garden.

The school produced a calendar to mark such a special year in our history. It included class photographs, excerpts from ‘Reeling in the Decades’ projects, that the boys had done as well as a visual timeline of key historic events that took place since Roundtown N.S. was founded on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1866.

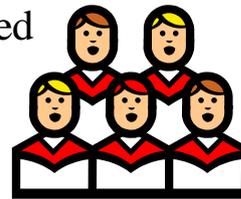
We’d like to express our thanks and gratitude to all those who helped along the way, especially those who provided old photographs, letters and memorabilia. A special thanks to Ms. McCabe and to Bean Uí Loingsigh for coordinating the whole celebration.

***Confirmation and First Holy Communion:*** Congratulations to the boys from 6<sup>th</sup> Class who were confirmed by Bishop Eamonn Walsh on 16<sup>th</sup> March and also the boys of 2<sup>nd</sup> Class who received their First Holy Communion on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 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. Our Student Council recently received a special award on behalf of the school from Trocaire. Over the past 23 years our school community has donated an incredible €71,000 to Trocaire. This money has benefitted the lives of millions of people in over 20 countries worldwide. Trocaire has presented this award to only 30 schools in Ireland in recognition of outstanding support for their work.

***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 third and fourth out of twenty teams. At the Zion parish school quiz recently, we were represented by two teams mainly from 4<sup>th</sup> class and they also did very well competing against older boys from other schools.

**Music:** Toy Sunday is always a stirring occasion, and involved a huge number of pupils in the school. The singers, instrumentalists 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 polished **nativity plays** and **carol services**. It has been another varied musical year here at St. Joseph's. A **welcome mass** started us off, the music supplied by a strong 6<sup>th</sup> class choir. The boys from Ms. Molloy's 4<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Ó Riain's 5<sup>th</sup> class had a very busy schedule. From September they were busy learning words and 2-part harmonies for the **Confirmation ceremony**. They will soon be singing at the **Farewell Mass** for our 6<sup>th</sup> class boys. The school hall was filled with the magic of Classical Graffiti in late October. All the children from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes learned about musical styles and techniques while they sang and moved to the beat. One or two even got to play the valuable instruments. In early March, Ms. Maher and Mr. Killane's 3<sup>rd</sup> classes performed in **Córfhéile na Scoileanna** in the National Basketball Arena. They sang their hearts out with great concentration and Ms. O' Riordan's recorder ensemble was joined by the Offbeat club and, together, delighted the audience and the judge with their tuneful, lively performances. Much fun was had by all and it was lovely to have so much support in the audience. Congratulations to all our musicians – play on!

**Science and Technology Abound in St. Joseph's:** STEM teaching is the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths blended together, rather than in isolation. This year, to showcase what we are already doing, we decided to go for gold and apply for the Discover Science & Maths Plaque of Excellence. From infants all the way up to sixth class, the boys



have been engaging in a curriculum loaded with investigations and hands on experiences: Ice balloons, magnetism, construction, simple circuits, design and make a boat, investigate waterproof materials, re-design a bug hotel, growing seeds, planting vegetables, discovering food chains, discovering the hidden treasures in Bushy Park, making and testing whirlygigs, building free-standing spaghetti structures, Scratch programming, digital art and hour of code. As if that wasn't enough, some of the classes got to attend workshops in Ballyroan Library for Science Week and Engineering Week. To top it all off, the boys in 6<sup>th</sup> class smashed the Irish leaderboard during Maths Week for their work on target boards. For all this wonderful work, we were awarded the Discover Science and Maths Plaque of Excellence. The challenge is on for next year, to maintain our plaque, to continue and to expand on the wide variety of STEM subjects we have been doing.

***Bord Gais Awards:*** Nobody likes a critic. But there are exceptions. Elliot Tuite could be considered one of those exceptions. He wrote a critique of the show Riverdance and along with his other 5<sup>th</sup> Class friends entered their scripts to the Annual Bord Gais Student Theatre Awards 2017. The work of all the boys was excellent and must have made the job of the judges even harder. Pupils, parents and teachers were invited to the ceremony at the Grand Canal Theatre where the atmosphere was electric. The first prize category up was for the outstanding critique review of a play, drama or show. Time froze. The announcer spoke about the winning work and how it was so well written with such maturity and articulation. **And the winner is .... St. Joseph's BNS, Terenure, with Elliot Tuite's script on Riverdance.** Well done to all.

***Drama:*** The 5<sup>th</sup> Class boys entered the Terenure Spring Drama Competition in Terenure College. The stage play "In Good Spirits" was a comedy with ghosts, auctioneers and rock bands all linked into a complex plot. The boys left nothing rolling in the dressing room and the crowd responded with rapturous applause. The boys brought the house down when they won the prize for best entertainment.

***Accelerated Reading:*** Congratulations to the boys who read and successfully completed quizzes on 14,500 books this school year. Only scores of 85% or higher are recorded. The boys have read 228,311,400 words in total – quite an achievement. 75 boys read more than a million words since September 2016. We had a 30% increase in recorded reading this year. 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.



Keep yourself informed of your son's progress by logging into Home Connect. Information on how you can access Home Connect can 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 as well as seeing all the books he has read and the scores achieved. We would like to thank St. Joseph's Parent Association for their financial assistance with AR.

**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 15 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 performed 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, Powerpoint, Publisher, Moodle VLE, online assessment tools, Accelerated Reading and programs covering all aspects of the curriculum. 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 SPHE lessons at school.

**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](http://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



**Annual Sports:** Rain couldn't dampen or cancel our sports day, even though it had to be moved from our usual evening event. A great day was had by all on the Friday morning with fine sunny weather and plenty of medals won. Despite the change of time many parents managed to attend and relive their disco dance youth with Ms. Melina's dance exercise routine.

**Active Week:** We had an exciting end to May and beginning of June with Ms. Melina who returned from Munich to have active fun with us. We would like to thank Ms. Melina for her devotion to the school and for taking a break from her studies to join us. Our “Be Active” campaign has been running all year but from May 24<sup>th</sup> we broke out in a sweat from all the fun activities. They included: early morning athletics from 8.00 a.m., daily sport’s day practice, soccer in the VEC, taster sessions and mini leagues in cricket, tag rugby, hurling and football, German games in the yard, teacher pupil workout classes, garden games, obstacle agility courses in the bouncy yard, active dance breaks, big ball fun, fireball tournament, running laps and beep tests.

During our official active weeks, the boys had at least 30 minutes of planned physical activity every day. We also had fun class competitions for healthy lunch box awards, walk and cycle to school, an hour of daily exercise after school and running laps for the fortnight. Our active portfolio will be entered for the BeActive Education Award for European Week of Sport in September 2017, A more detailed account of some of our sports and activities are below and on our website [www.stjosephsterenure.ie](http://www.stjosephsterenure.ie)

**Cricket:** Following an excellent series of coaching sessions with Diarmuid Lynch of Leinster Cricket we had the opportunity to play in the Blue Insurance Leprechaun Cup for primary schools. A number of 6th class boys represented St. Joseph’s vs. Scoil Mobhi, Glasnevin at Sydney Parade and won by five wickets. For most of the boys it was their first experience of a proper cricket match but our captain had played cricket in sunnier climes down under. In the second round we were unlucky to draw Howth Rd who had two members of the Leinster U13 team in their ranks. We put up another creditable display scoring 74 all out but lost by 45 runs. We are grateful to Diarmuid

**Autumn Football League:** Having been very lucky with the weather our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class Football League went according to schedule. We wish to thank the staff of the VEC for the use of their grounds, all the teachers, referees and especially the boys who provided such quality football over the weeks.



***Athletics:*** This year we had the Clonliffe, St. Damian's and Terenure College cross-country runs before Christmas and the SDCC series of three days with races for 3rd to 6th held in Tymon Park starting in February and concluding with a finals day in early May in Clondalkin. Every boy from 3rd to 6th got a chance to represent the school and almost 200 boys took part with many scoring top ten points for the school team and a few winning their races. Our thanks to Paula and Alison at SDCC for their work in organising this fantastic event.

On to Santry Athletics at the end of May and some intensive hurdling practice paid off with three golds and was followed up with a surprise long jump gold. We also performed well in the shotput and 600m just missing out on the medals. In sprints, we had two more medals but this year's highlights were the 4 x 100m relays. Competing with 31 other big schools in Section A is always difficult and the Under 10s were all making their first appearance in Santry. They had worked hard with Ms. Melina to get the baton changes right and on the day all went to plan as they got the baton around just ahead of Lucan, to bring home the cup. The Under 11s and Under 12s both successfully defended their titles won last year with the Under 11s keeping their unbeaten run after two very close finishes with Clondalkin. The Under 14s also ran well in some high class company finishing just outside the medals in the final after an impressive win in the heat.

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 morning 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:*** Our two Senior Football teams enjoyed representing the school during the autumn with several fine, sporting displays during September and October. Mr. Brennan and Mr. Killane faced into their campaign with several fifth class boys on the team and two victories over Clondalkin and Marlay, followed by a defeat by Bishop Galvin left us facing a strong Ballyroan team in the quarter-final. Ballyroan proved too good for us on the day and indeed went on to win the cup. Our second senior team with Ms. Larmer and Ms. Donovan enjoyed two good wins out of their six matches. 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, losing to St. Pius and Kilmacud and recording good victories over Ballyroan, Foxrock and Lucan. The second team used over 40 players, mainly boys from 4th class. They won four and lost two of their six matches and in May had the great thrill of winning the shield at the Terenure College blitz, winning all four of their matches on the day. 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. Thanks to all parents for their support.

***Senior Hurling – Sciath na nGearaltach Champions:*** We began hurling training in the VEC during the cold month of November. Our first matches were in a hurling blitz in Sancta Maria against St Pius X, Scoil San Treasa and St Mary's. Although we lost our matches we had reasons to be optimistic. Our young team never stopped competing, even when the games were going against us. In the league we found the going tough, with an away match against Holly Park and against local rivals, St Pius. The results went against us, but we looked forward to our match against Ballyroan with optimism. On a very windy day we drew our match, and St. Joseph's went into the shield semi-final, against St Helen's. A trip across the city beckoned, to Tom Russell Park. The match was close enough, until a late goal gave the final result a gloss. The final will go down as a day to remember. We took the game to Ballyroan from the start and two early goals gave us a good lead. We also defended well when called upon and some great point-taking saw us home by 2.8 to 2.2. Many thanks to all the parents for support and lifts, to Faughs and St Judes and to the staff of VEC and Bushy Park. Tommy O'Mahony from Faughs Hurling Club was also of great help especially training the lads on the day before the final.

***Junior Hurling:*** Our junior team, managed by Mr. Brennan, were very competitive in their league and enjoyed good wins over Bishop Galvin and Ballyroan. Two narrow defeats by St. Pius and Lucan cost us the chance to win the league but a strong showing overall augers well for next year's senior team. Our junior white team (Mr. O'Doherty) also acquitted themselves well, winning two of their four matches, with several boys from third class playing their first matches for St. Joseph's to back up the fourth class boys.

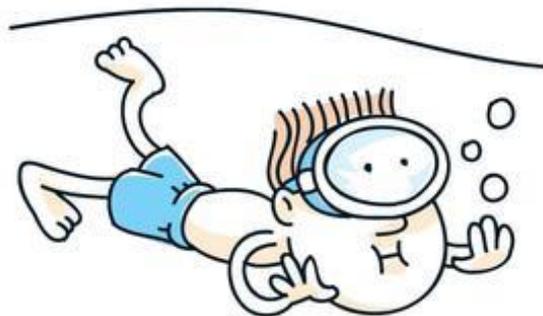
### ***Swimming - Message from Mr. Hallinan***

On behalf of Andrew, Darina, John, Aaron and myself, I just want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to you, the parents, and the children for the support you have given us during the year with the swimming. I hope the children enjoyed their lessons as much as we did teaching them. Their behaviour and effort is a credit to them and to you, their parents. Also I hope you enjoyed both of our galas, Junior and Senior, these last two Saturdays. Over the two nights, we had over 50 races. The children provided us with great entertainment through exciting races and nail biting finishes. We certainly have some marvellously talented swimmers. Maybe one day, one of them will represent Ireland! We have been teaching swimming to the children from St. Josephs for over 45 years now, so I would hope and love to continue the swimming classes in 2017/2018. Hopefully, I will have enough children to support the classes. All being well, I look forward to commencing the classes again, in Terenure College Swimming Pool. I'll send out texts and emails to parents regarding the swimming classes for next year in early September. Again THANK YOU for all your co-operation and support and hopefully I'll see you again this September.

PLEASE REMEMBER,

- 1 ALWAYS WITHIN YOUR OWN DEPTH
- 2 ALWAYS WITH AN ADULT
- 3 NEVER, NEVER MESS IN THE WATER

Emmett Hallinan



**Finally:** Our thanks to all our staff for their continued dedication and commitment to the school. Long may it continue.

**Summer Holidays:** We look forward to the school holidays which begin on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 12.00 noon and 12.30 p.m. We hope everybody in St. Joseph's School Community will have an enjoyable and safe summer holiday.

We re-open on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 8.50 a.m.

‘Till then SLÁN

### CALENDAR FOR 2017/2018

#### School Opens Thursday August 31st

<b>Oct:</b>	The school will be closed from Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November inclusive. (Halloween)
<b>Dec:</b>	The school will be closing Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 12.00/12.30 p.m. Re-opens Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan.
<b>Feb:</b>	The school will be closed on Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>March:</b>	St. Patrick's Day (in lieu) Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>April:</b>	<b>Easter:</b> The school will be closing Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> March at 12noon/12.30 p.m. Re-opens Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> April.
<b>May:</b>	The school will be closed from Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May inclusive
<b>June:</b>	Closed Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June Summer Holidays – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> June