



Message from Ms. McCabe

What an eventful year we have had here at St Joseph's. We seem to have raced from one event to another and nearly every day has been filled with laughter and fun. We are such a very fortunate school community as all our members - pupils, parents, teachers, staff, volunteers, coaches and visitors believe that being loved and having fun is the best way to learn and the best environment in which to work. This is what we strive to do on a daily basis and I believe that we most certainly have achieved our goal this year.

Of course in life not everything runs smoothly and we have had some sad times this year, especially when we remember our Caretaker, George Higgins who died in November after a short illness. This was a time of great sadness for our school community and the boys wrote lovely messages of good bye to George for our remembrance table. We had a beautiful ceremony during Catholic Schools Week in February where we remembered George with fondness and love and found that we could smile again when we thought about him.

Just flicking through our monthly newsletters (www.stjosephsterenure.ie) I smile as I remember all the other activities and events that happened. I get this wonderful sense of coming together of a community that wants to support its children's growth and development. A community that sees how important this is for our future.

Our links with all of the local community sports clubs have developed greatly and I want to express our thanks to all for offering classes, sports opportunities and sports facilities to our pupils throughout the year. We are a small school campus with a big sporting interest. We believe in being active every day and know that this will lead to a healthy mind, body and soul. Between leagues and blitzes, fitness sessions, yoga and mindfulness sessions, bleep tests, athletics, and just plain running for the fun of it – we have had a blast! Some days we won medals, some days we didn't but we entered every competition that we could. We did this

for the fun of taking part. We did this because we wanted to challenge ourselves. We did this because it is good to win. We did this because it is even better for us to lose and learn how to congratulate the winner, to keep our chin up and to be proud that we tried and to definitely try again! Invaluable lessons for life and for the development of resilience!

Speaking of sport, being active and out in the fresh air, the people I meet every day talk to me about how difficult it is to get their child 'out to play and off the consoles, tablets and devices'. Concerns about how vulnerable our children are online have also been voiced on a daily basis. I have no answers here other than to say research and best advice states that we as guardians and parents should limit the time we allow our children spend on devices and that we should role model this ourselves. Best practice seems to be to talk to your child about what they are playing or doing on line. Be interested in their online activities and ensure you make it the habit from the start to know their passwords etc. Advise them about keeping all comments positive, not to get swept away with the mob mentality in group online games and insist they keep it real. Spend time with them outside in the fresh air, go places where Wi-Fi is not. Explore the real world and pass on to your child a sense of fun and delight in running, climbing, sailing, surfing, dancing, singing – the list goes on. Help your child realise the virtual world is not real. As a parent/guardian this is our responsibility.

Be aware that social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter are restricted to children over the age of 13. WhatsApp has increased the minimum age, which was set at 13 years to 16 years old. The console game Fortnite is officially for over-12s. Again as parents it is our responsibility to protect our children from potential cyber bullying, peer pressure and addictive games. Our children are less vulnerable if using age appropriate platforms.

Keep talking to your kids and listening to them. Have a one-on-one conversation about social media – your experiences and theirs. You learn from each other about different platforms and devices - (because they know more than you), and about different ways to handle tough social situations - (because you know more than they do). This conversation is vital because then you can build trust with your child by

listening and having regular conversations about potentially tough topics (rather than overreacting and losing their trust).

Be brave, advise your child, teach them about the DO's, not just the DON'Ts. Tell them it is your responsibility as parents and guardians to guide them and to be in their business. Be brave and let your children know that it is also their responsibility to listen to you and learn from you. Do not accept any less for your child and you will prepare him for life. Follow us on twitter [@stjosephsbns](#) for links to websites that give great advice for parents and teachers on internet usage and related devices and learn how they can also be a fun and productive tool for children.

Our annual newsletter for the school year 2017 – 2018 outlines for you many of the activities and events of the past school year and at the back of this newsletter you will find the calendar for the school year 2018 – 2019 to help you plan for holidays etc.

Farewell to the boys of 6th Class: The end of June will see the departure of the boys from 6th Class and it is with mixed emotions that we see them leave us. The vast majority of the boys have been with us for eight years and during that time we have seen them grow and develop into the fine young people they are today. The boys have given us great reason to be proud of them and they leave very fond memories with us. A special Mass in their honour will be celebrated on Tuesday 26th June 2018 and many thanks to all the teachers who have worked with them during their years at St. Joseph's.

As we say goodbye to our 6th Class we extend a warm welcome to our new Junior Infants and to their parents. We hope that they will enjoy many happy years at Saint Josephs.

The School Board of Management: We extend a special word of thanks to all members of the Board of Management for their voluntary commitment to the management of our school. We express our special gratitude to Ms. Maggie O'Neill, our parent representative on the Board who will leave us this year. Maggie has given great service to the school over many years. She was a member of the



Executive of the Parent Association and served as Chairperson before being elected to the Board of Management.

Members of the Board

Rev. P. Bradley, Chairperson, Mr. Gerard Whyte, Treasurer, Ms. Carmel Durkan, Ms. Maggie O'Neill, Mr. Darragh Moneley, Ms. Anne McCabe, Mr. Sean McCormack & Ms. Edi Wynne

Parent 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 thanks to our Chairperson Ms. Maria O'Connor and the Executive who have given unselfishly of their time in the many activities throughout the year. We say goodbye to Ms. Jenny Hughes who leaves us this year and thank her for her commitment and help down the years.

Some of the events organised by the Parent Association: Annual Social Night/ Blazer Rental Scheme for communion and confirmation classes/ Communion Party/Three Bags2School collections/First Aid Talk/Talk on Internet Safety/Art Exhibition/Talk for 5th and 6th class parents from Accord/Christmas and Summer Cake Sales/Issuing of receipts for Voluntary Contribution/Talk for 5th and 6th class parents on Transition to Secondary School/Provision of refreshments at the new parents' meeting and 6th class Mass, etc. etc. the list goes on.....

Date for your diary:

1. ***Annual General Meeting of the Parent Association: Tuesday 18th September.*** The meeting will be preceded by the election of a parent nominee to the Board of Management.
2. ***Annual Parents' Social: Friday 28th September*** Terenure Sports Club. (Limited tickets available from class representatives in **September**).

Voluntary Contribution: 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 enables us to maintain and upgrade our resources to the benefit of us all.

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 €6.50. 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 2018.

- **Schedule of Benefits**

Death by Accident	€10,000
Permanent total loss of sight in one eye or use of one limb	€50,000
Permanent total loss of sight in both eyes or use of both limbs	€100,000
Permanent total disability	€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 any other source	€50,000
Loss of Speech	€40,000
Hospital confinement payable (maximum 90 days)	Per day €20.00

School Traffic Arrangements: As the safety of our school community is of utmost importance and after lobbying Dublin City Council for the past two years, we managed to get an additional Traffic School Warden for the school - located outside the church.

We would appreciate if parents would observe the following traffic arrangements:

- Parents are requested not to drive to the school building entrance i.e. the area inside the yellow barrier and between the church and school buildings.
- The Church gates at Beechlawn Way (Lidl) are closed each morning (with the exception of wet mornings when children are not in the yard). It is important not to obstruct the entrance as staff traffic must enter the grounds.

- (iii) ***Collecting children at 1.30 p.m.***
Cars are not allowed into the main churchyard at ***1.30 p.m.***
- (vi) ***Collecting children at 2.30 p.m.***
The gates at Beechlawn Way (Lidl) are open after ***2.15 p.m.***
Access to main church yard will be from Beechlawn Way only.
- (iv) All cyclists should dismount when entering the school/church grounds.

Health & Safety: We are happy to tell you that the church car park will be resurfaced over the summer. We have also installed hand sanitizers in every classroom throughout the school and we have placed our defibrillator in a safety box at the main entrance.

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. The boys 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: 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 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

Confirmation and First Holy Communion: Congratulations to the boys from 6th Class who were confirmed by Bishop Eamon Walsh on 15th March and also the boys of 2nd Class who received their First Holy Communion on Sunday 27th May. These were very special occasions for the boys and their families. We thank all those involved for the great work in preparing the boys for their special day.

Catholic Schools Week: In February a Prayer Service was held for all the people in our lives and we planted a remembrance tree in the main garden.

Charities: As always there was a huge response to our annual appeals – Trocaire, the Shoebox Appeal and the Society of St. Vincent De Paul has extended a special word of thanks to all the children and their parents for the wonderful gifts that were presented at our Toy Sunday Mass.



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 we were represented by two teams from 5th class who did us proud coming back with the cup.

Barcelona Visitors: We were delighted to welcome our friends from Sant Ignasi-Sarria school in Barcelona for five days this year. We were partners in a Comenius project over a two year period and even though the project is now over the teachers and pupils love to come back to visit us again. They really enjoyed their visit as they learned about Ireland and our culture. We would like to especially thank the families who hosted the visiting pupils during the week. All the pupils experienced the wonderful hospitality of the families and they got a glimpse of family life in Ireland.

Golf: Well done to our golf team who performed gallantly at the Castle Schools Golf Competition. Also a great performance from one of our boys who came 2nd in the singles round.

Speech and Drama: The Irish Board of Speech and Drama examiner Ms. June Nelson was very pleased with the high standard and level of participation at our recent communication and public speaking exams. The boys were awarded with certificates and three of our students won the prestigious gold medal award. Well done to all.

Mr. O’Flynn’s 5th Class gave a stellar performance in their play called “Judge Knot” and was awarded Best Performance in the Annual Terenure Drama Competition held in Terenure College. The play was written and directed by Mr. O’Flynn and won high praise from the judges and audience.

Green School: The theme of our next Green flag application is **Global Citizenship/Energy**. Our application will be made in March 2019. So parents, during the holidays and during the next school year, you can reinforce this important theme at home with your children. How we use energy resources not only impacts on our lives, it also impacts on the lives of future generations.

On the subject of green issues and being green, Ms. Maher’s Class have spent the year tending to our school garden. They have been very diligent and have a crop of vegetables on the way.

Science and Technology Continues to Abound in St. Joseph's



We are delighted to announce that for a second year, we have been awarded the **Discover Science & Maths Plaque of Excellence**.

From infants all the way up to 6th Class, the boys have been engaging in a curriculum loaded with investigations and hands on experiences: from keeping teddy dry (properties of materials), to discovering the best insulator, to growing our own vegetables.

In October, every class hosted a stand at our in-school science fair. Seeing the boys explaining their discoveries to other pupils was a wonderful sight to behold. Gold Medals were awarded to 3 of the boys for their fantastic scores during the Mangahigh Maths Week Challenge. Mr. Sean Duke graciously gave up his time to enthuse our senior boys about the contributions of Irish scientists to the field. Senior classes helped the infants complete maths trails and the middle classes experienced Living Science Workshops. As if that wasn't enough, many of our classes took part in science and engineering workshops outside of school - Marsh's Library, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballyroan Library and Imaginosity. The challenge is on for next year, to maintain our plaque, to continue and expand on the wide variety of STEM subjects we have been doing.

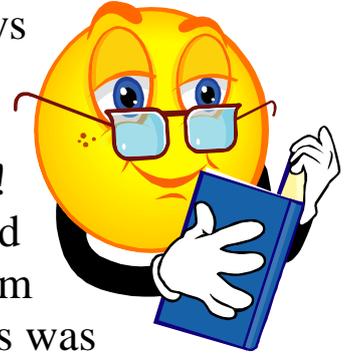
ICT: We said our goodbyes to Mr Donnelly at the end of the last year, and we've managed to muddle on without him! The school has sought to upgrade our IT systems over the course of the year, from replacing data projectors in each room to the replacement of teacher laptops. The need for modernisation is always there, and for this reason we will be looking for future trends and developments.



Coding: Although ICT is not an official subject on the Irish curriculum, it is seen as a tool to help learning across all the subject areas. Our pupils have used some of the tools available to them to embrace learning in the IT sphere. At the same time there are moves to introduce coding as a subject at primary and secondary level. This year we continued coding and will be looking at future opportunities over the coming years.

Internet safety: Internet Safety and websmart behaviour is becoming increasingly important in this digital age. It's taught across the year in IT lessons and through our SPHE curriculum. Parents and pupils are encouraged to check out <https://www.webwise.ie/> for tips on keeping safe on the internet.

Accelerated Reading: Congratulations to the boys who read and successfully completed quizzes on 15156 books this school year. The boys have read 258,404,970 words in total – quite an achievement! Our Accelerated Reading programme 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 were then assigned a range of books that were appropriate to age and 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.

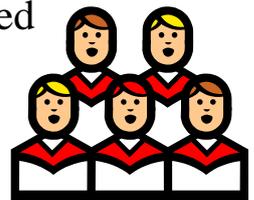


Book Fair: As a result of the book fair in October we now have an increased selection of books in our class libraries. It is important to keep in touch with reading over the summer holidays. Good readers become good writers.

Art Exhibition: Our thanks to Ms. Durkan and the parents who organised a fantastic exhibition of the boys' artwork. The exhibition took place over three days and all of the pupils and their families got an opportunity to wander around the hall appreciating the wonderful creative artwork.

Student Council: Two boys from each class (3rd to 6th) were chosen to represent their class on the Student Council. They gave feedback to Mr. Reale and Mr. O’Doherty on any issues or suggestions their class would like to discuss. The major outcomes from the meetings resulted in the provision of the new bicycle rack and purchase of new PE equipment. The boys also did projects on the amount of sugar consumed on a daily basis and the level of participation in active hobbies after school. These projects greatly helped our school in retaining our Discover Science and Maths Award.

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 5th and Ms. Byrne’s 4th had a very busy schedule. From September they were busy learning lines and 2-part harmonies for a splendid **Confirmation ceremony**. They will sing at the **Farewell Mass** for our 6th class boys in June.



Toy Sunday, always a stirring occasion, was made even sweeter by the singing of the two 3rd classes with Ms. Larmer’s 4th class. The choir 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, a junior (3rd and 4th class) choir sang at **Córfhéile na Scoileanna** in the National Basketball Arena. Ms O’ Riordan’s recorder ensemble and Ms. Maher’s Offbeat Club also delighted the audience and the judges with their tuneful and lively performances the same night.

In January, most of the pupils got a chance to enjoy the hilarious Grafitti Classics. The string quartet managed to teach quite a few musical concepts while we laughed, tapped, sang and even conducted. St. Joseph’s first “Music Week” was facilitated by Ms. Harte, Ms. Murphy, Ms O’ Donoghue and Ms. Maher. The children spent extra happy hours swapping classrooms in order to compose, listen, drum and learn to play instruments. All of the music brought happiness and mental energy to participants and listeners. Well done all.

Annual Sports Evening: On a beautiful sunny evening in May our annual school sports took place. The whole event went off seamlessly thanks to the wonderful preparation of all the staff. We would like to congratulate all the boys for participating so enthusiastically. Our thanks to Ken in the VEC Grounds for all his help and for the many other school events during the year. Well done to everybody and looking forward to 2019 le cunamh De!



Athletics This year we had the Clonliffe, St. Damian's and Terenure College cross-country runs before Christmas and the South Dublin County Council series of three days with races for 3rd to 6th starting in February. Every boy from 3rd to 6th got a chance to represent the school. 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. This year we had a new schools' event in the magnificent new indoor arena in Abbottstown. A great performance in the relay brought us to second place in the overall team event. On to Santry at the end of May and we had a nice spread of medals with gold in shotput, silvers in 600m/relays and bronzes in hurdles/600m. Section A is always competitive with over 30 big schools in each event and the Under 10s, all making their first appearance in Santry were unlucky to just miss a medal after two good runs. All relay teams worked hard with Melina to get the baton changes right and everyone should be very proud of their efforts. 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 so all interested athletes from 2nd class to 5th should get out and stay fit over the summer!



Cricket: Our thanks to Anna Healy of Terenure Sports Club (CYM) who organised cricket and tennis coaching for all boys in 5th and 6th. We had the opportunity to play in the **Blue Insurance Leprechaun Cup** for primary schools. A number of 5th/6th class boys represented St. Joseph's vs. Scoil Mobhi, Glasnevin at Terenure and we were defeated when the last ball of the match was hit for two runs. For some boys it was their first experience of a proper cricket match but our captain had played cricket in sunnier climes down under! Quite a few younger boys are playing regularly so we should have a strong school team in the next few years. We are grateful to Diarmuid and Brian of Leinster Cricket.



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 optimism and a series of victories over Bishop Galvin, Scoil Maelruain, Castleknock and Scoil Assaim left us facing a strong St. Michael's team in the cup semi-final. Heavy rain probably favoured the bigger, more physical team and they proved worthy winners on the day in a close contest and indeed went on to win the cup. Our second senior team 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.

Gaelic Football League: In the autumn term we continued a long tradition in St. Joseph's of running a 3rd and 4th class football league. Some past and present Dublin footballers (Eoghan O'Gara, Denis Bastick, Paul Curran) played their first football matches in this league many years ago. Thanks to Mr. Concannon for organising and to the other teachers who helped supervise. Thanks also to the boys from 6th class who refereed the matches.



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, winning one and drawing one of their five matches. The second team with Mr. O'Doherty used over 40 players, mainly boys from 4th class but also with several from 3rd playing their first match for the school. 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.

Hurling Blitz: In June the 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes had three half days' hurling blitzes in Bushy Park organised by Tommy O'Mahony from Faughs Hurling Club. It proved to be a great success with each child getting a gold medal sponsored by Paddy O'Brien from Faughs. We hope to continue this new tradition every year and this will help in producing some great junior and senior hurlers in the coming years.

Junior Hurling: Our two junior hurling teams, managed by Mr. Brennan & Mr. O'Doherty, were competitive in their leagues and enjoyed five good matches. Some narrow defeats cost us the chance to win a league but a strong showing overall from the several boys from third class and the excellent 4th Class boys augers well for future school teams.

Senior Hurling: Our training commenced on a cold, wintry Monday evening in January where 25 boys from 5th and 6th Class committed to play for the senior team. After months of training we entered a blitz against St. Mary's, Scoil San Treasa and St. Pius. We played some friendly matches in March to prepare for the Corn Merino Cup. We beat Scoil Lorcaín Naofa by a point followed by draws against St. Pius and Ballyroan which left us top of the table. We progressed to the semi final against Diswelltown. Even though the lads played superbly we came up short by 2 points. The boys were a credit to their families, school and hurling clubs and I'm confident that most, if not all of the team will represent Faughs Seniors and maybe even Dublin in the future.

*Swimming - Message from Mr. Hallinan:
Dear Parents and especially children,*

On behalf of Andrew, Darina, John, Aaron and myself, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, the parents, and the children for the marvellous support you have given us during the year with the swimming. It's very much appreciated and has been our pleasure. Hopefully the children enjoyed their lessons as much as we did teaching them.

Our recent Junior and Senior Galas, held these last two Saturdays were very successful. In the two nights, we had over 50 races. The children provided us with fantastic entertainment through exciting races and nail biting finishes. Maybe one day, one of them will represent Ireland! Now that would be really special!!!

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 2018/2019. Hopefully, I will have enough children to support and maintain the classes. They are a life skill. All being well I'll send out texts and emails to parents regarding the swimming for next year in early September and I look forward to commencing the classes again in Terenure College towards the end of September.

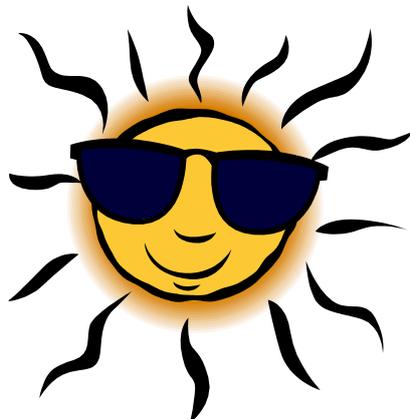
Personally, I'd like to express my own thanks to Andrew, Darina, John and Aaron for their dedication and commitment to teaching the children how to swim and advancing them to become the beautiful swimmers they are. I'm sure you have seen the result of their hard work in the Galas. Again THANK YOU for all your co-operation and support and hopefully I'll see you again this September.

PLEASE REMEMBER, WATER IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS :

- 1 ALWAYS SWIM SAFELY**
- 2 ALWAYS WITHIN YOUR OWN DEPTH**
- 3 ALWAYS WITH AN ADULT**
- 4 NEVER NEVER MESS IN THE WATER**

Emmett Hallinan.

School reopens on Thursday 30th August. We hope everyone has a nice and safe summer. 'Till then Slán.



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2018 - 2019

School opens on Thursday 30th August

Halloween:	Closed Mon 29 th Oct to Fri 2 nd Nov incl.
Christmas:	Closed Mon 24 th Dec to Fri 4 th January incl.
Feb.	Closed Thurs 21 st and Fri 22 nd Feb.
March:	Closed Mon 18 th March.
Easter:	Closed Mon 15 th April to Fri 26 th April
May:	Closed Mon 6 th May
June:	Closed Mon 3 rd June to Fri 7 th June

Summer Holidays – Closing Friday 28th June