

NEWSLETTER 2019



Hello to all members of our school community here at St. Joseph's and welcome to our Summer newsletter. It has been a busy year and we have lots of great news to share with you from sporting achievements to Green Flag Awards. The next few pages are a snapshot of recent activities, all of which had incredible input and support from all the staff, the Board of Management, the Parent Association, and of course you the parents, guardians and pupils.

The weather, as I write, is warming up, the sun is making an appearance and it's great to see everybody enjoying the brighter longer days. We are all soon to have a nice long break away from our normal routine. Lazy mornings, outdoor activities and travel beckon for many of us. I hope everybody enjoys this time of relaxation and recreation. Let's look back on another great year for St Joseph's.

Farewell to the boys of 6th Class: All the boys of 6th Class will depart from the school on 28th June and it is with mixed emotions that we see them leave us. Most of these boys have been with us for eight years and we have seen them grow and develop from Junior Infants into adolescents. We are proud of their achievements and happy that they are well prepared for the next stage of their education. We wish them well in their new schools and we thank them for their years of contribution to St. Joseph's School. A special Mass in their honour will be celebrated on 25th June. Go n-éirí leo.

As we say goodbye to our 6th Class we welcome our new Junior Infants who will join the school on 29th August and hope they have many happy years with us.

We also say farewell to Ms. Rachel Moloney, Speech & Drama Teacher who leaves us this year after 12 years in the school. She will be sadly missed by colleagues and pupils and we wish her well in her new life in Cork.

Board of Management: We extend a special thank you to our Board of Management for committing themselves to such important voluntary service on behalf of our children, parents and school staff. School management is a complex process and we are most grateful to our members of the Board for their generous commitment to St. Joseph's School.



Members of the Board

Rev. P. Bradley, Chairperson, Mr. Gerard Whyte, Treasurer, Ms. Carmel Durkan, Ms. Jean McNamara, Mr. Darragh Moneley, Ms. Anne McCabe, Mr. Sean McCormack & Ms. Edi Wynne

Voluntary Contribution: A word of thanks to you the parents who contribute so generously to the maintenance and upkeep of the school. The tangible response to our voluntary contribution appeal and functions is a great source of support and strength.

Parent Association: St. Joseph's is most fortunate in having a very dynamic and committed Parent Association 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 Claire Lynch and Caroline Walsh who leave us this year and thank them for their valued service down the years.

Message from Chairperson of the Parent Association:

“The Parent Association had a very and productive year which started with a very enjoyable social at the CY Tennis Club, followed soon after with the Kildare Village shopping trip. We held two First Aid talks and, as this is proving very popular, we plan to schedule another one in the coming Autumn. We also organised a talk for the 6th Class boys and their parents regarding the preparation for secondary school.

We received a huge response to our fundraising events i.e. Christmas Cards, Christmas raffle, Christmas and summer cake-sales and ‘Bag2School’ collections. We also introduced a uniform sale for the first time which proved very popular.

We organised the Communion party, blazer rental scheme for Communion and Confirmation and the Art Exhibition . We organised the 6th Class Graduation and purchased souvenir hoodies and plaques for our ‘graduates’.

We wish to thank all the wonderful parents who help us raise money, who volunteer at all the various events and also the fantastic PA Committee. Look out for the notice of the AGM in September. You are all members of the PA and are more than welcome to join the committee”.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 2nd October 2019

Parent Social Evening: Friday 27th September at Terenure Sports Club. Tickets €20 available early September.

School Code of Behaviour: We request that you take time to read St. Joseph's School Code in the Homework Journal and discuss all aspects of the code with your son. A more comprehensive School Behaviour policy is available on our website and is important that you support this policy to ensure a happy and productive school environment for us all. The school policy on the Prevention and Treatment of Bullying is also accessible on www.stjosephsterenure.ie

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 premises before the official starting time of 8.50 a.m. The school insurance applies to pupils 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 at a cost of €7.00. This premium has been included in the children's school expenses payable in September.

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.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Confirmation & First Holy Communion: Congratulations to the boys from 6th Class who were confirmed by Bishop Eamonn Walsh on 7th March and also the boys in 2nd Class who received their First Holy Communion in May. These were very special days for the boys and their families and we thank all those involved for the tremendous work in the preparation of same.

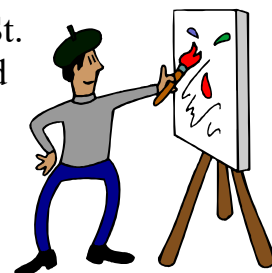
Charities: There was a good response to our annual appeals – the Shoebox Appeal, Trocaire and the Society of St. Vincent DePaul were very grateful for your generosity.

Green Schools Award: St. Joseph's has established a reputation for being one of the most active schools in the field of environmental awareness. Again, this year we have been awarded An Taisce's "Green Flag" for our efforts. Well done to all.

Eric Dempsey, Author and Wildlife Photographer visited our school on 28th March. He spoke to the boys in 4th, 5th and 6th Class about our native Irish breed of birds and our visiting/migrating birds. He emphasised the importance of keeping healthy habitats for both our native and migratory bird population.

Spanish Visitors: We were delighted to welcome 15 boys and girls from Escola Sant Ignasi in Sarria, Barcelona. Among the activities they took part in were a table quiz, a concert, a hurling coaching session and an international foodfest! It was a great opportunity for our boys to make new friends.

Art Exhibition: A huge effort was made by all the boys for St. Joseph's Annual Art Exhibition which was held in May and sponsored by the Parent Association. The standard of art work was extremely impressive across all age groups.



Accelerated Reading: 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. Each pupil from 1st to 6th Class is tested at the beginning of the year and is then assigned a range of books that is appropriate to his age and reading ability. We were delighted to celebrate World Book Day on 7th March. It was a great event and helped to promote the enjoyment of reading. Book tokens were given to all the boys.

National Fire Safety and Road Safety Week: We embarked on a road safety campaign in October where we had poster competitions and talks by our traffic wardens about being safe on the footpath and crossing the road. Other areas such as bike and scooter safety were covered. Awareness was raised about Fire Safety through talks, projects and poster competitions.

Engineers' Week: Many science and STEM activities took place in the school in March. Our junior class had Aistear/play focusing on engineering where the boys developed their own design process through play. Our senior classes were given engineering challenges, and some got to explore engineering projects in our local community. They learned about the different types of engineers and our 5th Class pupils visited Ballyroan Library and built domes from A4 sheets of paper and Sellotape alone! One of our Intel Mini-Scientist Teams made it to the All-Ireland Final in Maynooth University and their project was commended by all.

ICT: Internet Safety Week: The Student Council was very busy helping classes with activities for Safety Internet Week in February. They organised the collection and display of posters highlighting how we keep safe on the internet. All classes covered cyberbullying, phone safety, communicating respectfully online etc. Our Internet Safety Talk for Parents was very informative in raising awareness of how to do our best to ensure our children stay safe online.

Music: It was another varied musical year here at St. Joseph's. The 6th Class songsters provided wonderful music for the Mass marking the opening of the school year. The boys from Ms. Molloy's and Ms. Byrne's classes were busy learning lines and beautiful 2-part harmonies for the Spring Confirmation Ceremony. They will also

provide the singing for the 6th Class end-of-year Mass. Before Christmas we were treated to a very special visit from the Garda Band. The band played an array of Christmas tunes and the boys sang their hearts out.

Junior and Senior Infants treated us to musical nativity plays and carol concerts before the holidays. In early March, Ms. Maher's, Ms. Rooney's and Ms. Tynan's Classes performed in Córthéile na Scoileanna in the National Basketball Arena. They performed a varied repertoire and did the school proud. The same night Ms. Maher's Offbeat Club, who met every Friday morning during the year, joined Ms. O'Riordan's recorder ensemble and 'blew the audience away' with their exciting, tuneful and lively performance. We also had two concerts from Graffiti Classics in early summer. Almost 250 boys availed of their entertaining style of education. 3rd Class welcomed back the Bodhrán tutors from St. Augustine's School, discovering that it is not as easy as it looks! Well done to all musicians and teachers.

Active School/Well Being: (Healthy Eating/Active Living): After Easter, with longer evenings and better weather, we had the National Active Schools week designed to encourage the children to adopt an active lifestyle and a healthy diet. Then in May we were delighted to have our German PE Teacher, Melina, for two very active weeks. We had yoga, dancing, skipping, cricket, garden games, athletics, tennis, spikeball, gaelic, hurling and lots more! Spikeball Roundnet is a new sport the boys were introduced to thanks to Simon from Roundnet Ireland. It can be played indoors or outside only needing a small space and has been a big hit with all classes.

Our Annual Sports Evening had to be postponed on two occasions but we finally managed two lovely mornings of sprints and novelty races with relays and 500m races for the older boys. We will be repeating the Super Troopers programme in the new school year. Well done everyone!!

2019 Castle Schools' Golf Cup: St Joseph's BNS was delighted to be invited to compete in this year's Castle Schools' Golf Cup. To select the team to represent the school, a qualifying round of golf took place on May 17th at Stepside Golf Centre where the best four scores qualified to play in the competition. There was a great turn out with 24 boys from 4th to 6th class trying out for a place on the team.

The Castle School's Golf Cup competition took place on 27th May in the Castle Golf Club, Rathfarnham. The competition promotes the love for the game that can be enjoyed throughout life. The boys were welcomed by Joe O'Hare, the Captain of the Castle GC who is a past pupil of St Joseph's. There were 19 teams participating from the Dublin region in the boys' competition and St Joseph's did very well to finish in fourth place overall in a highly competitive field. Congratulations!

Athletics: This year we had the Clonliffe, St. Damian's and Terenure College cross-country runs before Christmas. The St. Enda's and South Dublin County Council/DCC races followed from February to May. Our thanks to Philip in Terenure, Paula at SDCC, Michelle at DCC and all the organisers for their work in putting on these runs. Every boy from 3rd to 6th got a chance to run for the school and over 200 took part

with many scoring top ten points for the school team and quite a few winning their races. Our thanks also to Brian from St Brigid's Foxrock who organised the primary schools' event in the magnificent new indoor arena in Abbotsstown. A gold medal in the long jump and a great performance in the relay brought us to first place in the overall team event.

On to Santry at the end of May with 20 boys representing the school against the best athletes from 32 other schools in Section A. We had a good spread of medals in 9 different events with a few other near misses. The relay teams worked hard 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. Our congratulations to past pupil Alex Martin who won the Leinster schools shot putt for Templeogue College. We wish to thank Melina who flew over from Munich twice during the year to help with preparations. She is hoping to be here for a month or two next year. We will start our athletics preparation for next year in October with regular morning training and there are also more cross-country runs being planned so all interested athletes from 2nd to 5th Class should get out and stay fit over the summer!

Well done to our athletes from 5th and 6th class who were the overall winners of the boys' cup at the National Indoor Arena in Abbotstown recently.

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 narrow defeat to St Pius in a friendly match didn't dent our confidence. Two good wins in the group stage over St. Attracta's and Scoil Maelruain left us in the cup quarter-final facing the journey to the northside to play Bayside. Despite falling five points behind early in the game we didn't panic and a great length of the pitch ended with a cracking goal. The game was still in the balance when another good move was finished to the net for a 2-10 to 0-10 victory. The semi-final in Deerpark against a fine Sandymount team was also tightly contested all the way to the last minute. Two goals up at half-time, our defence really had to stand firm under pressure in the second half. With the teams level a penalty save was vital and two late scores sealed a memorable win on a score of 4-10 to 2-12, to earn a place in the Corn na nGearaltach Final, our first Senior Cup Final since 2010. On final day, it is fair to say things went our way against a fine Bishop Galvin team, and after a few early goals we were never in danger as a complete performance saw us win comfortably. Well done everyone! Our second senior team with Mr. Kelly 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 faced stiff opposition. They were involved in some great matches and ended unbeaten to clinch the league title. Their performances were so impressive that a few boys got promoted

to the senior team and played in the Croke Park final. The second team with Mr. O'Doherty used over 40 players, mainly boys from 4th class but also with a few boys from 3rd playing their first matches 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.

Autumn Football League: Continuing a long tradition in St. Joseph's our 3rd and 4th Class Football League in the VEC Grounds went according to schedule. Thanks to Ken and Darren in the VEC Grounds, all the teachers, referees and especially the boys who provided such quality football over the weeks.

Junior Hurling: Our two junior hurling teams, managed by Mr. Brennan & Mr. O'Doherty, were competitive in their leagues and each enjoyed five good matches. The Div. 1 team competed keenly but two narrow defeats cost us the chance to win the league. The second team was also unlucky but a strong showing overall from several boys from 3rd Class and the excellent 4th Class boys augers well for future school teams.

Senior Hurling: We began training just after Christmas and we competed well in the annual hurling blitz against Scoil San Treasa, St. Mary's and St. Pius. We were unlucky to lose the Shield Final to St. Pius but we were hopeful to do well in the Division 2 League. We did extremely well in our first game beating the Kilmacud Crokes Scoil Lorcaín. Our 2nd game however, proved to be a bit tougher where Ballyroan eventually beat us. We knew we had to win our last match against Gaelscoil Thaobh Na Coille and the boys duly obliged with an immense second half performance. We were now drawn to play St. Helen's in the quarter final. We were so proud with the way the boys battled and competed on a very wet and miserable day. Unfortunately, our campaign had to come to an end, but the memories of some fantastic matches will not be forgotten. The boys' commitment and dedication was second to none and they should be proud. We are optimistic for next year with the talent that is coming through in 4th and 5th Class. Thanks to all parents for lifts to and from matches and sideline support. Joey's abú!

Faughs Hurling Club/Templeogue, Synge St. Football Club: A special word of thanks to Tommy O'Mahony from Faughs and Kevin O'Donovan from Templeogue/Synge Street who came to the school throughout the school year to train the boys. It is greatly appreciated by us all.

Cricket: Our thanks to Anna Healy of Terenure Sports Club (CYM) who organised cricket and tennis coaching for boys in 5th and 6th-ideal for summer term. We also had the opportunity to play in the **Blue Insurance Leprechaun Cup** for primary schools. For some boys it was their first experience of proper cricket matches but our captain had played cricket in sunnier climes down under and he led by example! After two good wins over schools from Glasnevin and Crumlin we were beaten narrowly by a strong Clontarf team in the quarter final. Quite a few younger boys are playing

regularly with Terenure CC so we should have a strong school team in the next few years. We are also grateful to Diarmuid, Fintan and Brian of Leinster Cricket.

Swimming – Message from Mr. Hallinan:

We have just finished our swimming lessons for the year which began way back last September in Terenure Swimming Pool. Our recent Junior and Senior Galas were very successful. We had some nail-biting finishes amidst great excitement. Over the two nights, a huge number of parents and children were entertained by some marvellous swimming and fantastic races.



We have been teaching swimming to the children from St. Joseph's for over 45 years now, so I would hope and love to continue the swimming classes in 2020/2021. Hopefully, I will have enough children to support and maintain the classes. 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 at the end of September.

A special thanks to coaches, Andrew, Darina, John and Aaran for all their work during the year. I'm sure you have seen the result of their hard work in the Galas. Also, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to the parents for their continued support and hopefully I'll see you again this September.

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

Finally: We look forward to the school holidays which begin on ***Thursday 28th 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 29th August at 8.50 a.m. 'Till then – Slán.***

CALENDAR FOR 2019/2020

School Opens: Thursday August 29th

- Oct:** The school will be closed on Tuesday 1st Oct
Primary Language Curriculum In-service
The school will be closed from Monday 28th Oct to Fri 1st Nov inclusive. Halloween Mid- term
- Dec:** The school will be closing Fri 20th Dec 12.00/12.30 p.m. Re-opens Mon 6th Jan.
- Feb:** The school will be closed on Thurs 20th and Fri 21st February.
- March:** Closed Monday 16th and Tues 17th March (St. Patrick's Weekend)
- April:** **Easter:** The school will be closing Fri 3rd April at 12noon/12.30 p.m. Re-opens Mon 20th April.
- May:** Closed Mon 4th May
- June:** The school will be closed Thurs 28th, Fri 29th May, Mon 1st and Tues 2nd June.

Summer Holidays – Fri 26th June