

St. Joseph's Summer Newsletter 2025

ST JOSEPH'S BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL

Founded in 1866



St. Joseph's wishes you all peace and happiness as quiet descends upon our school after one of the busiest school terms ever. We were flat out creating memories for our boys with many exciting games including a hurling Croke Park final, class tours, sports days, walks, picnics, gardening, outdoor learning, art exhibition, creative workshops, a cake sale, ice cream van visit and of course our graduation ceremony for our 6th class pupils. These days will be remembered fondly by everyone in the school community, especially as the sun shone for most of this term.

THANK YOU TO JOEY'S COMMUNITY

We would like to thank the whole school community who have all worked together with one common goal – providing our pupils with the best learning experience possible.

We could not function without the work of our wonderful cheerful secretary Mary, and our much loved caretaker Jerry.

Mary is the first point of contact for the school and is efficient, kind and full of good humour while getting the job done.

Jerry keeps our boys safe in the building and out on the yards by tending to all health and safety issues. His kind watchful eyes make sure we have safe spaces for our boys during school hours by supervising traffic, visitors to the school and ensuring all gates are closed to the public. Jerry is out at the moment but we look forward to him coming back to us in the next school year and keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

Thanks to all the staff, our 3rd level student helpers Colm and Rory, our TY summer student Bobby and all the kind parents who have filled the gap while Jerry is out. As Jerry himself has said, 'it only took 4 ancillary staff, 3 traffic wardens, 26 teachers, 3 SNAs and 380 sets of parents and pupils to cover his duties 😊😊'. Get back to us soon Jerry.

We would like to thank the whole team of teachers and SNAs for their constant professionalism, care, and guidance towards the children and their families. Their dedication and hard work all year is evident in the smiling faces of our boys as you can see in this Summer Newsletter. Our traffic wardens Finn, Olive and Susie also deserve our gratitude for keeping our families safe at the very busy crossroad and junctions at both entrance sites to our school.

Fr. Dave our new parish priest and chairperson of the Board of Management has built a great connection with the boys and we thank him for always putting their needs and safety first in the Parish and in the community.

On a sad note we wish Mr. O'Doherty all the best as he is leaving St. Joseph's for pastures new in Cork. Mr. O'Doherty joined our teaching staff in September 2014 and has been a valued member of the team since, teaching many class levels.

Mr. O'Doherty also led our Green School Team and inspired the pupils to win many Green Flags for the school. He also devoted his free time to training and mentoring the boys in Gaelic Football and Soccer, and has helped Joey's to acquire silverware along the way. A big thank you from the boys, parents and the staff for everything Mr O'Doherty, we will miss you dearly!

Finally thank you to the parents/guardians and families of St Joseph's. Your delight in seeing your children thrive no matter what challenges they face, is what inspires us all to keep going and keep smiling.

Well-being Week



We celebrated *Well-being Week* at the end of May with a multitude of activities to soothe and nourish the mind, body and soul.

Each day we reflected on an area. We had Mindful Monday with yoga and meditation. Thankful Tuesday was a day to let

others know we appreciate them - many acts of kindness were received and given. Well-being Wednesday involved expression of how we keep ourselves well and kindness was unanimously chosen as the best way to achieve this for everyone. Thoughtful Thursday was another day spent thinking of others and doing things for others. The week ended with Friendly Friday which was filled with fun! The Lord Mayor Emma Blain came to visit as she'd heard about our acts of kindness. We had a wonderful time with her and she was super impressed with our boys.

Parent Partnership in Learning

We had very special visitors recently in St Joseph's. Michelle, mother of Jovi and baby Lovellé, and Caitriona, mother of Joshua and baby Harrison, came to 2nd class to talk about babies.

They answered all the boys questions about babies 🍼. Our boys enjoyed spending time with the babies and their brothers Joshua and Jovi were very proud to introduce them to their classmates.



Hurling Final in Croke Park: The double win for Joeys



CROKE PARK FINAL

Our senior hurling team reached the Corn FoDH final and played a fine game, winning convincingly against Ballyroan BNS on June 9th.

It took five busloads to bring our boys from 2nd class to 6th class to Croke Park to watch, cheer and

offer support for their hurling team. They were not disappointed. Our hurlers gave a great display of skill and sportsmanship. We are so proud of our team and of our supporters too, who were mannerly and full of life with JOEYS chants galore.



A huge thanks goes out to the boys' coaches in our school, Mr David Reale and Mr Colm Ó Riain and to Faughs Hurling Club for their support. Also a big shout out to Mr Tommy O'Mahony, who has worked with the school for many years now instilling a love of hurling in the boys from infants upwards.

This year our senior boys have won the double: earlier in October, the boys played in Croke Park for the football final where they beat Willow Park NS and lifted the Frank Cahill Cup. Thank you to their coaches in school, Mr David Kelly and Mr Tom O'Brien and to our GAA football coach Mr Kevin O'Donovan and Templeogue Synge St. for all their support.



Finally we want to say well done to our junior teams in football and hurling. They played with heart and soul and are well positioned to hit the heights of the senior games next year. Thanks to their coaches and mentors Ms Dwan, Ms Ormond, Mr O'Doherty and Ms Larmer.

First Holy Communion



Our 2nd class pupils made their First Holy Communion in early May. Fr Dave praised the boys for their hard work and eager participation in preparing for this special day in their lives and the lives of their families. St Joseph's church and community all came out to celebrate Communion mass with the boys on what was a beautiful sunny day. A joyous memorable occasion for all.

Graduation Farewell Mass

Fr. Dave celebrated the end of June Graduation mass marking the departure of our boys from 6th Class. 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 many great reasons to be proud of them and we will hold fond memories of them for a long time. Many thanks to all the teachers and staff who have worked with the boys and their parents during their years here 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 St. Joseph's. If the visit to our infant classroom in late June is anything to go by, our new pupils are ready for fun learning and activities in September 2025.



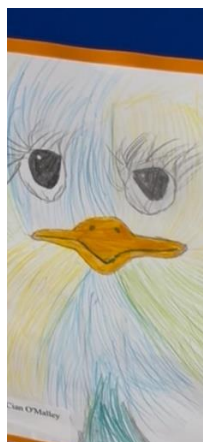
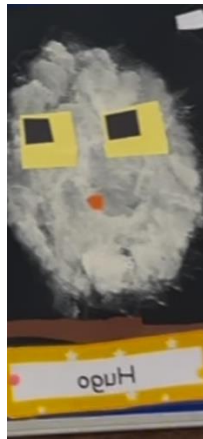
Our Annual Summer Art Exhibition

Over the past year, our boys have been creating wonderful pieces of art.

Sometimes their pieces are related to work they are doing in class or an artist that they are discovering. The artwork could be seasonal, or it might simply serve as an opportunity to work with a different medium.

The boys all enjoy the art lessons: many because they can chat a little, others because they enjoy the creativity, others because it is a very different type of learning and expression.

Our Art exhibition is a great time to celebrate the creativity, dexterity and imagination of our boys. Our parents also got to visit and view the art pieces. Thank you to our 6th class boys who guided all visitors around the exhibition.



GOLF

The Castle School's Cup Competition took place on Monday 26th May 2025 at The Castle Golf Club. Jonathan, Scotty, Matthew and Cillian represented the school. It was a fantastic day and the boys really enjoyed it.

The entire event was very well organised and everything ran so smoothly. We want to thank those from the Castle Golf Club who were involved in running the day, also the parents involved and in particular Mr. Ken Sweeney who co-ordinated our school's involvement in the competition.



ATHLETICS

We were lucky this year to have Mr. Gary Crossan from Athletics Ireland come to the school for blocks of athletics training with 3rd to 6th class. It was hard work but the

boys really enjoyed the sessions including relay races and foam javelin throwing! We only had one cross-country event this year and our thanks goes to Terenure College for organising this in February. Boys from 3rd to 6th enjoyed running against their friends from all the local schools. Next year we hope to return to the Clonliffe and Sundrive cross country races. At the Santry Primary School Sports we had a small number of boys representing the school. Louis in the U12 sprint ran a great race, taking home a medal. Luke, who ran in the 600m, and our two relay teams also ran fantastic races. Well done boys for giving it your all on the day. Days like these will add to your resilience and ability to always put yourself forward and out there whether you win or not. There's always a chance you'll reach your goal and you can have fun participating and making new friends along the way!



School Sports' Days



The boys had their sports' day near the end of school term and luckily the sun continued to shine. Here are some reports from the boys on how their day went.

*'Infants report that they had the **'World's most best day ever'** at their sports day. It was so much fun. It took place in CYM. The sun shone all day. Activities included target practice, parachute games, hurling, obstacles courses, fun races and sprints. The boys had a great day and want to thank everybody who helped out.'*

(Report by Ms Stokes' Senior Infant Class).

1st and 2nd classes were also at the CYM grounds for their Sports' Day and this report was made by Luke, James, Ayann and Stephen from Mr Kelly's 1st Class.

'Our favourite event was the sprinting. We had other races like the obstacle race, the egg and spoon race, the bean bag on your head race, the long distance race, and the sack race. We also had penalty shoot outs, and hurling. It was good fun, and an amazing day. Everybody was happy! The sun shone and we had no rain. Happy days!'



School Sports' Days



The 3rd and 4th classes had their day in the VEC grounds. They had the best of the weather with sunscreen needed all round. We would like to thank the VEC grounds for the use of their pitches and green areas throughout the year.

'Our sports day was in the VEC grounds. We played football and we did water relays. We played loads of games. Tag rugby was one of our favourites. Football and rounders were also a favourite. Our races included the sack race and sprints. The entire day was amazing'.



'Our parents got to see our races too. We had a full day of sports and activities and we were wrecked and puffed out after it. And we nearly had too much fun - if there is such a thing.' (Report by 4th Class, Mr. O'Doherty's).



5th Class Sports' Day

Our 5th classes also had a wonderful day of sunshine for their Sports' Day which took place in Terenure College. Here's a report from Ms Molloy's class about the day.

'We had our sports' day Friday the 20th of June in Terenure College. We had an amazing day with many activities. We played football and after that we had our 3 sprint races. We then had the sack race which was hilarious to watch. A lot of falls and a lot of fun but no injuries and we all helped each other out. We were not too competitive about it'.



'The relay races involved a lot of strategy and team work. All the races were very tight'.



'Lastly most of us competed in the 400 m race. It was a long and hard race but we all made it to the end. Joey lost his shoe and Liam won the race. Parents and boys cheered everyone on and a lot of fun was had by all'.

6th Class Sports' Day

6th class were also lucky enough to get to use the grounds of Terenure College for their Sports Day Events – this was the last time they got to compete and have fun together as the class of 2025!



'We had our 6th class sports in Terenure. There were 4 different races. We began with the 100m sprint, followed by the wheel barrow race, then the relays and finally the 400m race. After all the races we played football. The wheel barrow which is a novelty race was the most fun. We found the 400m the most tiring but everyone crossed the finish line. All in all it was a happy day and our parents enjoyed it too.' Report by Ms. Bleahene's class'



Creative Arts and Music Stories

Third class got an unexpected opportunity to attend a creative writing workshop in the city. Rain coats and Leap Cards at the ready, they headed into town not sure what to expect.

Fighting Words, the write to fight was the theme and the boys were inspired to continue with their creative writing journals, which is a great emotional and creative outlet for them.

At the workshop the boys got to create their own story with characters and settings. The volunteer editors, writers and illustrators bound their written pages together and gave the boys each a hard copy of their own story!



They explored why musical instruments are made from different materials, and why they are all different shapes and sizes. Thank you to Ms. Anne O'Gorman mum of Oisín for helping us gain access to this project. The boys loved exploring the variety of instruments and their 'musical personalities'.

All of the boys in the 3rd and 4th classes headed to the National Concert Hall for more creativity and inspiration. They participated in a music and science hands-on workshop called Quavers to Quadratics.



Thank you to our Student Council, Green School Team and Creative Student Team.

5th class student council boys with their new footballs. ⚽ All classes got 2 new footballs (a suggestion from the student council).



Our Student Council worked hard this year representing their classes and bringing suggestions and ideas to management. Some of these ideas included creating welcoming signs in different languages and designing fun competitions, Promoting well-being and supporting inclusion has been the aim of the team. The council is helping to make Joeys the best it can be. It's working boys – keep it up!

Our Creative Student Team has been working with Ms Rooney and Paula (Creative Associate from the Arts Council) to develop an individual school plan creating links with our school and arts and cultural organisations, while providing opportunities for our boys to participate in arts and culture. This helps develop socio-emotional wellbeing, cognitive development and positive attitudes towards school – a worthwhile venture, thank you boys!

Finally, our Green School Team, has been working away in the background preparing for next year's Green Flag award. This will be our 9th flag, if we secure it. The team has worked to raise awareness of this flag's theme which is 'Food Waste and Global Citizenship'. This will be an important concern for us especially as the Hot Meals School Programme will come to our school at some stage next year.

ACHIEVEMENTS & GOOD NEWS STORIES

Isaac (and some other members of his club Kaizen Dojo) took part in the Cologne Open, which is one of the larger international tournaments in Germany with 8 nations competing. He won second place in two under 10 categories, with 1st place also from Kaizen Dojo. This great achievement helped rank his club and Ireland's placing to 4th in the tournament! What great news!

We would also like to thank Orla from Kaizen Dojo for the use of the gym/hall throughout the school year – our boys have thoroughly enjoyed the space especially on the wet cold days of winter and early spring.



Faughs Community Project Night



Well done to our 4th class pupils who took part in the Faughs Community Project 2025.

All the local schools displayed their projects on the event. It was a fun filled evening especially for the boys in 4th class who won 1st Place.

A special shout out to Faughs hurling club for their support in our school. Mr. Tommy O'Mahony comes to the school to introduce and coach our infants in hurling on Tuesdays but also give our older pupils coaching and opportunities to play games throughout the year. Thank you Tommy so much!

The School Board of Management

The BoM of St. Joseph's BNS held the final meeting for the school year on 12th of June, 2025.

The financial report was given by the treasurer.

The planned summer maintenance was discussed – Ms McCabe will co-ordinate. Best wishes were sent to our caretaker Jerry who hopes to be back with us after the summer break.

The Child Protection Report was given by the School Principal. The Anti Bullying Report was also given at this meeting.

The Bí Cineálta (Revised Anti bullying Policy) was ratified at the meeting after consultation with the school community. The policy was signed off by the Chairperson Fr Dave Brannigan and School Principal Ms Anne McCabe. The child friendly Bí Cineálta Policy designed by the pupils has been uploaded to the 2025-2026 school year journals and will be displayed around the school from September 2025 onwards.

The board expressed its gratitude to Mr John Hickey, father nominee on the board who is leaving the board as his sons are starting secondary school next year. John joined the board in November 2020 and has contributed to the schools' wellbeing and advancement throughout his time on the board while navigating the trickier times of Covid etc. Thanks again John for all your devotion and time given to St Joseph's.

Thank you to each and every one our Board of Management members for ensuring the school year of 2024-2025 ran as smoothly as possible. Each member brings a different perspective and set of skills to the table. Our gratitude is extended to: Fr Dave Brannigan (Chairperson), Anne McCabe (Secretary and School Principal), Ger Whyte (Treasurer), Charlotte Larmer (Teacher Nominee), Maria O'Connor (Parent Nominee), John Hickey (Parent Nominee), Sean McCormack (Community Nominee) and Caitriona Devilly (Community Nominee).

At the Annual Parent AGM to be held on Tuesday 23rd September, a father nominee will be chosen to replace John Hickey. Thanks again John for all your devotion and time given to St Joseph's.

The Parent Association



St. Joseph's 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 tireless work on behalf of us all is very much appreciated. A special thanks to our co-chairs Ms. Tracy Laffan and Ms. Charlotte McCoubrey and to the PA Executive who have given unselfishly of their time in the many activities throughout the year.

Some of the events funded/organised by the Parent Association this year include the return of the *School Community Social Night*, the *Blazer Rental Scheme* for Communion and Confirmation classes, the photographer for class and school

family photos, the *Social Media/Internet Safety Parent Talk*, talks for 6th class parents and workshops for the 6th class pupils on *Transition to Secondary School*, the Christmas and Summer Cake Sales, the *Summer Bumper Raffle*, the *Preloved Uniform Sales*, the ice cream van visit and finally the provision of refreshments for the sacramental celebrations, for the new parents' meeting and for the 6th Class Graduation Ceremony. Míle buíochas!

Message from our co-chairs Tracy and Charlotte.

As parents of our boys each and every one of you are members of the Parents Association. We are seeking parents to become Active Members of the Parents Association. You do not have to be a Class Rep to become an Active member. We meet for one hour every 4-6 weeks either in the School or by Zoom. As you know we not only fund raise money for the School we also provide our boys with lasting memories by way of the Communion Party, The Graduation Party, the Christmas Cards to name but a few. We revived the Social Night this year which was a huge success bringing Parents and the School together whilst raising funds.

We are now seeking parents to fill the below positions:

Chair Person x 2, Secretary x 2

If you think you can spare the one hour a Month and help with organizing our many events throughout the Year please email your details to pachair@stjosephsterenure.ie.

If you would like to fill any of our vacant positions please also email your details to pachair@stjosephsterenure.ie

You can also volunteer to help at any of our Events we run throughout the year through your Class Rep. Have a lovely Summer and hopefully we will see some new Active Members in September.

Calendar 2025-2026

October 2025

Halloween Mid-Term October 27th — 31st

December 2025

Christmas Holidays

Closing at noon for all on Fri. 19th December

Re-opens Monday 5th January 2026

February 2026

February 2nd – Bank Holiday School Closed

February Thurs/Fri 19th and 20th School Closed

March 2026

March 17th St Patrick's Day School Closed

April 2026

Easter Holidays

Closing Friday 27th March at 12.00 noon for all

Re-opens Monday April 13th

May 2026

May 4th Bank Holiday School Closed

June 2026

June 1st Bank Holiday School Closed

Tues. 2nd June to Fri. 5th June School Closed

Summer Holidays 2026

Friday 26th June School closed 12.00 noon for all

Have a great summer!

