

St Joseph's BNS Newsletter

December 2025



Happy Christmas to all

Thank you to our boys who contributed to Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We are super impressed with our boys. They showed love, care and attention when preparing the gift boxes for children affected by poverty in countries in Africa and Eastern Europe.

This and other special events will be featured on our website in the New Year [here](#) including:

- Junior and Senior Infant Plays
- Christmas Cake Sale Day
- Christmas Carol Service

Holidays for the New Year

Jan 5: School reopens

Jan 26: School closed
for in-service

Feb 2: Bank holiday

Feb 19 & 20:
Midterm break

Mar 17: St Patrick's holiday

Mar 30 to April 10:
Easter holidays

April 27: School closed
for in-service

May 4: Bank holiday

June 1st to 5th : School closed

June 26: School closing
at noon

Enrolment for 2026-2027

For any little brother
intending to start school next
year, please fill in an
application form in reception
asap.



Have a Fun Christmas!

As part of our Restorative Practice journey here in St. Joseph's, our pupils have identified ten key values that they believe are most important in guiding how we behave and relate to one another. Each month, we focus on one of these values and explore what it means and what it looks like in our classrooms and throughout our school community. In September, our focus was on RESPECT. The children discussed what respect means, why it is so important, and how we show respect to our parents, classmates, teachers, and to each other's property and belongings. In October, we chose FRIENDSHIP as our value. The pupils explored what it means to be a good friend and how true friends treat one another with kindness, care, and understanding. Our value for November was FAIRNESS. The boys learned that fairness is not always the same as equality, and that being fair means everyone getting what they need to succeed, rather than everyone getting the exact same thing. This month, in the spirit of Christmas, our value is FUN! We have been discussing how children learn best through fun and engaging activities, through teamwork, play, and positive shared experiences. This focus on fun reminds us that learning should be joyful, inclusive, and meaningful for all. We thank parents for their continued support as we work together to nurture these important values in our school community.



Bí Cineálta: Be Kind Posters by 6th Class

Our school has a Bí Cineálta Policy to try to stop bullying behaviours. We look at this policy every year to see what is working well and what could work better. We did this during Anti Bullying Week in November. Our pupils have told us what they think. They have designed a pupil friendly poster with actions and advice for all.



Our Bí Cineálta Policy can be found on our website [here](#).



Advent: Our Values in Action!





Upcoming Events

School is closed Mon 22nd December for the Christmas holidays. We will welcome you all back on January 5th, 2026.

Check the school website for more important dates and events [here](#).



Our Student Council

Our Student Council is proud to announce the success of the Halloween Dress Up fundraiser! Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our school community, we raised **€450**. After discussing how the money could be of benefit to everyone, the council voted to use the funds to purchase **new board games for the entire school**.

These games will be available for classes, on rainy-day indoor breaks, and special school events. The goal is to encourage teamwork, creativity, and fun across all year groups.

A huge thank-you goes out to all students, staff, and families who contributed. Your support helped make this initiative possible, and we look forward to seeing how the games bring people together throughout the school year!





Green School News



Green School Committee Report.

Over the past few months, the Green Schools Committee has had a great start in 'Thinking GREEN' and bringing ideas back to their classes. The boys brainstormed on how the theme of Global Citizenship: Food and Biodiversity can be explored in our school community. The school is hoping to be awarded its 10th Green Flag before June 2026.

The plan is to create and sustain green spaces and habitats, within and outside our school. Watch out for the changes in St Joseph's garden: plans are afoot for insect hotels, fruit and vegetable patches and flowers to attract insects for pollination.

Also we have had our solar panels installed for a year now, so the boys are completing a comparison study of energy consumption and energy bills. Bar charts have been made of their results!

As we enjoy Christmas holidays, the Green Schools' Team remind us all to be conscious of our consumption (single use plastics etc.), reuse items (newspaper is a great wrapping paper) and recycle where possible. We look forward to 2026 to explore and improve our green habits.



Creative School Team.

2025-2026



The school's Creative Team met with Paula, the co-ordinator for the Creative Schools' Project. They are planning to celebrate Creative Week with the whole school community in early Spring.

The boys brainstormed ideas for Creative Week and showcased their paper aeroplane building skills. They hope to send messages of love and kindness to the Terenure community using paper planes but also taking into consideration our Green School values and aspirations. They will get back to us on their final ideas on how to be creative, have fun and spread good will among all.



The boys in 3rd class attended a Fighting Words Writing Workshop in town.

The boys used their team work skills and delved deep into their imagination to create a story.



A team of illustrators, editors and printers were on hand to promote creativity and writing as a fun and powerful means of self-expression. The team helped the boys produce their story into a hard copy format.

An enjoyable time was had by all!



Creative Schools: Creative Writing

2025-2026



The boys in 1st class were lucky to have storyteller and author Niamh Donnellan read them her very own picture book. Niamh

Donnellan is a writer and poet who created this book for her own young family. The class absolutely loved listening to the wonderful stories and then even got a chance to become their own authors

and create a mini book!



2nd & 6th class boys worked together writing Christmas themed stories. Peer tutoring has helped our younger and older boys flourish and develop empathy.



The boys in 5th Class recently took part in an exciting creative writing workshop via Zoom. The session provided the boys with a fun and imaginative story scenario-all about snowmen!



The boys were guided step-by-step through the writing process. By the end of the hour-long workshop, each boy had a completed an individual story, proudly showcasing his creativity.





STEM (Science, Technology, English and Maths) Week

In November, we celebrated STEM week. In all the classes, it was a huge success, filled with fun, curiosity, creativity and hands-on learning. Students took part in a wide range of exciting experiments, exploring the fascinating effects of atmospheric pressure and discovering how light bends through refraction. Budding scientists also investigated acids and alkalis, observing colourful chemical reactions. They also experimented with colour mixing to create vibrant new shades.



One of the highlights was designing and making paper helicopters, which tested students' engineering skills as they watched their creations spin and soar. It was a fantastic day of discovery that sparked enthusiasm, teamwork and a love of learning.



Another highlight for 3rd class involved teamwork where the boys built free standing Da Vinci Bridges using only lollipop sticks. It was a week of discovery that sparked enthusiasm, teamwork and a love of learning.



Inter Schools Maths Quiz



Well done to our 6th class boys who represented our school in St Attracta's School. This event has been in existence since 2011 and this year 18 schools participated from all over South Dublin and Wicklow. After two hours of puzzles, geometry, algebra and prime numbers St. Joseph's were declared the winners.

Leo, Joseph, Francis and team captain Jerry were delighted to accept the impressive cup!

Maith sibh a bhuachaillí!



Parents as partners in teaching and learning

STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

Ms Patricia Gonzalez (Dorian's Mum) is a STEM ambassador who visited our 4th class on the 10/11/25. Firstly, she asked us lots of questions testing our knowledge of engineering and afterwards, she told us about life as an engineer. She then spoke about flooding, and the damage floods can have on buildings, on lives and the importance of preventing floods from happening.

Finally, she set us a difficult challenge. We had to build a village with flooding prevention measures in place. She gave us 20 minutes to construct our building. We used boxes of raisins to represent houses with people inside and we used tape to secure the building. We then filled balloons with cat litter to use as sandbags.

When time was up, she tested our buildings by pouring lots of water onto our village to see if they could withstand the pressure of the flood. Altogether we had a blast, and we would like to say a big thank you to Patricia!!

This report was written by Max Lennox and Luke Tevlin.

Our Garden News



Our 6th class boys decided to give the engraved boulder stone commemorating our 150th birthday a major clean up.

In class, they designed and painted small stones as decoration.



They also planted bulbs at the base of the stone and these should start to bud in early Spring.



Finally the boys got their gloves on and scrubbed the green moss of the

engraved rock which can be seen at our Terenure Rd East entrance.

The boys worked hard as a team and did an excellent job. We are delighted with the results. Thank you boys!



We would like to thank Fr Dave for his permission to use the garden as an outside classroom. We love that we can learn about nature, living things and biodiversity out there. It is lovely to be able to plant bulbs and seeds and watch insects and birds come visit.



The boys in 3rd class really enjoyed making scarecrows for the planting section by the wall.

Come by and see them anytime!



Sport and PE



We want to thank our sports coaches who contribute so much to keeping everyone fit and on their toes.

Our athletics coach, Donegal man Gary Crossan, is very popular with the boys who are always delighted to see him arriving on his bicycle in the morning and enjoy his no-nonsense sessions even on frosty mornings! A fine distance runner himself, Gary was the leading Irish finisher in the Dublin City Marathon on a number of occasions. He has just completed a six week block of sessions with 3rd & 4th classes and will do the same with 5th & 6th after Christmas. This will be good preparation for the cross-country events and Santry athletics coming up in the new year.

Our tennis coach, Eve McGinn, comes all the way from New Zealand! She gave 3rd & 4th classes a great block of classes in the school yard while 5th & 6th class will have the opportunity to have tennis lessons in Terenure Sports Club after Easter.

Our local GAA clubs, Faughs and TSS, also provide us with coaches. This year Jen & Heidi from Faughs and Kevin from TSS have helped our younger classes to upskill in hurling and football!

In the new year we also hope to have Fintan from Leinster Cricket and Ariel from Leinster Rugby here for mini-cricket and tag-rugby coaching.

Boys from 3rd to 6th also get the opportunity to have 8 swimming and water-safety lessons every year in Templeogue College pool. Great for our mental and physical wellness!



The 4th Class boys enjoyed a karate taster session with Bren from Gaelkarate in the Kaizan Dojo hall.

They tried out different movements and techniques, learned about the respect and discipline involved, sampled some equipment, and—most of all—had great fun!





Our Christmas Creations!



Our Infant Christmas Plays and Concerts For Families and Friends

Getting ready:



Heading in to perform



Everybody loved us!



Senior Infants Also Performed For The Older Pupils





Christmas Plays and Concerts



Yup – it's a good show!



Singing with emotion!





Christmas Plays and Concerts – Junior Infants were amazing and entertained everyone!



Our helpers and musicians from 6th class – thank you!



Christmas Carols

We had our Christmas Class Carol Service over 2 days in the Parish Hall. 6th class boys all the way down to Junior Infants took part. It was a very heartwarming experience for everyone!



A special time of coming together.



Christmas Carols!



Everyone had a part to play.



Our older boys led the Carol Service.



We had cúpla focail as Gaeilge too!



6th Class provided instrumental music as well.



Christmas Carols



Merry Christmas Everyone!