

St. Joseph's BNS

Terenure, D06 ED86

www.stjosephsterenure.ie Tel: 01 4906905, 089 251 0954

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to all our staff, pupils and parents as we begin another exciting school year. We hope everyone had a lovely summer break and is feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

A particularly special welcome goes to our **Junior Infants**, who are taking their first steps on their school journey with us. We are delighted to have you as part of our school community and look forward to watching you learn, grow and make many happy memories.

We also extend a warm welcome to all the **new pupils who have joined our school in the older classes**. We are delighted to have you with us and hope that you quickly feel at home, make new friends and enjoy being part of our school community.

To all our returning pupils, it is wonderful to see you back and ready for a new year of learning, friendship and fun. We look forward to working together with our pupils, parents and staff to make this a happy, successful and memorable school year.

Welcome back everyone – here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Junior Infants 2026



Dates for your calendar

October 21st

School Closure: Staff In-service

October 26th – October 30th

Halloween Break Closure

December 23rd – January 5th

Christmas School Closure

School reopens Jan 6th

January 29th

School Closure: Staff In-service

February 1st

Bank Holiday Closure

February 18th – 19th

Midterm Closure

March 17th

St Patrick's Day Closure

Easter Holidays

March 22nd – April 2nd Closure

April 27th

School Closure: Staff In-service

3rd - 7th May

School Closure

June 4th and 7th

School Closure

Summer Holidays begin on

June 30th

Noon Closure

Enrolment September 2027

A note to parents who may have younger boys intending to join our school for Junior Infants next year – we are accepting applications for September 2027 from Oct 1st - Nov 12th, 2026. Check out our website for application forms and our Admission's Policy.

Changes were made to admissions procedures for all Primary schools under the Education (Admissions to schools) Act 2018. Even if you have already dropped in an application form previously, you will now need to resubmit a new application form which is available on our website [here](#) and also upon request in our school office.

Photography and Digital Consent

You may notice that this newsletter has very few photographs: we are still waiting for some Photography & Consent forms to come in.

Also, we need parents and guardians from 1st class up to sign the consent page in their child's school journal as this is a visual reminder to the class teacher of consent being given or not.

We like to give snap shots of life here to our school community and celebrate your child's achievements, so it is important for us to know who is allowed in a photograph and who isn't.



Also, the school photographer will be taking class photographs on October 13th, 14th and 15th. Please ensure you know the correct uniform or tracksuit assigned for those days in your child's class grouping.

Safety Before/After School

We ask parents and minders to be extra vigilant of their children during these times.

As always, we expect the boys to come to and leave the school grounds in a respectful manner – walking their bicycles and scooters and not using mobile phones until they are off school grounds.

Whilst waiting at bus stops, again we expect the boys to be well-behaved and to show respect to all footpath and bus stop users.

Parking for drop-offs or collections is outside school grounds.

No dogs are permitted on the school grounds.

Finally, please do not allow your children to play in the planted area and tree section in front of and at the side of the Church.

Health and Safety issues such as children falling off the trees or into the shrub area which may have weed killer or other garden products applied, are of great concern to us all.

We appreciate your support here.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.



Hot Lunches

Our hot lunches have been a great success with the children! They look forward to getting their hot lunch each day just before Big Break, as well as their fruit for Little Break.

The Lunch Bag advises that, when ordering initially, you chat with your child about the foods they enjoy and choose those options. As children see their friends eating different foods, they often become curious and want to experiment, trying new foods and changing their lunch choices over time.

If you do not place an order, your child will automatically receive the set menu lunch. If you prefer to provide your child with a packed lunch, please remember to cancel their lunch order on the app. This helps us avoid unnecessary food waste.

As parents, we all strive to provide healthy and nutritious options for our children. It is worth noting that the chicken goujons and pizza slices provided by The Lunch Bag are not unhealthy choices. They are made using fresh ingredients and are not cooked from frozen. So, if these are the only options your child is currently happy to eat, that is fine with us!

As children grow older and become less sensitive to different tastes and textures, they often become more willing to experiment and try a wider variety of foods. It is lovely to see their confidence and choices develop over time.



Please note: Fizzy drinks, crisps, nuts and chewing gum are forbidden in school.

Peer tutoring and care

Every year, we encourage our older boys to demonstrate care and kindness to our younger pupils.

Some of our 6th class pupils assist the staff with minding the boys during break times in the junior yards. They support and reinforce the rules of gentle play, showing kindness, checking everyone is happy and having a good time during Sos Beag and Sos Mór.

They encourage fair play and turn taking during outside play time.

Some senior classes write stories for the younger pupils and read them during their story time, and some help the younger pupils with their own short stories.

Our older classes also pair with a younger class and do 'shared reading' with them. This involves taking turns to read and encouraging confidence and discussion about the story.

At certain times, the older boys also help with laptop lessons and ICT etiquette in the younger groups and some play board games with them.

Team Teaching

Team teaching or collaborative teaching has been at the core of our teaching and learning at all class levels for many years now. Team teaching has many forms and is usually where 2 or 3 or 4 teachers plan together, teach at certain times together and assess together how the teaching and learning is progressing over time.

We use many team-teaching formats as a tool to optimise the best learning outcomes for our pupils. The teachers jointly assess the needs of each pupil in their shared care and choose the best format of team teaching to support those needs. Some examples of team teaching in our school:

- Power hour for literacy
- Maths stations teaching
- SEN and in-class support
- Teacher Swaps for ICT, The Arts, Well-being, PE etc.
- Classes at same level come together for Music, Art, Nature Studies, Science workshops, Sacramental Preparation etc.
- Partner teachers and support staff planning and supporting pupils for educational trips, library visits, games in outside venues and parks etc.
- Pupil presentations to other class groupings which is facilitated and guided by team teaching.
- Senior classes partnered with junior classes for Literacy, writing with purpose, ICT skills, presentation skills etc. which is facilitated and guided by team teaching.

How does this benefit your child?

- More individual attention and quality feedback as monitoring and observation of learning is increased with combined expertise and unique instructional strengths from a team of teachers.
- Differentiated teaching is facilitated within the class promoting inclusive education where your child is not streamed and feels that he can access the lesson with his peers.
- Less pressure on pupils to match their peers academically as focus is on different types of instruction and learning at your own pace.
- Consistency and safety is improved as all teachers and support staff enforce similar rules and behavioural routines and the children have another familiar trusted educator working with them.
- Social growth as the children get to interact with and build friendships with a wider group of peers while still feeling secure with their base class grouping.

Junior Infants on their 1st team teaching trip out of school.



Types of Team Teaching

There are many forms and formats of team teaching that we engage in with our classes.

Shared Planning and

Assessment: partner teachers at each class level with support teachers.

Station Teaching: classrooms are divided into specialised learning zones; children rotate in small groups to each zone for a short lesson.

Parallel Teaching: split the year level or class groups in half and both teachers teach the exact same content in base classrooms

Tag Teaching: 2 or more teachers actively lead instruction to a larger group of children or take turns presenting like co-speakers

Alternative Teaching: one teacher teaches and the other provides specialised targeted support for the lesson enabling all pupils to access the lesson, learn at their pace and feel included.

OIDE a national support service funded by the Department of Education provided St Joseph's with a professional development course and sustained support in team teaching in 2024 and 2025.

The National Council of Education (NCSE) also provided the school with support for the development of inclusive practices with a focus on team teaching.

Both OIDE and the NCSE are worth googling if you would like more information on team teaching and inclusive practices.

Classes for 2026/2027: Our Fab. Team

As you may have heard in the news, **supersized classes and large pupil numbers have become an increasing concern over the past few years**. In Ireland, the average primary school class size is currently **23 pupils**, compared with an average of **19 pupils across the European Union**.

The current Government committed to reducing the primary pupil-teacher ratio to **19:1 by the end of its term**. However, for the past three years, the ratio has remained at **23:1**.

The **2026 Budget** resulted in the removal of **498 primary class-teaching posts** during the summer. St Joseph's was one of the schools affected, with a class-teaching post being cut.

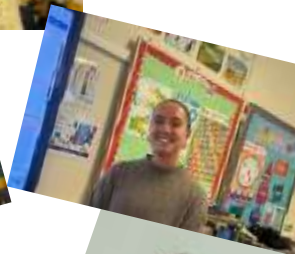
Through creative planning, team teaching and thinking outside the box, we have worked extremely hard to ensure that we can continue to use all **16 of our classrooms** and, essentially, maintain **16 class groups**.

Through team teaching, our teachers are working collaboratively to cover all areas of the curriculum while implementing targeted teaching and learning. They carefully **monitor, assess and review** pupil progress before either continuing with a particular target or moving on to the next one. This is at the heart of **excellent teaching and learning**.

We have found a solution this year, but your children deserve the opportunity to learn in **smaller classes for all of their primary school years**, where teachers can provide greater individual attention and targeted support. We are asking you to please petition your local TD ahead of the Oct 6th budget.

If you are unsure which constituency you live in or how to contact your local TDs, please follow this [LINK](#). You will find a **prepared template email** that you can use to make your voice heard.

Thank you for supporting our pupils, our staff and the future of primary education.



Communion and Confirmation Preparation

Our boys in 2nd and 6th classes will celebrate the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation later this school year.

On October 14th, there will be an information meeting for parents/guardians in the Church, for those making Communion @ 7 pm and those making Confirmation @ 8pm.



Ceremony of Light (Confirmation Class)

March 9th, @ 7.30 pm in St. Joseph's Church.

Confirmation March 18th @ 11.00 am in St Joseph's Church

First Penance Service in St Joseph's Church

(Communion class) April 21st @ 7.00 pm

First Holy Communion

May 15th @ 11.00 am in St. Joseph's Church

Parent Association

Many thanks to our Parent Association for their ongoing support.

Their '**New Parent**' coffee morning in the Parish Hall scheduled for October 2nd is always an enjoyable event where we all get to chat and learn about our new pupils and their families.

The PA also organise the class photographs with Circus Photography which will be taken Oct 13th - 15th

The PA has 2 class representatives for each class who have set up a messaging WhatsApp for their class so families can keep in contact and check out all the fun events that are happening for our boys at school.

Please remember that if you have a concern of any kind, do not use this forum, please come to us at school or contact the office on 01 4906905. We are always happy to help and improve our communications with you in any way we can.

We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and hard-working PA team, and we thank them for all their support.