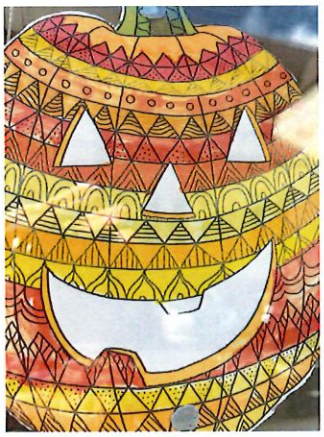
St Joseph's BNS Autumn News



Dear Parents and Guardians,

What a busy and exciting start to our school year!

September brought the excitement of new beginnings, welcoming pupils back to school and helping everyone settle into classroom routines. It has been wonderful to see friendships growing, confidence developing and our classrooms buzzing with learning.

October brought the colours and excitement of Autumn into our classrooms. The children explored seasonal themes through art, stories, discussion and hands-on activities.

Thank you to our teachers, staff, parents and guardians for your continued support and for helping make our school such a positive and welcoming place in which to learn.

As we approach the Halloween mid-term break, we hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved rest. We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back refreshed and ready for another exciting half-term!

Page 1

1

Important dates

Christmas Shoebox Appeal: www.teamhope.ie
Anyone who wishes to participate in this can return the filled boxes by the **6th November 2026**

Parent AGM November 10th, 2026 @ 8pm and parent nomination meeting @ 7.30 pm

Junior Infants only, the HSE Junior Infants vaccination injections will be given on **24th November 2026** for those whose parents/guardians have signed up.

School Cake Sale December 4th: during school hours for pupils only.

Page 2

2

Important dates
CONFIRMATION 2027

SCHOOL PREPARATION MASSES
Wednesday, October 21st, 2026 – 10am – Presentation led
Wednesday, November 4th, 2026 – 10am – St. Joseph's led
Wednesday, November 11th, 2026 – 10am – Presentation led
Wednesday, January 20th, 2027 – 10am – St. Joseph's led

Preparation with Families
Saturday, January 30th, 2027 – 6pm
Saturday, February 13th, 2027 – 6pm
Saturday, February 27th, 2027 – 6pm
Saturday, March 13th, 2027 – 6pm

Ceremony of Light

Tuesday, March 9th, 2027 - 7:30pm - St. Joseph's

Confirmation

Thursday, March 18th, 2027 - 11am - St. Joseph's

3

Important dates
COMMUNION 2027

SCHOOL PREPARATION MASSES
Wednesday, November 25th, 2026 – 10am – Led by St. Joseph's
Wednesday, December 9th, 2026 – 10am – Presentation
Wednesday, January 13th, 2027 – 10am – Led by St. Joseph's
Wednesday, January 27th, 2027 – 10am – Presentation

Preparation with Families
Saturday, January 23rd, 2027 – 6pm
Saturday, March 6th, 2027 – 6pm
Saturday, March 20th, 2027 – 6pm
Saturday, April 24th, 2027 – 6pm

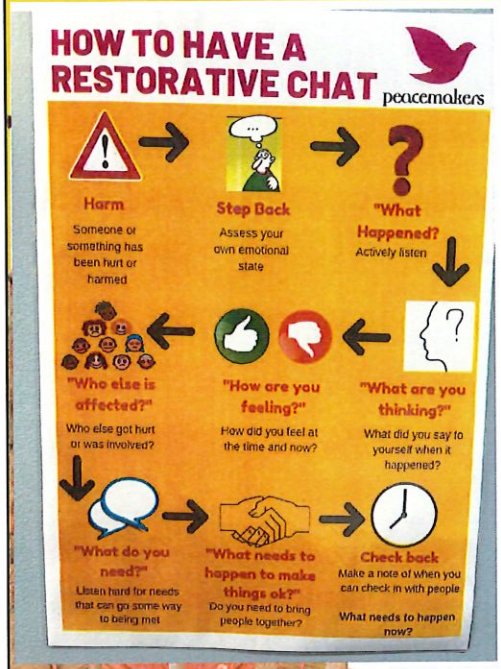
First Penance

Wednesday, April 21st, 2027 - 7pm - St. Joseph's

First Holy Communion

Saturday, May 15th, 2027 - 11am - St. Joseph's

4



Restorative Practices

This half-term, we have continued to develop our restorative practice journey across the school.

Restorative practice helps us to build positive relationships, understand one another and create a caring, inclusive school community where everyone feels valued and heard.

We are supporting our children to develop the confidence and skills to have restorative chats with one another, helping them to resolve difficulties respectfully and strengthen their relationships.

Page 5

5

Restorative Practices

Our Values, Our Voices

As part of our restorative journey, the children chose respect and friendship as our focus values for September and October.
These values were explored in school through art, drama, discussion and creative writing, giving pupils opportunities to reflect on what these values mean and how they can put them into practice every day.

The children explored the many qualities that make a good friend, including:

Being kind, caring and thoughtful.
Listening to others and showing empathy.
Including everyone and helping others feel they belong.
Being trustworthy and keeping promises.
Being able to say sorry, forgive and work through disagreements.
Celebrating one another's successes and accepting our differences.

Page 6

6

Restorative Practices

From our class discussions, respect means the following for our school community:

Listening when someone else is speaking and valuing their opinions.
Kindness in our words, actions and choices.
Fairness by treating others justly and giving everyone a chance.
Empathy by trying to understand how someone else might feel.
Honesty by being truthful and taking responsibility for our actions.
Inclusion by welcoming others and inviting people to join in.

Our restorative journey is an ongoing one.

By practising these values every day, we hope to nurture children who can build strong relationships, manage disagreements positively and show kindness and respect to themselves and others.

Together, we are learning that it is not about never making mistakes, but about how we learn, repair relationships and move forward together.

Page 7

7

Child Safeguarding: Updated Procedures 2025

The Department of Education published updated *Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025*, building on the previous procedures and strengthening guidance for schools. The main updates include clearer guidance on responding to disclosures of historical abuse, communicating with parents and guardians, maintaining confidential records and meeting reporting responsibilities. Updated guidance, resources and training have also been provided to support our school in implementing the procedures.

At St Joseph's BNS, the safety and wellbeing of every child remains our highest priority.

We continue to work to ensure that our safeguarding practices, policies and procedures reflect current Department of Education requirements.

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Ms Anne McCabe,
and our Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP) is Ms Rachel Harte.

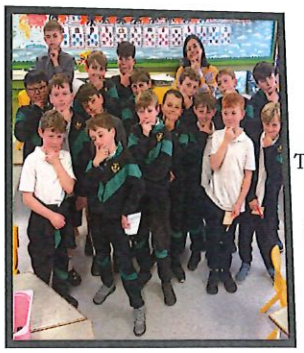
Parents and guardians can access the Department's official guidance and resources here:

Child Protection Procedures for Schools – Department of Education and Youth

Page 8

8

Student Council



This month, our Student Council met to discuss the important topic of child safeguarding.

They learned about the roles of our Designated Liaison Person (DLP), Ms McCabe, and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP), Ms Harte.

They discussed what children can do if they ever feel scared, worried or unsafe. They brought this information back to their classmates.

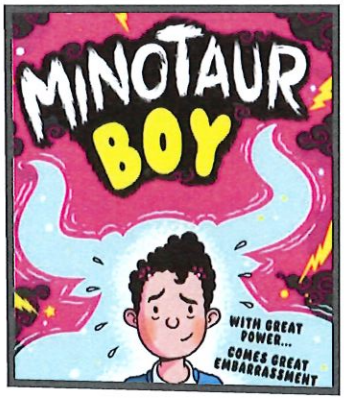
They decided to create posters for our display board to highlight who the DLP and DDLP are and to promote important safeguarding keywords, such as **Safe, Worry, Tell, Trusted Adult, Speak Up and Help.**

They also came up with the fantastic idea of a "Secret Safe Box", to encourage children to share their worries and concerns more confidently.

9

6th Class Library Visit

On 1st October Ms Bleahene's class went to the library to see Shane Hegarty. He spoke to us about his writing style, how he got his inspiration, and most importantly his new book 'Minotaur Boy'.
This book is about a boy who started growing horns and a bushy beard. We have read his previous book and are looking forward to reading this one!



Report by Edward Callaghan, 6th Class.

10

2nd Class Library Visit

The pupils of 2nd Class visited Terenure library for the first time with their class mates.

They had an exciting opportunity to explore the wonderful world of books.

Membership forms were completed, and library cards were issued to each pupil.

They were introduced to proper library etiquette, including speaking softly, handling books with care, and returning books on time.

The visit aimed to nurture a love of reading, encourage curiosity and imagination, and highlight the importance of free access to books for everyone.

11

Maths Week: Great fun was had by all!

While Maths Week might be over, creating a positive attitude towards **Maths is something that needs to be promoted year-round**.

Maths week website is full of activities, games, and resources to continue bringing Maths into the classroom in a different and engaging way, so make sure to keep going back.

Click here to access fun activities for home too.

12

Our Joey's Win!

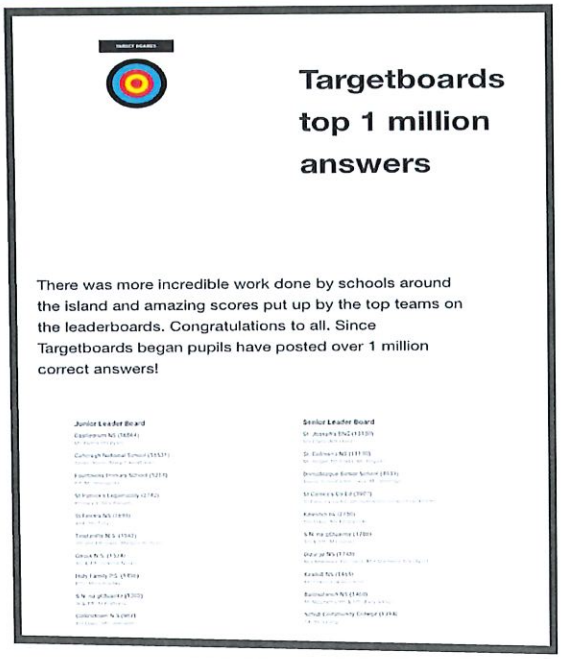
It was the 12th of October, and the 6th class teachers announced that for Maths Week we would do Target Boards.

This was an online activity against hundreds of schools across Ireland.

We really enjoyed the maths activities and the keen competition from the other schools. St. Colman's were a key rival in the competition but by Friday we had beaten them by around 2000 points.

Report written by

Oran Roche McTiernan 6th class.



Targetboards top 1 million answers

There was more incredible work done by schools around the island and amazing scores put up by the top teams on the leaderboards. Congratulations to all. Since Targetboards began pupils have posted over 1 million correct answers!

13

Past pupil shares successes and dreams

Emmet Feerick a past pupil whom many of us have had the pleasure to teach came back to Joeys to talk to the boys about his life and career choices and where he is happiest now.

It was great to see one of our own talk so confidently to the boys about how anything is possible.

Emmet worked in the Educational Research Centre after securing a degree in psychology, then became a Pilot and is now currently running the Green Dot Aviation You Tube Channel – an exploration of human psychology and technology.

Our senior pupils loved hearing about the possibilities and opportunities life will offer them.

Work hard! Dream the dream! And you will get there!

14

Cross Country

The Clonliffe Harriers Cross Country is one of the best events for primary and secondary schools.

This year St. Joseph's boys enjoyed taking part again and were successful with 4th and 5th classes bringing home team medals after competing against more than 20 other schools.

The bus to Santry was full of anticipation on a fine day but after heavy rain the previous day the going was testing on the 1km course around the Trinity College sportsground. Our fourth class boys got off to flying start and at the end Luca & Matthew led us home and with the top 3 runners counting for the team prizes, it was Marcus who got us the points to get 3rd spot in the team rankings. In 5th class it was Dylan (who came 6th out of 200 runners), with Caolan and Leo who scored the points for the gold medals. 6th class boys ran very well also and were led home by Brandon & Charlie.

Well done everyone!

Cuman na mBunscol

It was an exciting season for our senior footballers with a talented mix of 5th and 6th class boys making up the team this year.

From just the second week back in school after the summer holidays we had perfect attendance at training from a very driven and committed bunch of players, captained by Fionn Thornton from Ms. Bleahene's 6th Class.
The team made an excellent start to the season, showing great determination, teamwork and resilience to secure impressive wins and remain firmly in contention for a place in the quarter-finals. In a closely fought final group game, they battled until the end but narrowly missed out on qualification, losing by just three points in a hugely competitive campaign.

The boys' enthusiasm and excitement for training and matches was a joy to behold.

We want to thank the parents involved this season! Thank you for ensuring the boys' gear was washed and ready on time, for all the lifts to away games, the support for home and away games and for helping umpiring and getting goal nets ready too. So much goes into having a smooth-running football season so we greatly appreciate all you do.

Huge thanks to Mr. Ring for his continuous amazing organisation of sporting teams in St. Joseph's. He does so much work behind the scenes, organising fixtures and referees, communicating and liaising with other schools and so much more unnoticed work!

Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

T O'Brien, D Kelly.

Cuman na mBunscol

Our Junior football team has shown great commitment and determination throughout their matches this year, competing in some very close and competitive games against Pius', St. Mary's Rathfarnham, Divine Word Marlay and Ballyroan.

Training has been very positive, with an impressive 36 boys attending some sessions! The boys have demonstrated a fantastic attitude, supporting one another and representing the school with pride. With continued effort, focus and dedication on the training ground, the team has great potential to continue developing and building on their progress next year.

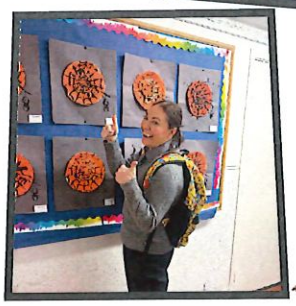
A big thank you to all the boys for their dedication and hard work, and to their parents for their continued help and support throughout the season. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

The junior and senior football seasons have now finished. Our hurling season will begin in April 2027.

D. Ring, M. Ormond, C. Larmer.

17

Fun projects, events and trips!



18

Fun projects, events and trips!
Page 19

19

Fun creative projects, events and trips!
Page 20

20

Fun projects, events and trips!

21

A little moment to celebrate:

We are very proud of the many ways our pupils
help one another, show respect and contribute to making our school a very happy place.

22