

HOME/SCHOOL

In the Parents' Room all has been very busy. Parents and Guardians enjoyed five weeks of Zumba classes with Dorinda Cahill. We enjoyed cookery for two weeks with Margaet Kearney. Recently we had Christmas cookery demonstrations given by Anne Kilrane, lots of Christmas tips. We had Christmas crafts making with Laura O'Connor on Monday 9th and finally on 18th December we will make Christmas centre pieces. A huge thank you to all the parents who helped out in so many ways this term with Literacy Lift-Off, Maths For Fun and trips/outings.



PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

We are always very appreciative of the support that we have from our parents here in St. Joseph's. We are delighted to see so many at our parent afternoons in the past few weeks. We like to meet with every parent so please make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher if you haven't yet had the opportunity to call in.

GRAN AND GRANDADS DAY

St. Joseph's N.S. celebrated its 25th Granny/Granddad Day last week. Second class welcomed their very important visitors and we all had a magical afternoon with the Grans and Granddads sharing stories, songs and poems from their childhood days and the younger folk presenting their wonderful history projects and showing off their talents. We were very proud of our wonderful pupils who expressed their respect, love and thanks for the wisdom and accomplishments of the older generation. Their faces said it all as they were mesmerised by tales of long walks to school, first dates to the cinema and by the talents of the Grans and Granddads who sang, danced and played music. It was certainly a day to remember. Check out our website for photos

www.stjosephstullamore.ie



GREEN SCHOOL NEWS

On Wednesday 18th December we will hold our Christmas WOW Day. Children and parents are asked to assemble in the G.A.A. Centre at 9.00a.m. and walk to school behind the banner. As it is the festive season, children and parents may wear santa hats/scarves etc. if they wish. Please remember that the safety of children is of utmost importance so we would like to see lots of high vis vests and reflective armbands too!

Children are encouraged to walk some of the way to school, if at all possible. We have a "walking tree" in the P.E. hall and children stick on a footprint when they walk to school. Some children walk to school if they live nearby while some others park at their Nan's house and walk from there. We know that it is difficult to walk on cold mornings but we are delighted to see that so many are making an effort. 57 children walked to school during the first week of the "walking tree" and the following week 99 children walked so well done to everyone involved.



ACTIVE SCHOOL

This year we are applying to renew our "Active Flag". We have lots of activities planned throughout the year. Second classes have just completed swimming lessons. Dance classes with Trisha are continuing each Monday and the parents class of Zumba Dancing was very well supported.



Children are encouraged to be as active as possible in the yard, playing traditional games such as hopscotch. All the children have been taught how to play games such as “London Bridge”, “Dusty Bluebells” and “Mother May I?”. Friendship tickets are awarded each day to children seen playing friendship games and we hold a raffle on Fridays for small rewards. If you have taught your children any other yard games please encourage them to tell their teacher and introduce some new games to the yard.

We are very fortunate to have playground equipment here in St. Joseph’s. Each class level is allocated a day on which they can use the equipment. In wet weather we stay off the equipment. The horse and the snail in the alcove are “friendship stops” where children can congregate for a chat or meet up with their friends. We have two “Buddy Benches” where children can take a little rest from all the activity in the yard.

NEW WEBSITE

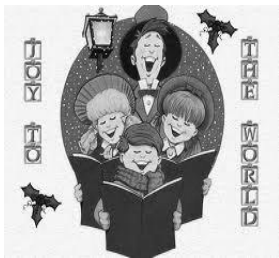
We are currently developing a new website and would be delighted to get ideas or useful links to include on the site. Our new site will let everyone know what is going on in the school and keep everyone up to date with the busy schedules in St. Joseph’s

SUPERSTAR CORNER

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the “Yours Sincerely” writing project. The children wrote letters to famous or favourite people such as Barack Obama. The letters are on display in Athlone at the moment but we will display them all here in the next few weeks. Well done to Lauren Roche, David Martin, Lee Kelly and Emma Walsh who were awarded merits and had the letters published in a special book. They received a copy of the book at a special ceremony in the Athlone Springs Hotel on Tuesday 10th Dec.

CHRISTMAS POSTBOX

Our Christmas Postbox is open in the front hall. Children are invited to write good news stories or letters for delivery to Santa. Santa is always delighted to hear about all the exciting things that are happening in St. Joseph’s and to hear about children who are working very hard.



DECEMBER EVENTS:

- Advent Service
- Trip to library and Bridge Centre for Junior Infants and First Classes.
- 2nd Class Trip to The Helix to see “*The Sleeping Beauty*”
- **Fri. 13th** - Special Class Mystery Tour
- **Wed. 18th Jan** **Junior Infant Christmas show** -
Room 1- 10a.m. Room 2- 10.30a.m. Room 3 - 11.15a.m., Room 4 – 11.45a.m.,
Room 7- 12.15pm
Speech/Language Class Nativity – 1p.m.
- **Christmas WOW Day.** Walk to school on Wednesday (18th). Children may wear festive clothes or uniforms.
- **Thurs. 19th Dec.** - Singalong at 1p.m. - Children may wear festive clothes if they wish.
- Many thanks to Bradburys for their very generous present of 2 bikes. We will hold a raffle on Friday morning and one lucky boys and one lucky girls will be cycling home on a brand new shiny bike.
- **Peopleopoly:** Environmental awareness workshop funded by Offaly County Council.

Many thanks to the Library and the Bridge Centre for being so welcoming and making our visits such an enjoyable experience. Everyone had a wonderful time.

St. Joseph's letters published in the Yours Sincerely writing project special book

16/10/13

Dear Barack Obama,

My name is Lee and I am writing because I love your military army. I know you had a war in Syria a few weeks ago and you own half of the White House.

Do you like your job and do you like America? Does your family like living in America? I hope you fix the problems in America.

Goodbye,

*Yours sincerely,
Lee.*

Lee Kelly, 2nd class, St. Joseph's N.S.

16/10/13

Dear Bob,

How are you feeling? How do you know when to get the cows? You do lots of jobs on the farm and you must be tired. I love you as my farm dog. Do you like being a farm dog? You are so funny when you try to eat the birds and my kitten Charlie. I like when you bite the cows legs. I like when you come over and I pat you on the head. How are you able to do the work? You are so fast. I wish I was a dog too. It would be so fun. I hope you get better soon. Sometimes you bite and other times you are very happy.

*From your best owner
Emma Walsh.*

Emma Walsh, 2nd Class, S. Joseph's N.S.

16/10/13

Dear Van Persie,

My name is David and I am in 2nd class. I like the way you play football. I like the way you score goals. What day did you first learn to play football? Do you have a dog or a cat? I used to have two cats but they ran off. Good luck in your next match.

Yours sincerely,

From David

Davis Martin, 2nd Class, St. Joseph's N.S.

15/10/13

Dear Anna,

Thank you for doing my hair. It's very lovely I will come back soon to get another hair cut. I would like to get some curls. I would like to work as a hairdresser with you when I grow up. I would sweep the floor. I would make people some tea. I would wash and trim their hair. I would blow-dry their hair. I would straighten their hair. I would style their hair. What is the thing that makes curls in your hair called? Why do you have a styling doll head? Do you like being a hairdresser? What is your favourite thing to do?

From Lauren Roche

Lauren Roche, 2nd Class, St. Joseph's N.S.



Closing on **Friday 20th December at 12.30p.m.**

Re-opening on **Tuesday, 7th January 2014.**

We wish everyone a very

Merry Christmas