



HOME SCHOOL NEWS.

- A huge thank you to all the Mams and Dads who helped out in the Junior Infant classrooms with "Games, Games, Games". The children had great fun playing Maths games. Keep an eye out on the website for photos taken in the classes. There are links on stjosephstullamore.ie to interactive Maths Games for all levels. Click on the link. **Username: stjhschool Password: stjhomework**
- **Zumba keep fit classes** for adults begin after the Hallowe'en break. Everyone is very welcome to join in the fun at **9.30am each Tuesday in the PE hall.**
- Cookery demonstrations with Mag Kearney are on in the Parents Room on **November 6th and 13th.** Call to Leonie for further details.next week.
- Second class children are very excited about their cookery workshops beginning next week. Lots of seasonal delights are planned!

ACTIVE SCHOOLS NEWS.

- We earned our Active Flag a few years ago and encourage all the children to be as active as possible throughout the day. Sports and active games are incorporated into the school day and we had lots of opportunities to play active games since we came back to school as the weather has been so mild.
- **GAA.** First and second classes had GAA skills training with our coach, Oisín. Many thanks to Oisín for introducing the children to football skills and for organising a tour of O'Connor Park for everyone. We will have more GAA coaching later in the year.

- **Swimming.** Children from Ms Whiriskey's and Miss McDonnell's classes are enjoying 8 weeks of swimming lessons at the Aura Leisure Centre. The instructors are very impressed with the progress made by all students over such a short period of time. Well done to you all! Mrs Brennan's and Ms Linehan's classes will commence classes in November.
- **Dance.** Dance classes begin after the Hallowe'en break. Ms Tricia McDermott, (BA, RAD RTS) will take Senior Infants and First classes for modern dance for eight weeks on Mondays and Junior Infants will have taster sessions.
- **PE classes** are timetabled for individual classes. Children wear plain navy tracksuit bottoms for PE and wear school uniform jumpers and cardigans on top. Runners can be worn to school on active days.



One of our two new teaching posts under developing schools will be suppressed from 25th October 2013. We now have 5 junior infant classes and 4 classes at all other levels.

GREEN SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to the children who were elected on to the Green Schools committee. The committee work really hard throughout the year with Ms. Lambe and Penny Rowe to make sure that we retain our three hard won Green Flags and win our fourth flag for travel. Well done to all who have made an effort to walk or cycle to school and

to those who bring their dogs for walks after school. The Bin Competition is in full swing at the moment and children are learning to Reduce Reuse Recycle. Compost made from organic school waste is used by Rose in the garden and for planting autumn bulbs.

HEALTHY LUNCHES

There has been a lot of positive feedback regarding our school lunches. Menus are available from Helen in the office if you wish to change an order. Jillian from Bradburys calls in every few weeks to monitor lunches and update menus. Feedback and suggestions are always welcome, just drop written notes to your child's teacher or to Helen. If you do not wish to avail of the school lunch please send in a note to cancel it. We have a healthy lunch policy in St.Joseph's in line with guidelines from Department of Education & Skills. Children are welcome to bring in a healthy sandwich, a plain snack(scone, oatmeal cookie etc), a piece of fruit and milk/water if they don't wish to avail of the packed lunch from Bradburys. All uneaten lunch will be sent home so that you can monitor what is eaten during the day.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Thanks to everyone who labels all personal belongings. It makes the job of returning lost property to its owner very easy if there is a clear label. Remember to tag hats, scarves, gloves etc. Last year we could have kitted out a football team with woolly hats and hoodies! We have a large quantity of toys/resources in class so there is no need to bring toys to school.

Reminder: Jewellery is not permitted for health/safety reasons.



SCHOOL UNIFORMS:

School uniforms should be worn every day. As winter approaches many children wear boots-please make sure that children can run and jump safely in them. Some of the small furry boots become very loose after a few wears and they are not safe for playground games.

BOOK BILLS

We realise that September is a very busy month for parents. A sincere thanks to all those who have cleared their book bills. There is a small grant available to help cover costs, please call to the principal's office, in confidence.

ROAD SAFETY

As the mornings get a little darker we need to be very vigilant when coming to school. High -Vis armbands, vests, and reflective panels on coats can help to make motorists more aware of small pedestrians. Please park carefully and ensure that children follow a safe path around to the school yard. **Children are NOT ALLOWED to walk through the staff car park at any time, even when accompanied by an adult.** There are small footprints from the St Joseph's gates that help to guide the children around to the yard. If you come to school through Scoil Eoin Phóil, please use the small gates and don't enter through their staff car park.

SCHOOL TIMES

School begins at 9.20am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school and the person to escort them should be at the school **no later than 3p.m.** as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

TY VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the Transition Year students from Coláiste Choilm who helped out with Literacy Lift Off and computer skills over the past few weeks as part of their voluntary placement module. We welcome back lots of past pupils from the Sacred Heart School on work experience in November.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Thanks to the funds raised by the Parents Association at last year's very successful and enjoyable cake sale, we have installed extra computers in first/ second classes. The children will get lots of opportunity to practice their ICT skills and use programmes to enhance learning experiences. We also invested in wireless technology so that we can access many educational games online.

AISTEAR

The Aistear Programme has been introduced to all Junior and Senior Infant classes this year. Children learn through active play and class teachers have devised a comprehensive programme encompassing the four principles of Well being, Identity and belonging, Communicating and Exploring and Thinking. Each month the children will focus on a different theme. We are currently building up resources. If you have any of the following toys/resources, in good condition we would appreciate donations.

- costumes/material for dress up
- small dolls (play mobil, sylvanian, etc)
- dolls and accessories
- toy buggy/shopping trolley
- dolls house
- toy cars, tractors etc
- toy animals- farm, zoo

EVENTS



- West Midlands Theatre Company presented "George and the Dragon"
- We hope to have our annual Autumn nature trail in Charleville on Wednesday (weather permitting)
- Hallowe'en Parade - Friday 25th October at 10a.m.

We are all busy preparing for one of the longest running, most enjoyable events of the school calendar, our annual "HALLOWE'EN PARADE". Adults and children can come to school dressed in their favourite dress-up clothes – book characters, friendly witches, princesses, fairies or púcas and all are welcome to join in the parade through Arden View. As always, please try to reuse or upcycle costumes from previous years. There is no need to buy expensive outfits and accessories. Junk Art is a big part of the Aistear Programme and children can get very creative with an oversized shirt and a few markers. Remember to wear warm clothes and suitable footwear and practise all the Hallowe'en chants and songs. We will organise traditional games in the P.E. hall - More details next week.

MID-TERM BREAK:

School closed Monday 28th Oct. to Friday, 1st Nov. Re-opening Monday, 4th November.

