



St. Joseph's N.S. Spring Newsletter

Spring Concerts

Well done to all our Senior Infants and their teachers for singing their hearts out at our Spring Concerts. The children were delighted to share all the songs they have been learning over the past month during music classes with the enthusiastic audience. Our Music Generation tutors, Lauraine and Triona are here two days every week as part of the Laois/Offaly Music Generation project which is funded by U2 and the Ireland funds, Offaly County Council and DEIS funding from the Dept of Education and Skills. Lauraine and Triona collaborate with class teachers to provide a quality music education based on Kodaly principles. Lauraine is also starting a choir for children from our senior classes who would like to learn a few more songs during lunch times.

Swimming Gala

Congratulations to all our second class pupils who participated in the recent Swimming Gala in the Aura Pool. This was the first gala organised by Offaly Sports Partnership. The children had a brilliant time representing St. Joseph's at this exciting event and they were complimented by their teachers and the organisers of the event for their swimming skills, their friendliness to each other and their excellent behaviour.

Spring Book Fair

We are holding our Spring Book fair from **Friday, 28th February to Thursday, 6th March**. Feel free to browse when you are dropping children to school or

picking up in the afternoons. The children will have an opportunity to view and buy the books with their class.

World Book Day vouchers can be used at the Book fair. You can deduct €1.30 from the book list price if you use the voucher.

All funds raised will help us to keep our library well stocked and we are also compiling some more Story Sacks for Junior Infants.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday, March 6th. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character on the day.

The Tullamore Library are holding their Reading Challenge again this year. Details are available from class teachers.

www.stjosephstullamore.ie

Thanks to Mrs Nelligan for giving our website a new look. We will be launching our updated website on Wednesday, 5th March.

Green School News

The school was reviewed for its fourth Green Flag for travel on February 12th by Mieke Scholte from An Taisce. She came to the school, spoke to the committee, visited a few classes and looked at all our Green activities.

Hopefully we will receive good news in March. A big thank you to all the parents who participated in our W.O.W. days and who now walk to school, carpool or park and stride. You might like to participate in the new national S.O.W. (Scoot on Wednesday) on March 12th or the national W.O.W. day on May 14th.

Active School Flag

We are working towards achieving our second Active School Flag where all aspects of the P.E. curriculum are covered during the year. Children have also enjoyed dance, swimming, and G.A.A. classes with tennis planned for term three. We will have an Active School Week in May. A bicycle workshop for parents is also planned for later this term. As the weather improves the teachers will continue to teach simple yard games to encourage friendship skills, enjoyment and fitness.

Home School News

In Home School this term, we have had a very busy and active term with the launch of our five week Operation Transformation Programme which ran from 13th January to the 13th February. Children and parents/ guardians got on board for walks and runs on a route around the town on Tuesdays and Thursdays hail, rain or shine!!!

We also organised yoga, yogalates and self-defence for parents/guardians different nights of the week- all free of charge!

There was a great response to the programme and it was enjoyed by all. On the final day of the programme, 13th February, a night in Central Hotel on Main Street was organised to thank everyone for all their support over the last number of weeks.

A big thank you again everybody!!

Upcoming events/ activities

“**Every Day Maths Classes**” for parents - beginning Friday May 2nd for 6 weeks. Please contact Leonie on 087 1213737 to book a place.

Pancake Tuesday 4th March

Yard Games

Hopefully we will begin to see some fine weather soon and we can begin to introduce some more friendship games during yard breaks. We encourage children to play games with their classmates- if you know any games that would be suitable for play times, please ask your child to show us. We have some new sensory boards for the soft play area. Children may bring safe skipping ropes and soft balls to the yard. Football is only played in the Football area and is limited to one class group per day for safety reasons.

Uniform Survey.

Thank you to the large numbers who responded to our uniform survey. It is very gratifying to see that so many pupils and parents love our choice of uniform. We think it looks very smart and colourful and the children are often complimented on it when we are on tours. Please ensure that children wear their uniform every day. A plain navy track-suit bottom can be worn with the blue jumper/cardigan on P.E. days.

Results of the recent survey:

Of the 219 responses, 210 were in favour of having a uniform. Of these 84% favoured having a uniform with school colours (non-generic). 82% are happy with the uniform as it is. 91% of respondents like the “St. Joseph’s” name sewn on the jumper/cardigan and 85% are in favour of the girls pinafore. Just 6% would like a branded track-suit bottom for P.E.

We are always happy to accept uniforms in good condition at any time during the year. Boys jumpers are always in demand and navy trousers are handy to have during the muddy season!

Upcoming events

Senior Infant Prayer Service
–Tues. 25th Feb.

Science Fair – Thursday 6th and Friday 7th March

Seachtain na Gaeilge - 10th to 14th March

First Confessions – 19th March

Easter Bunny Hunt

Easter Bonnet Parade

Punctuality

School begins promptly at 9.20am and finishes at 2.00pm and 3.00pm. Most children are on time for school but there are a small number of consistent late-comers. It is difficult for children to be late every day and it also disturbs a whole class. If you are dropping a child to school every day between 9.20a.m. and 9.50a.m. please have a re-think on the routine. If problem persists we may need to look at signing in of late-comers in the office.

Calling all Garth Brooks fans

We have received a very generous donation of two tickets for the upcoming Garth Brooks concert. We will hold a raffle in school with all funds going to purchase books for the library and make new story sacks for junior infants. More details later.

0000

Superstar Corner!

Congratulations to our past pupil, Aaliyah Adermosu who starred as one of the orphans in Tullamore Musical Society’s production of “Annie”. Aaliyah loved singing while she was in Ms Whiriskey’s class last year and we were thrilled to see her in action in the GAA Centre. Well done to Adam Maher’s Dad, Tom, who also starred in Annie.

Co-operation is Cool Project

Best of luck to Miss McDonnell’s class who are participating in the **Co-operation is cool project** organised by Laois Education Centre. The project is “*Homes from Around the World*”

Pottery Classes

Pottery with Finn O’Hara for 1st and 2nd classes will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays starting on 5th March for six weeks.

