



St Joseph's N.S. Newsletter March 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

St. Patricks Day and our Easter Holidays are fast approaching. We are busy here in the school with lots of upcoming dates to note for your calendar.

Communication With School

Phone Number: 065-7084414

E-mail: stjosephsmm1@gmail.com

Website: www.stjosephsmm.ie

Aladdin Connect

Parents will be emailed access codes for Aladdin Connect today. We hope to use Aladdin Connect as the primary method of day to day communication with parents. Each access code is unique to each individual parent. This will allow you to access the Aladdin Connect app as outlined in the Aladdin Welcome Letter sent to all families last week. For more information please read this letter. It is important that all parents download the Aladdin Connect app and enter their unique access code as soon as possible.

Dates for your Diary

- Referendum: **School Closed Friday 8th March**
- First Penance: **Wed 6th March @ 7PM in Church (2nd Class only)**
- Bank Holiday: **Mon. March 18th School Closed.**
- Easter Holidays: **Closing Fri. 22nd March @ 12noon - Re-opening Mon. 8th. April.**
- Confirmation: **Friday 12th April in Church**

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book fair will be with us for the next couple of weeks. Books and stationary will be on sale at school. Children from all classes will have an opportunity to browse and buy books and stationary. The school will receive 50% of all funds raised in credit to buy additional books for our school library.

St. Patricks Day Parade

The theme of this year's parade is 'Sporting Heroes and Traditions'. The School have a long history of participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. This tradition will continue and the children will be working extra hard to make this year's parade our best ever! We will assemble at the school at 1:30PM on St. Patrick's Day with the Parade beginning at 2:30PM. If there are parents available to walk with us we would be delighted. More information to follow from class teachers (TOP SECRET!)

School Uniforms

Can parents please ensure their child wears the proper school uniform. If your child is wearing the navy tracksuit uniform can you ensure that the blue polo shirt is worn underneath the navy jumper. From September the school hopes to update the school tracksuit to include a crested jumper. More information on this will follow in the coming months.

Easter Draw

The Annual Easter Draw will take place the week of the Easter Holidays. Can all children who have received sponsorship cards please try to have completed cards and monies returned to the school by **Friday 15th March** at the latest.

MUGA

Work on the M.U.G.A has commenced. Many months of fundraising have culminated in the start of the project. We look forward to the completion of the project in the coming months...Exciting times ahead!

New Interactive Smart Board

The School has invested in a new Interactive Smart Board in 3rd and 4th Class. We now have smart boards in all our mainstream classrooms. A fantastic addition to the school

Entering School Premises/Child Protection

Parents are reminded that when they drop off/collect their child that **they are not permitted to enter the school grounds**, unless previously arranged with a class teacher. If a parent needs to enter the school grounds to collect a child early for an appointment they must present to the door with the buzzer at the senior end of the school. **Parents are not allowed on the school yard.**

Hot School Lunches

We have been working closely alongside a number of suppliers to source healthy hot school lunches. In conjunction with the Department of Education it is hoped to begin the roll out of free hot school lunches after the Easter break. More information on this exciting initiative will be issued shortly.

Morning/After school club

We are currently exploring the possibility of facilitating the operation of a Morning and Afterschool club on the school premises. A questionnaire will be sent to parents soon to help us to get an idea if such a club would be feasible. More information on this to follow.

Sports

We have a busy month ahead with girls and boys mini-sevens matches as well an inter schools FAI soccer tournament coming up. Please encourage your child to get involved with local sporting organisations whether it be Gaelic Football, Hurling, Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, Golf or whatever else that allows your child to get active. Participation in sports allows children to build their resilience and is incredibly beneficial to their own health and wellbeing.

New Enrolments for Sept. 2024

The school is now accepting enrolments for new students for September 2024. Registration forms are available from Trish in the school office or can be downloaded from our website www.stjosephsmm.ie Please spread the word about enrolment for Sept. 2024. We will be holding our annual open evening for new students later in the year, we will keep you informed.

Sacraments:

- The sacrament of First Penance will take place on **Wednesday 6th March** in St. Joseph's Church Miltown Malbay at 7pm.
- The sacrament of Confirmation will take place on **Friday 12th April** in St. Joseph's Church Miltown Malbay at 11am.

- *You Will Be My Witness* programme for 6th Class children receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place in St. Joseph's Church Miltown Malbay on **Tuesday 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March from 7pm - 7:45PM**
- Confirmation Retreat for 6th Class pupils will take place on **Friday 15th March** in the community hall.
- Students for Confirmation are: Ellen Doddy, Ellie May Durkan, Michaela Feeney, Lucy Foran, Doireann Meade, Muirinn McGovern, Philippa McKenna, Muireann McMahon, Chloe Rogers, Emily Shannon, Róisín Treacy, Orla Vaughan, Seán Murrinan, Ríain O'malley, Micheál Neylon and Cillian Sexton,
- The sacrament of First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 18th May** in St. Joseph's Church Miltown Malbay at 11am.

School Choir

We are delighted to have our school choir up and running again. The children from 3rd, 4th and 5th will be singing for our Confirmation ceremony on April 12th. They will need to be in the church from 10.45 until 12.15 approx. Full attendance is expected as this is officially a school day.

Swimming

Our next swimming group will be Jnr. Infants. Their first swimming lesson will be on **Wednesday April 10th @ 11.45am** in Lahinch Seaworld. There will be 8 lessons in all. Parents who can help out need to be at the pool by 11.35 and again at 12.10 for after the lesson.

Social Media

Please like and follow our school Instagram and Facebook accounts for regular updates and pictures of what's going on in the school.

Green Schools

Our work as a Green School is done on a daily basis. Spring will be very important for our Green Schools initiatives. Our Spring bulbs are flowering and adding some welcome colour to our school environment. At present we are feeding lots of small birds who or visit our yard. We will continue to do so as long as the cold weather persists. We have made some changes to our waste management systems. Thank you to the boys and girls of 6th class for all the hard work they do twice a week.

Batteries/ Stamps

The school continues to recycle old batteries and we collect used stamps for the missions. You can send in any old batteries and stamps throughout the year.

Music

Thank you to everyone for the payment of Term 2 music fees.

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Joe O Reilly, Principal