

St. Joseph's National School
Newsletter January 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome Back/Fáilte Romhaibh Ar Ais

We welcome back everyone to school and wish you all a very Happy New Year as we look forward to a busy year ahead in 2024.

Dates for your Diary

- Bank Holiday: **Mon. Feb. 5th School Closed**
- Mid Term Break: **Thurs. Feb.15th & Fri.16th. School Closed**
- Bank Holiday: **Mon. March 18th School Closed**
- Easter Holidays: Closing **Fri. 22nd March @ 12noon – Re-opening Mon.8th. April**

Communication With School

School Phone Number: 065-7084414

School email Address: stjosephsimm1@gmail.com

Website: www.stjosephsimm.ie

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Our annual Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on **Tuesday 30th January and Wednesday 31st January 2024** between 2 and 5pm. School will close at 2pm for all students on both of these days. There will be an option of either a face to face parent teacher meeting or a phone call with the class teacher. Meetings will be arranged by school staff in January.

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.stjosephsimm.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.

Swimming

Our next swimming group will be 1st & 5th Class. Their first swimming lesson will be on **Friday Jan. 19th @ 11am** in Lahinch Seaworld. There will be 8 lessons in all. The total amount payable to cover all lessons and bus transport is **€85** payable before Jan. 19th.

Futsal

See attached flyer for promotion of Winter Futsal Programme that the FAI are running for kids aged 7 -12 (born 2016 -2011) at Miltown Malbay Community Centre. Places are limited so people must book in advance by contacting Denis Hynes at denishynes@fai.ie or 087 0508618

Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation will take place on **Friday 12th April** in St. Joseph's Church Miltown Malbay at 11am.

First Holy Communion

The sacrament of First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 18th May** in St. Joseph's Church Miltown Malbay at 11am

Music Classes

Term 2 fees of **€30 per student** is now due.

Clothes Recycling:

Our next clothes recycling day will take place on **Feb 12th. 2024**. If you are doing any pre or post Christmas recycling or clearing out of clothes, shoes, household linen, handbags, rucksacks, belts or curtains please drop them to the school from now on. If anyone needs bags of clothes to be collected please contact Trish in the school office and she will arrange collection of same.

Cold and Flu Season

If your child is unwell or displaying any symptoms of Flu, COVID or other bugs please keep them at home in order to reduce the spread of infection at school.

Child Protection Procedures

Child Protection Procedures pertaining to Primary Schools are available to view on the Department of Education Website www.education.ie. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for our school is Mr. O'Reilly and the Deputy Liaison Person is Mrs. Edel Lynch. All school teaching staff are mandated persons meaning they are legally obliged to report child protection concerns if they arise.

Absences From School

Under current legislation the school is obliged to report all student absences of over 20 days to the Child and Family Agency Túsla. If your child is absent from school for any reason please send in an explanatory note to cover the absence. There is a legal obligation on the school to report prolonged, unexplained student absences.

Wellbeing and Code of Behaviour

Children's physical and emotional wellbeing is at the core of our practice in the school. As a school we aim to foster a sense of belonging, security and connectedness to school through a positive school climate and participation in school and community activities. Incidents of reported bullying are taken seriously and are dealt with in line with our code of behaviour. Children are at all times reminded to be kind, respectful and helpful to their classmates and teachers.

School Social Media Platforms

Our school facebook page is Miltown Malbay National School. Our Instagram Page is [miltownmalbayns](https://www.instagram.com/miltownmalbayns). Please keep an eye on this for posts on all school related activities. Please also 'like' and 'share' our posts as we know that people living away from home like to keep updated on our activities. The school website address is www.stjosephsimm.ie and we would encourage you all to visit it. You will find this newsletter on the Downloads section along with all our School Policies.

Children's Reading Lists

The following web address www.childrensbooksireland.ie/reading-list may be of interest to our readers. The lists are published by theme, everything from funny, mystery, adventure to difference and wellbeing. Within each guide there is an age recommendation so that parents can choose genres their child likes most and then find an age appropriate selection within it. Great choices includes Irish authors and leabhair as gaeilge. Happy Reading .

Healthy Lunches

In line with the Schools Healthy Lunch Policy we ask all parents to give their children a healthy lunch. Crisps and fizzy drinks are not acceptable. Plenty of fruit and fresh vegetables should be part of a healthy lunch.

Homework

Homework is given as a follow up or continuation of the work done in the classroom from Monday to Friday. Please ensure that your child/children do their homework and please check and sign homework journals regularly. This is of enormous help to both teachers and pupils.

Parking Restrictions near the Pedestrian Crossing

- Parents should not park on the footpath near the crossing as it obstructs the view of oncoming drivers and increases the risk of an accident
- Parents should not park on or near the pedestrian crossing when dropping off or picking up their children.
- Parents should park on the road to the e-town to drop off and pick up.
- Parents may walk to the pedestrian crossing with their children and walk across the crossing with them if they wish.
- Children are to arrive at school as near to 9.15 as possible, not to be dropped at 8.55 or 9am, which is 20 minutes too early.
- Dropping children at the crossing or parking on/near the crossing is an accident waiting to happen.
- Please keep your children safe on the road.
- Parents are not to enter the school yard in the morning. Children are to be dropped at the gate.

School Calendar

The B.O.M. wishes to express its thanks to all the business people who sponsored our annual school calendar. In these times of austerity their support is vital to the life of our school. Calendars are still available in the school office if you wish to get one.

Children Helping Children

The school collects money throughout the year for Children Helping Children (CHC). €72 was donated to CHC from Sept - Dec 2023. Please give what you can to this very worthy cause and encourage your children to think of those less fortunate.

M.S. Readathon

Well done to all our 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class readers who took part in this year's M.S. Readathon. In total we donated €1100 to this very worthy cause. Well done to all our readers and a big thank you to everyone who sponsored them.

Green Schools

Our window boxes and flower beds have been planted up with bulbs for Springtime by our very hardworking 3rd & 4th class. During this present cold snap we will be feeding the birds that visit our school yard. Observing at close quarters our feathered friends is welcomed every year by the children. The feeders are placed close to the classroom windows.

We move forward as Primary Climate Ambassadors in 2024. We will undertake a number of tasks set out by Green schools Ireland as we move through the year. We are one of only 14 schools in the country to have achieved this award as a Green School for well over 20 years. Well done to the whole school community. Keep up the great work

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.

Mobile Phones/Chewing gum

Mobile phones and chewing gum are not allowed in school. If your child is bringing either to school they are breaking school rules.

Mise le meas,

**Joe O'Reilly.
Principal.**