

St. Joseph's National School
Newsletter April/May 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We've had a busy couple of weeks with 6th class receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, Junior Infants starting their swimming lessons and great progress made with the M.U.G.A. Thanks to all parents for their continued support as we move into the summer. This newsletter is to highlight a number of dates for your diary as well as some other important information.

Communication With School

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Aladdin is the primary method of communication from school to parents.

Dates for your Diary

- **Monday 6th May:** Bank Holiday (School Closed)
- **Saturday 18th May:** The sacrament of First Holy Communion will take place in St. Joseph's Church Miltown Malbay at 11am.
- **Wednesday 29th May:** Open Night for incoming Junior Infants (see below for more information).
- **Standardised Tests** (Please ensure your child is present for these days):
 - **Thursday 16/05/24** Early Literacy (Senior Infants)
 - **Tuesday 21/05/24** Middle Infant Screening Test (Senior Infants)
 - **Thursday 23/05/24** Early Maths (Senior Infants)
 - **Tuesday 28/05/24** Drumcondra English Tests (1st-6th class)
 - **Thursday 30/05/24** Drumcondra Maths Tests (1st-6th class)

Please note that these tests are useful when comparing pupil's progress in the areas of literacy and numeracy against national norms. They provide a narrow profile of each pupil's academic progress in these areas only. They are not indicative of a pupil's progress in a wider academic and holistic context.

- **Monday 3rd June:** Bank Holiday (School Closed)
- **Thursday 6th June:** School Tours (see below for more information)
- **Friday 7th June:** Local and European Elections (School Closed)
- **Monday 10th June:** Final Date for Final Clothes Collection of the year.
- **Friday 21st June:** School Closed for Summer Holidays @ 12pm.
- **Wednesday 28th August:** School re-opens for 2024/25 Academic Year

First Holy Communion

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will take place for 2nd class on **Sat. 18th May** in St. Joseph's Church Miltown Malbay at 11am. 2nd class along with their teacher Mr. Garrahy are busy preparing for the Sacrament and we wish them all the very best as they get ready for their special day. The children going forward for Communion are: Aoibhe Burke, Maisie Doddy, Halle Killeen, Emily McInerney, Evie Nugent, Aiveen Sexton, Fiadh Smith, Hannah Twomey, Kyle Donnellan, Jack Eustace, Joshua Heinrichs, Tommy Killeen, James Lynch, Michael Meade and Rhys Smith.

The School Choir

Once again we are calling on our hardworking school choir to perform on **Sat. 18th May**. The children from 3rd - 6th will be involved. This will mean a commitment from **10.45AM - 12.15PM** on the day. The choir always make our Sacramental Celebrations extra special.

Hot School Lunches

We are pleased to announce that the expected 'launch day' for hot school lunches will be **Monday the 13th May**. This will provide children with free, healthy hot food every day. The school worked hard on our application and are delighted to be able to offer this amazing opportunity to our pupils.

Our supplier is "The Lunch Bag". Details around how to order food in advance etc. will be distributed to parents shortly.

New Enrolments for Sept. 2024

The school is still 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 incoming Junior Infants on **29TH May** (see below).

If you have any friends or family currently considering where to send their child to primary school in September please encourage them to consider St. Josephs N.S.

High enrolment numbers help us retain our current staffing level and may even lead to additional teachers being appointed.

Open Night for Incoming Junior Infants

The school will host incoming Junior Infants on **Wednesday 29th May**. Parents and pupils are invited to visit the school between **5pm and 7pm**. Pupils will have a chance to meet their new teacher, Principal and Vice Principal. They will also have an opportunity to have a look around and meet their new classmates.

More information will be issued to prospective parents in the coming weeks.

School Tours

See table for more information on upcoming school tours

Class	Date	Venue	Total Cost per Child
Junior Infants.	Thurs. 6 th June Bus Leaving: 9.15am sharp Arriving back at school 2.00 approx	Moher Hill Farm	€22
Senior Infants/First Class	Thurs. 6 th June Bus Leaving: 8.30am Arriving back at school 3.00pm approx.	Bunratty Castle & Folk Park and McDonalds	€35
Second Class	Thurs. 6 th June Bus Leaving: 8am Arriving back at school 4.30pm approx.	U.L. Sports Arena	€45
Third & Fourth Class	Thurs. 6 th June Bus Leaving: 8am Arriving back at school 4.30pm approx.	U.L. Sports Arena	€45
Fifth & Sixth Class	Thurs. 6 th June Bus leaving: 6:30am Arriving back at school 6.30pm approx.	Emerald Park (formerly Tayto Park)	€60

Clothes Collection

In line with the schools Green Schools Policy our next clothes recycling collection in the school will be on **Mon. 10th June**. This gives everyone a chance to clear out some older items from the wardrobe and make way for new outfits. Please drop any items of clothing, pairs of shoes, sheets, blankets, curtains, towels and tablecloths into the school before **Mon. 10th June**. Items for recycling should be in a clean condition. We cannot accept any pillows or duvets. This clothes collection is a great fundraiser for the school so please give what you can.

Cycling

As the summer approaches, more children may choose to cycle and walk to school. This is positive but can we please remind children to Be Safe and Be Seen. Wear a helmet and reflective clothing if cycling to school. Look before you cross the road.

The children of 4th and 5th class will take part in cycling training as part of the school's P.E and Green School's programme. The Cycle Training will take place on **Thursday 25th April** and **Friday 3rd May** and is run by Cycle Safe Ireland. Each child will need to bring their bicycle and helmet to school for training. Each child must pay a subsidised fee of **€5** for Cycling training. The remaining costs of cycling training are covered by Clare County Council (€5) and An Taisce Green Schools (€10). **Please return €5 with the parental consent form ASAP**

Girls 7-a-Side Football

The girls from 5th and 6th class played in the county finals of the Cumann na mBunscol in Clarecastle last week. They beat Crusheen and Newmarket but lost out to eventual winners Ballyhea. It was a fantastic experience and well done to all involved. They will play in the 13-a-side competition later in the year.

Boys Wild Atlantic Way Football

The boys will play the first game of their Wild Atlantic Way Football Championship on Wed. 24th April against Kilmurry McMahon/Labasheeda in Coolmeen. They will play the final on the evening of June 12th

World Cup 2024

The first question asked of Mr. O Reilly when he started in the school was "Will we still have the World Cup competition?".... Well I can confirm that we certainly will. Our World Cup teams for 2024 will be picked very soon. We all look forward to this soccer competition involving the boys and girls from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class. Venue is TBC but the aim is to have it take place on our newly opened MUGA facility.

School Uniforms

There will be an announcement soon regarding our new school crested jumper which will be compulsory from September. Navy bottoms and blue polo shirt will be retained with traditional uniform to be phased out.

MUGA

Great progress has been made in recent weeks, with our much anticipated sports facility soon to open. The progress made would not be possible without all the fundraising and support from the local community and businesses.

The school would like to especially thank our Deputy Principal Edel Lynch and our former Principal Aidan Looney for their hard work on the project. We also wish to thank Councillor Joe Garrihy for his continued help and support, as well as support received from Cllrs. Shane Talty, Joe Killeen and Liam Grant.

We are hoping to have news soon regarding the completion of the project and would like to assure parents that we are pulling out all the stops to have to project completed as soon as possible.

Music

Our current music teacher, Aoibheann, is unable to continue with Music class this year due to unforeseen circumstances. We hope to find a replacement before the end of the year. If we cannot we will refund parents any unused money from their contributions to music classes. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Morning/After school club

Thank you for all your responses to the survey we sent out before Easter. The data received from this survey will help us to make an informed decision. In light of the responses received

we are encouraged to continue exploring the possibility of facilitating a morning and/or after school club.

Easter Draw

Thanks to all the parents, families and businesses who supported our Easter Draw. It was a great success raising much needed funds for the school.

Book Fair

Thanks to all who purchased books and stationary in the book fair. It was the most successful book fair ever with all money raised going towards books for the school library.

Child protection/Entering school premises

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.

Green Schools

Summer is on the way and here's hoping we get some summer weather too! We would love to see more children walking, cycling or scooting to school. If anyone needs a high viz. jacket please come to Mrs. Lynch's Room. Safety is number 1! Did you know that to walk to school from all of these points:

- The Church
- Supervalu
- The Chequered Wall at the G.A.A. Field on the Sp. Point Road is only between 5 and 10 minutes. Consider dropping your child at these points for them to walk the rest of the way to school safely along the footpath and with our Lollipop lady or at the pedestrian crossing.

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.

Vivi L'Irlanda

Vivi L'Irlanda is looking for families in the Miltown Malbay/Lahinch/Ennistymon area to host Italian students over the Summer months. This is an excellent opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and to experience new cultures. Dates over the summer months can be flexible. The weekly rate for a host family is €330. For more information please contact Kerry: 085 1091367. Siobhán: 087 6259299

Le meas,

**Joe O Reilly,
Principal.**