



September Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Fáilte Romhaibh ar Ais!

We welcome all our students back to school especially our new Junior Infants: Seán Cahill, Cillian Durkan, Suleyman Mamutov, Tadhg McGovern, Conor McInerney, Darragh Wilson, Sadhbh Byrne, Ali Eustace, Alana Ferreira Dias, Aaliyah Jalkiewicz, Harper Johnston, Aoibhinn O'Loughlin, Cara O'Reilly, Faye Queally, Norah Rose O'Malley and Kerri Russell. We also welcome Miguel Estrada, Kensley Purcell and Roman Tarasiuk.

Dates for your Diary

- Swimming for Senior Infants, 5th and 6th class: 8 week programme beginning **Friday 6th September**
- School Fun Run: **Thursday 19th September @6:15PM** (please see Aladdin for more information)
- School Closure: The School will close on **Monday 30th September** to facilitate whole school Curriculum Training
- Clothes Collection: Final date for collection: Monday 30th September

Communication With School

Phone Number: 065-7084414

E-mail: stjosephsmm1@gmail.com

Website: www.stjosephsmm.ie

Please ensure that Trish in the school office has up to date contact details on file for all parents of our students.

Aladdin

Aladdin is the best way to keep informed of what's happening in the school. Please pay attention to all notices issued on Aladdin.

Staffing Schedule for School year 2024-2025

- Junior Infants: Ms. Dianne Rynne.
- Senior Infants Ms. Deirdre Cotter.
- 1st and 2nd Class: Mr. Thomas Garrahy.
- 3rd & 4th Class: Ms. Íosla Murray
- 5th & 6th Class: Mr. Joe O Reilly
- SET: Ms. Edel Lynch.
- Shared SET: Ms. Amy Coyne (Ms. Órlagh Malone)

M.U.G.A.

Phase one of the MUGA is now complete. This phase includes the wall ball, the sprint track and the 3G playing pitch.

We are actively making preparations and progress on phase two of the development...exciting times ahead!

Pupils and their families are welcome to use this facility outside of school hours. As members of the community of Miltown Malbay I would ask all parents and children to act as custodians of this wonderful facility. Mind it and keep it well. Don't leave litter or use the facility for anything other than what it's intended for. The community have contributed so much of their own time and money to this facility to go along with other grants and fundraising. We want to keep it and mind it for years to come.

Thank you all for everything you have given in terms of time and volunteering; the dream has become a reality!

School Uniform

The new school uniform consists of the following:

- Navy half zip crested overtop (**available in An Siopa Beag only**)
- Blue polo shirt
- Navy **tracksuit** bottoms and/or plain navy shorts
- Comfortable trainers/runners/footwear
- NO branded bottoms or shorts, Miltown Malbay GAA gear or similar may be used to replace school uniform.

Please ensure your child's uniform is clearly labelled, particularly school jumpers as items can get mixed up, especially in the first few weeks.

Arts and Crafts

The school collects a contribution for Arts and Crafts supplies.

The cost is:

€30 for one child

€55 for two siblings

€70 for three or more siblings.

The Arts and Crafts contribution will be collected by the class teacher in September.

Morning Routine

School starts at 9:20AM. Children should be dropped to school no earlier than 9:10AM.

With the exception of Junior Infant Parents for the first week or two, no parents are permitted to enter the school yard in the morning, unless in case of an emergency or for a scheduled meeting with a teacher. If a parent wishes to make an appointment to see a teacher they should phone or email the school.

The MUGA sports field is not to be used before 9.20AM in the morning. Children are to remain on yard as per last year.

Once the bell has been rung, children are to enter via the doors as outlined below;

Class	Door to Enter
Juniors and Seniors	Back yard door
1 st and 2 nd	Front right hand door
3 rd and 4 th	Back MUGA side door
5 th and 6 th	Front left hand door

At 3pm children are to leave the school yard promptly.

Hot School Lunches

The Hot School Lunches programme continues to be a success with the programme providing an enhanced menu from the beginning of the 2024/5 school year. Junior Infants will begin receiving their hot lunches on Monday 9th September.

Fun Run

Our annual fun run will take place on 19th September @6.15PM from the school. This is one of our more important fundraisers and fun days out of the year.

Sponsorship cards have been sent home to heads of families today.

The cards have 10 lines priced at €2 per line.

Fully completed cards (€20) will qualify the seller's immediate family (siblings and parents) an entry into the race.

We will be accepting other entries on the day (for those who aren't in the school); €10 for Adults and €5 for children.

All sponsorship cards and money (including unsold cards) must be returned to the school.

On the day we will be providing refreshments after the race. If any parent not participating in the Fun Run is able to help on the day with administering refreshments or stewarding please let us know by email.

Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Allianz Pupil Accident Insurance

- Allianz Insurance offers an incredible policy for parents of pupils in the school. **€6.40** per pupil covers 24 hour personal injury insurance for accidents that occur both inside and outside of school, 24 hours a day 365 days a year.
- Hospital visits and stays as well as dental costs arising from accidents either at school or at home are covered by this policy which has no excess.
- The policy details and benefits are available in the school or on request.
- Parents are asked to send in **€6.40 per pupil** as soon as possible to include their child on the policy.

Code of Behaviour/Anti-Bullying

Creating a Positive Learning Environment for All Pupils

At St. Joseph's National School, we are committed to providing a nurturing and positive learning environment for all our pupils. In line with the Wellbeing Framework for Irish Primary Schools, we expect all children to treat each other with kindness and respect, contributing to a safe and supportive school community. As part of our commitment, children receive regular anti-bullying lessons, and we maintain a strict policy where bullying of any kind is not tolerated. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these values at home, helping us ensure a positive experience for every child at our school.

Smart phones

No phones of any kind are permitted at school. Any child found with a phone will have their phone confiscated.

Some parents of older children may have decided to allow their child have access to a smart phone. We would ask parents of children who have access to phones (or similar smart devices) to be vigilant. Please ensure that necessary safeguards are in place with regard to safe search and content viewed online. Children are at a much greater risk to harmful content when allowed to use smartphones unsupervised. For younger children in the school and those without phones, we would encourage parents to consider delaying access to smart phones for as long as possible (preferably not until children finish primary school). If children need a phone to contact parents, consider phones with text and call functions only.

According to a recent publication by The Department of Education; The recent Global Education Monitoring report funded by UNESCO warned that "the use of technology is associated with negative impacts on physical and mental well-being and increased susceptibility to online risks and harms, which affect academic performance in the long term". Be mindful of the age of consent on social media which for most apps is at least 16 (in some cases the age of consent is 13).

The full report can be found here; <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ece25-keeping-childhood-smartphone-free/>

French Classes

Our French classes with Olga Fay have resumed. The school is lucky to have retained a teacher of Olga's calibre for the foreseeable future. 1st and 2nd, 3rd and 4th and 5th and 6th classes will have weekly lessons with Olga

Communion/Confirmation

We anticipate having dates confirmed for Communion and Confirmation classes in the coming weeks.

Traditional Music Classes

We have confirmed a new music teacher for the 2024/25 academic year. The school is very lucky to have Mrs. Bríd O Donoghue coming on board to take music lessons from 1st-6th class. Classes will be on every Thursday and will begin before the end of September. Parents are asked to contribute €30 to cover the period from the end of the September to December which represents excellent value for money. Pupils who play a traditional Irish instrument may bring it to school or they can use Tin whistle. Beginners will use a D tin whistle. All pupils will participate in lessons and will need to have their Tin Whistle at school.

Pedestrian Crossing

We are currently engaging with the council to have the road markings at the pedestrian crossing improved. The Council request that there is strictly no parking at either side of the crossing. This is to allow oncoming traffic to have a clear view of any students/people who are about to step onto the crossing. We ask all parents/staff not to park beside the crossing in the interest of the health/safety of all our students.

School Attendance

Under the Education Welfare Act 2000 you must make sure that your child attends school regularly. If your child is absent from school for any reason you must send in a note of absence to the school. There is a legal obligation on schools to report absences of 20 days or more to TÚSLA (Child and Family Agency).

Green Schools

We continue to plan for phase two of the outdoor garden and biodiversity area beside our Multi Use Games Area. We will be planting an array of native trees and shrubs to provide native habitats for our local birds and mammals.

Clothes Recycling

In line with the schools Green Schools Policy our next clothes recycling collection in the school will be on **Mon 30th of September**. 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. 30th September. Items for recycling should be in a clean condition. We cannot accept any pillows or duvets.

Old Princess / Fairy costumes etc

If anyone has dress up costumes that children have outgrown and finished with, we would be delighted to have them for the Junior Infants dress up box.

Finally I would like to wish all our new and returning pupils best wishes as they embark on a new school year. We will mind them for you!

Yours Sincerely,

Joe O Reilly.
Principal.