



Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais! That summer went much too quickly but it is wonderful to have the children back at school and into routine once more. As ever we have a busy year ahead with plenty of extra-curricular activities on the horizon. Thank you for entrusting your children into our care, we wish they all have a happy, healthy and enjoyable year.

The notices in this newsletter will keep parents informed with respect to all that is happening in the school between now and the Halloween break. Please ensure you continue to check your Aladdin app for more updates from teachers and school leadership.

We welcome all our students back to school especially our new Junior Infants: Kaia Acheson, Amy Cahill, Keelan Crowley, Cúán Dennehy, Fynn Donnellan, Ellie Downes, Tom Harrigan, Sadie Hynes, Dylan Keating, Eva Kelly, Róisín Kelly, Robyn Killeen, Patrick Lacey, Naim Mamutov, Alex McGuane, Dáithi Nagle, Rohan O'Brien Murphy, Ailbhe O'Reilly, Minethi Nanayakkara Dolage, Grace O'Grady, Yeremii Palamar, Tommy Queally, Eamonn Sexton Rynne, Olive Sexton, Nora Walsh, Éabha Walsh and Cathal Wilson. We would also like to welcome Holly Devoy to 4th class.

Dates for your Diary

- Swimming for 2nd, 3rd and 4th class: 7 week programme beginning **Wednesday 9th September**. Please see Aladdin note issued on Thursday 3rd September for more information on swimming lessons provided by the school.
- School Closure: **Tuesday 15th September** the school will be closed for all pupils to facilitate Child Protection training for all staff members.
- School Fun Run: **Thursday 17th September @6:15PM** (please see Aladdin for more information.)
- North Clare Schools Cross Country: **Wednesday 23rd September at 11AM** in Lees Road, Ennis for any child from 1st to 6th class who wants to participate. Training starting at lunchtime on Monday. Cost of bus **tb**
- Coffee Morning: **Thursday 24th September from 10:30AM-12:00PM**. €3 per child, any additional contributions appreciated. All proceeds go directly to the Milford Hospice. If parents can make/bake and donate it would be much appreciated. All parents, family and friends and members of the community are welcome to attend
- Agree to Agree Clare Launch: **Thursday 24th September** in Clare Education Centre.
- SNA appreciation Day: **Friday 25th September**: We want to mark the special contribution that Noeleen and Martina make to the school community.
- Spooky Stroll: **Thursday 22nd October** (this is just for fun...no donations needed!)
- School Closure: The School will close on **Friday 23rd October** for the Halloween Break. The school will reopen on **Monday 2nd November**.
- Christmas Programme: This year our beloved Christmas plays will return. Unfortunately our old stage is no longer fit for purpose and the school is currently exploring options for a replacement stage. If any parents have any connections or ideas around the purchase or development of a cost effective portable stage, please let us know! Dates for Christmas concerts are to be confirmed.

Communication With School

Phone Number: 065-7084414
E-mail: office@stjosephsmm.ie
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. You must ensure that notifications are enabled on Aladdin.

Staffing Schedule for School year 2025-2026

- Junior Infants: Ms. Emma Hickey. (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. Ellen Flanagan (Ms. Órlagh Malone)

Before and Afterschool

We are delighted to announce that Let's Go after school is up and running for the start of the school year. The school is lucky to have this facility which is run by two highly respected and experienced childcare providers in Kate and Noeleen. Please contact Let's Go on letsgoafterschool@gmail.com for more information. The service runs from 8:10AM-09:10AM before school and from 2pm until 5PM in the afternoon. Please note that for the start of the year the club will only be in operation from 2pm in the afternoon and starting junior infants will only be able to attend from that time.

Communion/Confirmation

Confirmation and Communion dates are due to be finalised shortly. We will let you know a date as soon as we get it.

Music Lessons It is hoped to begin Music lessons with Bríd O Donoghue for 1st-6th class shortly. We will communicate start dates etc...when we hear more.

Modern Foreign Languages

The school is delighted to announce it will continue French Lessons with Olga Fay in September/October for children from 1st to 6th class. In January children will have an opportunity to learn Spanish over a 10 week programme delivered by experienced teacher Cecilia Brizuela.

M.U.G.A.

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.

School Uniform

The 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 that sit above the knee.
- Comfortable trainers/runners/footwear
- NO branded bottoms, shorts, Miltown Malbay GAA gear, or similar, may be used to replace school uniform.
- The only acceptable jewellery is small stud type earrings.

- No makeup, mascara or eye shadow is permitted.

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 costs are as follows:

Child/Sibling 1: €35

Sibling 2: €25

Sibling 3: €15

Any additional siblings are free.

The Arts and Crafts contribution will be collected by e-payments/cash 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 front yard only each morning 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 Lunchbag have introduced some delicious new options this year that are worth exploring. All the food options meet health and nutrition guidelines as outlined by the Department of Education, and most importantly all hot lunches are free for parents.

Junior Infants will begin receiving their hot lunches on Friday 4th of September.

Fun Run

Our annual fun run will take place on **Thurs.17th 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.

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); €20 per family, €10 for Adults and €5 for children.

All sponsorship cards and money (including unsold cards) must be returned to the school. Parents accept responsibility to ensure that money is returned in a safe manner.

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. We would ask parents to let us know early next week via your child's homework journal if you or other family members intend on participating. This will help us to get race numbers organised in advance.

Allianz Pupil Accident Insurance

- Allianz Insurance offers an incredible policy for parents of pupils in the school. For a discounted €7 pupils are offered 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 pay **€7 per pupil** as soon as possible to cover this insurance (epayments or cash)

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.

Pupils are expected to be kind and respectful to one another and to their teachers. Our anti-bullying policy is called Bí Cinealta or "Be Kind", and this is how we are expected to be in St. Joseph's National School. In September we hope to launch our Agree to Agree policy based on a shared agreement with respect to device and phone usage.

Code of Behaviour/Agree to Agree

The school has signed up to the Agree to Agree project to help further improve children and parents awareness of the risks associated with smart phone and tablet use.

We are currently finalising our own Agree to Agree Agreement. As parents will know the school has spent much of the last year consulting with parents and children and eminent experts in the field around formulating an agreement that will help nurture a safe environment for our children in the digital age. Our agreement which is based on our own context aims to establish healthy boundaries around device and phone use in the home.

Agree to Agree will officially launch in Ennis Education Centre on Thursday 24th September. Our own agreement will launch around the same time. Parents will be updated closer to the time regarding our in school launch.

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.

Bottle and Can Recycling to help the school fundraise

As a registered REUSE deposit point, the school can accept donated bottles and cans that are uncrushed with the ReUse symbol. The school will then recycle the bottles and cans and use the money earned towards school supplies and equipment. Please consider sending in bottles and cans with your child as part of this initiative.

Pedestrian Crossing

We are delighted to have a safe raised pedestrian crossing, accompanied by colourful bollards outside the school. It is hoped that this development will continue to curb issues with speeding on approach to the crossing. The eye catching pencil bollards help ensure that the view of children crossing will not be impeded by illegally parked cars. Parents, please park on e-town road and walk to collect your children.

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 (regardless of reason) or more to TÚSLA (Child and Family Agency).

Green Schools

We continue to remain committed to our Green School. Thank you to our students in the senior classes who collect, sort and recycle our waste, developing citizenship and life skills.

Thanks to all parents who send in their plastic bottles and cans for recycling. We sort and deposit these items locally using money earned towards school supplies and initiatives.

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.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

The school hopes to participate once again in the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal. More details will issue on this as soon as we get them.

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.