

# St. Joseph's N.S.

## Newsletter



2017



### **Student Council**

Meet the members of the newly formed Student Council –

*Liana, Liam, Alec, Jennifer, Avrit Rose, Anna, Kai, Alex, Eoghan, Meg, Niamh and Natalie.*

All our pupils play an important role in helping our school to organise fun activities and yard games. Our Student Council work hard to spread the good news of what is happening in every class to the rest of the school. On Good News Friday they let us all know the exciting things that are happening throughout the school community. All the classes have lots of suggestions and good ideas of ways to make our school a happy place to be and we all work together to plan new activities and events.

### **New Primary Language Curriculum**

At our recent planning day, all our teachers received in-service on the newly introduced Primary Language curriculum. The curriculum for Irish and English has been updated to take account of recent developments in language learning and reflects current practice including the Aistear Play programme. Children are encouraged to use Irish in language lessons and throughout the day.

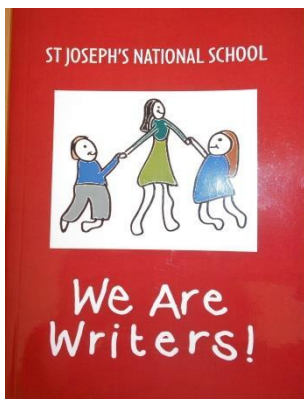
For more information and resources to use at home look at [www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie) and access support material.

### **Attendance**

Some classes have had really good attendance this term with attendance rates of 96%. Children should be in school every day unless they are sick. When children miss school regularly they find it much more difficult to keep on top of things and learn new skills. Whether it is preparation for a school play or learning new reading skills it is very hard for a child to feel that they are constantly playing catch up on the rest of the class and this can be unsettling and lead to anxiety. In order to reward good attendance there are random rewards at each class level and the class with the best attendance this month will win an Easter egg for everyone in their class.

### **Book Fair**

Many thanks to Mr Hynes, Claire Malone and Penny Rowe for organising our recent Book Fair. The best selling book was our very own publication "We are Writers" which features writing from all of our second classes. It is a great read and we could have sold well in excess of the 70 books we pre-



ordered. There is a copy in each second class library and it is proving to be one of the most borrowed books. Congratulations to all the authors involved. The amount raised at the book fair was €2788 and we are delighted that the generous school discount will allow us to restock the school library. Recently we have added new picture books, novels and factual books and have also subscribed to the Primary Planet class magazine. The Junior Infant Story Sacks have also been replenished.

### **Music Notes**

We are delighted that our school has been chosen to showcase the work of the Music Generation initiative in Laois Offaly. St Joseph's has been involved with Music Generation over the past four years and we have seen fantastic progress in early music skills and singing. On Thursday the board of directors of Music Generation will visit our school as part of a tour of Laois/Offaly and they will visit a classroom to see the programme in action with our tutor Ms Geraldine Relph and listen to a performance from our school choir. Next term we will take part in the Sing Fest choral concert in Athlone.

### **Enrolment**

Places have been confirmed for our Junior Infants starting in September and we are really looking forward to meeting our new pupils in the next term. If you have a child starting and have not heard from us yet, please call in to check if we have all the correct details.

### **HSCL**



Thanks to everyone who relived their childhood memories at our recent puppet shows. It was a pleasure to welcome Carmel from Little Gem Puppets and her associates, Maggie and the Three Little Pigs. It's great to see puppets and traditional fairy tales making a comeback. Photos from the puppet shows have been uploaded to the website.

Well done to parents who made very eye-catching Easter arrangements at the recent flower arranging classes in St Philomena's N.S.

There was a great turnout for recent aerobics classes with Tanya and dance classes with Dorinda. There will be an aqua aerobics class on after Easter.

Senior Infant classes are looking forward to welcoming Mams and Dads to their classrooms early in the next term for Maths for Fun and Literacy games. First class will be using their Maths Eyes to focus on everyday Maths in the environment.

## **Multi-Sensory Room**

The plans for our nurturing room are well underway and we hope to fit out our room in the next few months. Thanks to the parents, teachers, SNA's, Occupational Therapists and Special Educational Needs Organiser who offered valuable advice as we researched the most suitable equipment for the space. We visited lots of different sensory rooms and looked at many websites before deciding on our final plans. The children are very excited about the room and they drew great pictures of spaces that would help them to feel safe, calm and secure. We are all looking forward to having a relaxing room that will provide a nurturing environment for all our pupils.

## **People who help us**

Many thanks to all the parents who came in to tell us about their occupations as part of SPHE. Oran's mammy Orla told us all about her work as a nurse and Shane's father told us all about being a crane driver.

## **Active School**

As the weather is starting to improve we encourage all the children to get active and engaged in lots of outdoor fun and games. It is recommended that children should be active for 60 minutes every day. Over 30 second class children are participating in the Be Active after schools programme which is run by parents and teachers who have kindly volunteered to organise and play fun activities with the children. Our hurling coach is John Gonoude and he will take first and second classes for hurling skills training over the next 8 weeks. The children have two PE classes per week and they also engage in the Active Line and movement breaks between daily lessons. We have applied for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Active Flag this year.

Our senior students from Áthas are involved in the Special Olympics athletics programme. Alanna, Alex, Becky and Oliwia are representing the school in the Regional Games competing against other athletes from Leinster. The athletes and their families will be travelling to Kilkenny on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> May for a two day competition. Other children from the class will also be joining them to cheer on their friends and this embodies the great bonds of friendship among the class. We are very proud of the achievements of our athletes and wish them well as they train and prepare for this exciting event. A large number of teachers and parents are also getting fit and training hard for the mini-marathon which takes place in May. All sponsorship raised will go towards funds for the class.

## **Health Promoting Schools**

Our school is participating in the Health Promoting Schools programme run by the HSE. This programme promotes physical and emotional health and wellbeing in the school and community. The children are giving us lot of ideas from their art project My Happy Healthy School. You will be asked to fill out a survey after the Easter holidays and we will form a committee and put an action plan in place.

## Teidí Seosamh

Teidí Seosamh is having the time of his life as he visits every family household and takes part in family activities and adventures. Bíonn áthas an domhain air nuair a thagann sé ar ais gach maidin le scéalta nua. You can follow his adventure on the display board in the PE Hall and in his blog sa Dialann . Míle buíochas libh go léir ar son an fáilte mór a fhaigheann Teidí Seosamh i ngach uile rang agus teach.

## ICT

Thanks to a recent ICT grant we are replacing our older whiteboards with new interactive boards. This will enable us to access a wider range of interactive resources for the curriculum and the quality of the images is much clearer with the new boards.

## Upcoming events

Easter Bunny Hunt Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April.  
First Communion Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May  
Dance with Trish McDermott  
Heritage in Schools Biodiversity Workshops with Dale Treadwell.  
Cake Sale 28<sup>th</sup> April  
Horse Riding  
Art Classes with Vincent Devine

## Green School

Thanks to all the children from first class who reminded us that we all have an important part to play in keeping our school and community litter free. Through their musical The Litter Muncher they showed us that we must all work together to maintain a healthy and litter free school environment. The Green School Committee recently carried out an audit of the school bins and saw some uneaten lunches among the rubbish.

**All children should have a box with a lid to bring home all wrappings and uneaten lunch.** Please monitor what your child is eating and if he/she regularly brings home an uneaten lunch it may be time to change the choice of lunch. We are a Green School and promote recycling and composting. Apple butts and banana skins can go in the compost bins and all other waste will be sent home.



## Easter Holidays

We will close for Easter holidays on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 12 o'clock.**

We re-open on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

