



St. Joseph's N.S.

Easter Newsletter April 19



News from St. Joseph's pupils

World Book Day

World book day was on 7th March. On world book day we got to dress up as our favourite book character. We got to go on the stage in the PE hall and tell everyone about the book character. There was *Tom Gates*, *Matilda*, *Dairy of a Wimpy Kid*, *Lady Bird*, *Alice in Wonderland* and lots more. **(Erin, 2nd class)**

We Are Writers

All the children in 2nd class wrote a poem or a story or a diary entry. They were typed out and Ms. Linehan sent them to the publishers who published them into a book. The books were delivered on Monday 8th April. Everyone enjoyed reading their books. **WE ARE AUTHORS!** **(Juliet 2nd class)**

The Book Fair

The book fair was in St. Joseph's from 22nd to 29th March. There were loads of books and the books were suitable for all ages. Popular authors were *Roald Dahl*, *Liz Pinchon*, *David Walliams*, *Julia Donaldson* and *Enid Blyton*. Here are some of the popular books - *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Dara O'Brien's Secret Science and Beyond the Sky*, *The Wonky Donkey*, *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* and *Dog Man*. The book fair sales came to just over €3000. We got lots of free books for our school library. Thanks to all the parents who helped out at the book fair. **(Emily 2nd class)**

Student Council News

The Student Council met to decide on Easter activities for the school. We organised Easter Bonnet making workshops with Mr. Dufficy in the parents room. Other popular activities were Easter races and Easter cooking. We had a great time. We made a Wellbeing Survey and gave it to all the classes. The good news is that everyone feels happy at school. We will look at all the suggestions for activities in the next term.

On Pancake Tuesday we enjoyed making pancakes in the Parents' room. Popular toppings were lemon and sugar, marshmallows, nutella and strawberry syrup. The children helped the teachers make the pancakes. **(Edward 2nd class)**

Junior Infants News

Spring is here! The Infants have been enjoying their garden centre activities – role-play, planting seeds and our nature hunt in the school gardens. We have booked our 1st school tour for the 23rd May – more details closer to the time.

Senior Infants News

Senior Infants performed brilliantly at their Spring production of "Hats Off" Apple the Pony found a beautiful Summer hat and couldn't figure out which season to wear it in! All of the animals on Great Oak Farm helped her along the way! We were so proud of all the children and thank you all very much for your help with learning lines, costumes and props!

First Class News

First Class had a busy Term 2, we enjoyed performing our show '*There's a Sunflower in my Supper*' for our friends and families. We are continuing our work on *Zippy's Friends* and *Stay Safe* and have discussed feelings, communication and making and breaking relationships. We are doing lots of reading for pleasure and enjoy listening to Roald Dahl stories being read by our teacher. We have been writing lots of reports on animals and topics in SESE including the Titanic, the frog and the penguin. We are looking forward to our last term in First class and some fun Summer activities also.

Second Class News

We enjoyed an Engineering workshop where the children got the opportunity to design a rollercoaster. We were also delighted to welcome our Grannys & Grandads into our classrooms.

We have been learning about famous landmarks both in Ireland and the world. Children made amazing structures to represent the landmarks. During the month of March, the children celebrated the Sacrament of First Penance. It was a great evening. We are now preparing and getting really excited as we prepare celebrate First Holy Communion on May 26th.

Every year we produce a book called "We are Writers" which is a book of creative writing by the second class children. It is a celebration of their imagination and talents and gives the reader a glimpse of their passions and interests.

After our Easter holidays we plan to visit Clonard House in Mullingar. Children will go on a time travel adventure in a stunning 19th century Victorian house to learn about and experience life long ago. Don't forget to visit our website on our return to see our amazing pictures.

Áthas Senior News

Áthas senior class visited Colaiste Choilm recently to take part in the inter-school sport day. The children took part in a range of indoor athletics games and had a ball! It's great practice for June when the class will be taking part in the Area Games for Special Olympics Leinster in Kilkenny. Training begins after Easter so stay tuned for updates.

Áthas Junior News

The boys in Junior Áthas have had a very busy and exciting term. They learned all about road safety and how to cross the road safely and stop at a zebra crossing. They made delicious pancakes for Pancake Tuesday and buns for St. Patrick's day. The class celebrated World Autism Day by wearing blue and World Down Syndrome day with a hot chocolate party in Costa!

This term we taught the whole school some of the Lámh signs we use in Áthas to communicate – now everyone can say ‘Hello’, ‘Goodbye’ and ‘Thank you’ using sign language.

This week the boys are preparing for their show ‘Hats Off’ with senior infants. They have practised a lot and are ready for their role as farmers. We are also looking forward to our Easter bonnet show and Easter egg hunt this week!

Room 17 News

At the moment we are very busy preparing for Easter and learning all about pastimes. Our Speech & Language therapist Michelle and student Caoimhe have told us all about their favourite pastimes, running and music, Caoimhe even played the concertina for us. Miss Brady brought us out to the field and showed us how to play hurling. Josh and Fiachra brought in their own hurls. Miss Lee played the violin in our room and we had a try. It is very hard to make a nice sound and not a squeak on it. Mrs. Dunne brought her dog Honey in for a visit and we loved plaything with Honey and learning how to look after her. Ms. Carton shared her love of reading with us. We read a story every day in our class. We love art in our class and have made Easter baskets, decorated Easter eggs and made Easter bunnies. At home we made amazing Easter bonnets for our Easter parade. We also ate yummy hot cross buns. Josh has a new baby sister called Emily.

HSCL

Breakfast Club runs every morning in the Parents Room from 8.45 am to 9.10 am. All children are welcome to drop in for a bowl of cereal. Homework Club will continue to run after Easter for second class children. We had a fantastic response from parents for the Easter Bonnet making. Thanks very much for giving up your time to help out. The children always love to see Mams and Dads in school. We're hoping for a great turnout this Friday at 11a.m. for the Easter Bonnet Parade. Our Ukulele Orchestra and our school choir are hoping to perform on June 14th in Áras an Chontae in Tullamore. There is great excitement around this. This will be a lunch time concert and all are free to support. Lessons continue after Easter Holidays on Fridays from 2p.m. to 3p.m. and from 3p.m. to 4p.m. As always, if you have any questions or queries around any school activities, please contact Kieran on 0871213737

Board of Management News

Child Protection

The Board of Management has carried out the annual review of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Any concerns regarding the welfare and protection of children should be brought to the attention of Ms. Dowling who is the Designated Liaison Person. The Child Safeguarding statement and Risk Assessment can be read in full on our website. www.stjosephstullamore.ie

Congratulations to Miss Spollen and Miss Doyle who got married recently. We wish them every happiness.

Health Promoting Schools

Second class children will get reusable water containers from Bradbury's after Easter. These will replace the single use bottles of water that the children get with their lunch each day. Children will bring home the bottles every day so that they can be washed and returned to school the next day. Our senior classes sampled very healthy lunch options over the past few weeks. Hot soup, brown rolls and fresh fruit and vegetable platters replaced the normal lunches and the verdict from all second classes was **SIMPLY DELICIOUS**.

Lunch menus can be changed at any time. Menus are available from the office or you can change your order online using the password. If your child prefers to bring lunch from home, please remember to inform the class teacher in writing that a school lunch is no longer required. Healthy lunch leaflets are available from the office with suggestions for healthy lunchbox options. **Reminder: The only drinks allowed are milk and water.**

Food Dudes

We are delighted to welcome the Food Dudes healthy eating programme which will start after Easter.

Easter Bunny Hunt

Thanks to the Parents Association for organising the much loved Easter bunny hunt.

Easter Bonnets

Easter bonnet display will take place on Friday 12th April at 11a.m. Parents/guardians are very welcome to attend.

Community News

Tullamore Golf Club – Junior Open Day for boys and girls aged between 7 and 12, on Saturday 20th April 11a.m. – 1p.m.

First Aid

Parent and child First Aid training workshop in Haven Fahey's, Patrick St., on 16th April 6.30p.m. – 8.30p.m. Phone 9321540 to book a place.

Easter Holidays

Closing on Friday 12th at 12 o'clock.

Re-opening on Monday 29th April.



