



Welcome to St. Joseph's - if you are arriving for the first time – or if you have been with us many times before. We look forward to working closely with you and your child. Through working together our hope is for all our children to develop as fully as possible.

We have a very active and supportive Parents' Association and Board of Management and there are many opportunities to become involved in activities in the school. Halloween parades, fun days, pyjama parties, Easter bunny hunts, multicultural weeks and many more annual events ensure that life in St. Joseph's is exciting and inspiring and challenges all of us to reach for the stars. We welcome community involvement with our literacy and numeracy programmes and there are lots of classes for parents in the Parent's Room.

If you have any queries or worries at any time, you are very welcome to call to the school.

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## Uniform:



### Boys Uniform:

Tie, white polo/or white shirt, blue jumper and navy trousers, Velcro shoe/runners.

### Girls Uniform:

Tie, white polo/or white blouse, blue cardigan and pinafore, velcro shoes/runners.

The uniform is available at **G & T DRAPERY**, off Patrick St., Tullamore. Jumpers and cardigans are also available at **Darú, Bridge Street**. Trousers, shirts/polo-shirts may be bought in any retailers of your choice.

Children are asked to wear their uniform every day except for P.E. class days, they wear a navy tracksuit bottom and uniform cardigan/jumper. Teachers will let parents know P.E. class days.

### **Shoes:**

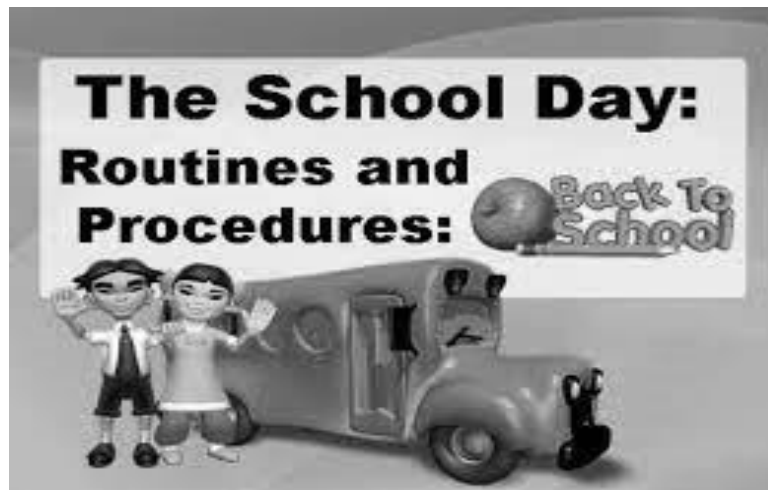
Children should wear shoes or runners. For health/safety reasons, Ugg-type furry boots in winter and flip-flops in summer are NOT SUITABLE. Also, in senior classes if children wear shoes with laces they MUST tie them securely - tucking laces into runners is not allowed.

Wearing jewellery is not permitted

## Recognise his/her things:

Please mark your child's name clearly on coat, jumper, cardigan, shoes, lunch box. You can buy name tapes to sew or iron on to clothes or just use a biro!

[www.mynametags.ie](http://www.mynametags.ie)



## School Times:

**Classes will commence each day at 9.20a.m.**

However, there will be a teacher in the yard from 9.10a.m. as the children assemble in their lines.

**Junior and Senior Infants go home at 2p.m. and First and Second classes go home at 3p.m.**

**The school cannot accept responsibility for children outside of school hours.**

Gates for St. Joseph's are the small gates at the front and side of the school. If you come to school through Scoil Eoin Phóil II Naofa, please use the path and don't enter through their staff car park. When Junior Infants have adjusted to their new routines it will make it a lot easier for them if they line up with their classmates.

## **Wet Day Routines:**



Children are welcome to assemble inside on wet days. The P.E. hall doors will open at 9.00a.m. and children will be supervised. The children know where their classes line up and they will practiced walking in line to their rooms. Due to the large number of children we ask that parents drop their children at the door. The front door will not be open in the interest of health/safety and to ensure that Junior Infants have a clear path. Children who arrive after the buzzer sounds can go straight to their room.

## Break Times:

There is a break from 10.50a.m. – 11.00a.m.

There is also a break from 12.30p.m. – 1p.m. Children eat their lunch before going to the yard for breaks. There are 5 teachers and special needs assistants on playground duty at all times.



### Breakfast Club

The breakfast club will be on Monday – Friday from 8.45a.m. to 9.10a.m. in the Parents Room. All pupils are welcome to drop in for a bowl of cereal and a drink.

### Parking

With over 50 staff now in St. Joseph's parking in staff car park is at a premium. **Please do not use the staff car park during school hours or to drop children to school or playschool. Also, please do not park on the pedestrian crossings or zig zag lines outside the school Please remind children not to go through the car park at any time.** The car

park is a busy place and is dangerous for small children even when accompanied by an adult. There is a safe path to use to walk to the yard and this should be used at all times. There is no pedestrian entry through the gates to the staff car park.

## Lunch



The Department of Social and Family Affairs have provided funds for free lunches for every child in the school. Bradbury's supply the lunches and provide a healthy lunch pack to each child which consists of a sandwich with a choice of fillings, a piece of fresh fruit, water and a healthy snack. Each child receives a lunch order form at the beginning of the year and they choose what they want for lunch. You may change menus during the year if you wish. Should you decide to provide your own lunch please let us know. Children cannot have two lunches!

St. Joseph's has a healthy eating policy. If your child does not want the school lunch a healthy lunch should be provided.

Please send in an empty lunch box with your child's name on it to bring home left over food and packaging.



There is a very strong tradition of good attendance in St Joseph's N.S. Children cannot learn if they are not in school and some children find it difficult to settle into school routines if they are regularly absent. However, there are times when children will need to stay at home because of illness and parents are asked to let us know when their child is ill.

Attendance throughout the school is monitored and we will inform you when children have been absent for a lot of days. The Educational Welfare officer is informed when children miss twenty or more school days. Every day in school counts and children who are in school on time every get every possible chance

to achieve their potential. Late arrivals are recorded on the Aladdin school data base. We also have a registration book in the office for parents to sign if a child is late or needs to leave the school early,

**Is someone other than a parent is collecting a child please notify the school.**

If there are protection orders or other legal reasons why someone may not collect a child from school please notify the school in writing with a copy of the relevant legal documents.

## **School Committees:**

We have three school committees - The Student Council, Green School Committee and the Health Promoting Schools Committee

## **Positive Discipline**

Our school discipline policy is based on the Incredible Years programme. There is an emphasis on developing friendship skills, problem-solving and empathy through classroom training activities and positive rewards and children are encouraged to talk about good and bad choices. We have high expectations of all our pupils and the children draw up a small number of classroom rules in collaboration with the class teacher at the start



of each term. All the children are very aware of these Golden Rules and they do their best to follow them all. Individual behaviour plans are drawn up for children who may need extra support and SNAs are on hand to help the children achieve their targets.

## **Medical needs**

Please let the teacher know if your child has any medical needs, such as asthma , diabetes or allergies. Care Plans can be drawn up in consultation with your GP and the school. The Board of Management has a policy on the administration of medicines.

## **School Policies**

Policies are available in the office or on the school website – *[www.stjosephstullamore.ie](http://www.stjosephstullamore.ie)*

# Home-School-Community Liaison

Home-School-Community Liaison is about building bridges between home, school and the wider community. A variety of classes and courses is offered to all parents, grandparents and guardians of children in St. Joseph's N.S. Some of these include cookery, keep-fit, art, maths and flower arranging. Classes are run in the Parents' Room and parents are always welcome to drop in for a coffee and a chat. Home-School-Community Liaison encourages parents to take part in classroom activities with their child, such as Cookery for Fun, Maths for Fun and Reading for Fun.

Home visits are an important part of Home-School-Community Liaison, as is linking parents to various community agencies which can offer support. Home-School-Community Liaison aims to ensure the parents are a welcome, active and valued part of school life.





## **Green School News**

Welcome to St. Joseph's from all on the Green School Committee. We were very proud to be awarded our first green flag in 2007 for reducing litter and waste and we now have our 6<sup>th</sup> green flag for Global Citizenship. Your child will enjoy learning about caring for the environment during their four years here.

All the packaging in the lunch bag is recyclable. All lunch bags are sent home so that you can monitor what lunch is eaten. If your child does not avail of the lunch provided in school we encourage you to use reusable bottles for water and to wrap sandwiches in kitchen paper (which is recyclable) rather than plastic or tin-foil.



# NEWS

In June 2010 we were delighted to receive Offaly's first Active School Flag. At St. Joseph's we are a very active school and we engage in a variety of physical activities with the emphasis placed on fun and participation. We have recently been awarded our third Active Flag.

# Special Events in the school year

Pyjama Party  
Music Week, Science Week, Maths  
Week,  
Book Week, Friendship Week  
Multicultural Week, Active Schools  
Week  
Advent Service and blessing of Crib  
Halloween Parade  
First Penance and First Communion  
Sports Day, Fun Day,  
Active Week  
Christmas Party  
Easter Bunny  
Trips to Charleville  
School tours  
Class concerts  
Granny and Grandad Day



## **LITTLE STEPS WILL ENABLE YOUR CHILD TO ADJUST INTO THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL -**

- Learning to share, co-operate and wait in turn helps children at school.
- Playing with other children and mixing with children of similar age help children to develop social skills.
- Look out for the effort your child makes and award effort, rather than success.
- Take time to listen to your child so that your child will be able to listen to others.

- Encourage your child to ask questions of the Why? How? Where? variety. Answer your child's questions as fully as the child can handle.
- Read along with your child if you can. Talk about the pictures in the book. Letting children handle books helps them to love reading later.
- Children should be able to use the toilet independently. In the rare case of accident we will contact you.
- **In the weeks leading up to school**  
Speak with enthusiasm about school. Try to avoid recounting your own negative experiences or using school as a threat.  
Take your child to see the school so that the child can become familiar with it in advance.

Information meetings for parents/guardians will be held in May to discuss school routines and give some practical tips on how to prepare your child for school.



## Ways to help your child at home

- Talk to him/her – ask questions and request full sentences for answers
- Read with your child – talk about the pictures, the story, ask questions (who, what, where, when, why?) predict what's going to happen next (in full sentences)
- Join the library
- Read nursery rhymes, ask questions about what happens and discuss the words that rhyme
- Encourage play with educational games, for example, jigsaws, magnetic letters, matching games, board games like Snakes and Ladders
- If you haven't done so already, please encourage your child to take off and put on his/her coat



and open and close zips, buttons, buckles and laces

- Count everyday objects such as buttons, cups, plates, steps etc.
- Look for numbers and letters in the environment – on posters, cars, shop windows
- Shopping – talk about money, make shopping lists, sort the shopping into different categories
- Talk about the sounds letters make (*a* says *ah* as in apple etc.)
- Talk about time – what you do in the morning, afternoon, evening.
- Write numbers and letters
- Look for shapes in everyday objects
- Play games in the car or walking to school – Who am I? I spy with my little eye... etc.
- Put together a “Writing Bag” with fun things like glitter pencils, markers, chalk, coloured paper and encourage your child to write
- Give your child safe scissors and allow him/her to cut up old newspapers, cut pictures out of magazines
- Invest in some magnetic letters
- *Encourage, praise and reward your child*

## THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR SEPTEMBER

- School bag large enough to hold A4 folder
- Lunch box that the child can open and close
- Old oversized t-shirt for Art
- Label all personal items
- Children should be able to open and close coats
- For homework children will be given a book to read and oral language activities.

If your child is sick please phone the school or send a note to class teacher



# Our school website is

[www.stjosephstullamore.ie](http://www.stjosephstullamore.ie)

and it is updated regularly. We hope you visit us on line - but don't forget to call in person also! Check out the Parents Section for links that parents may find useful for games/activities to support childrens' learning.

Check out "Pupil Pages" for links to a variety of useful websites and interactive games.

**Twitter @StJosephsArden**

(Username and password for interactive Maths games)

Username: stjschool

Password: stjhomework

