

St. Joseph's School

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Newsletter April – June 2017

(i) ***Roots of Empathy***

Senior Infants have been participating in the “Roots of Empathy” programme since September. The children look forward to their lessons with Fiona (Co-ordinator), baby Niamh and her mum. Fiona visits the class every Friday. Baby Niamh and her mum visit the class every third Friday.

(ii) ***Accord***

The Accord RSE Programme will be delivered to the 5th and 6th Class pupils on **Wednesday 26th April**.

(iii) ***Sailing Lessons***

DRAFTS have organised 6 sailing lessons for the 5th and 6th Class pupils. These started on **Wednesday 26th April** and will continue until **Wednesday 31st May** when there will be a presentation for all who have taken part.

(iv) ***Gardening for Parents***

Gardening for parents with Mr. McCarthy's class started on **Friday 28th April**. We are asking parents to please come along and give us a 'dig out' to develop a school garden for our children (dad and granddads especially very welcome for the heavy stuff!).

(v) ***Healthy Cooking Class for Parents***

A 5 week Healthy Cooking class started on **Tuesday 2nd May** in the Cookery Room from 9.15 a.m. – 11.15 a.m. Cost €2 per class. All parents and grandparents are welcome to join the class.

(vi) ***Bag-to-School Initiative***

We are having our annual clothes collection immediately after the Easter holidays. Collection date **3rd May**.

(vii) ***Anti-smoking Presentation***

On **Monday 8th May**, Damian Byrne Cuala GAA Club, will give a presentation to the 5th and 6th Class pupils dealing with the dangers of smoking and the effect that smoking has.

(viii) ***Bike Workshop***

Halfords are coming to the school on **Tuesday 9th May** to organise a Bike Workshop for 5th and 6th Class pupils.

(ix) Football Blitz

A Cuala GAA Football One Day blitz will be held in Loughlinstown Leisure Centre on **Friday 12th May**.

(x) First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will take place in St. Michael's Church on **Saturday 13th May** at 12 p.m.

(xi) Pizza and Dress-up Day

The Parents Association are organising a Pizza and Dress-up for **Friday 19th May**.

(xii) New Junior Infants September 2017

The new Junior Infants will be invited to visit the school on one of the following dates - **Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th May** - 1.45 – 2.30 p.m.

(xiii) 6th Class trip to Glendalough

As part of the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation the pupils who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in February 2017 will visit Glendalough on **Thursday 25th May**.

(xiv) Triathlon

Mr. McCarthy's class are busy preparing for their Triathlon for 5th/6th Class which will take place on **Friday 26th May**.

(xv) Standardised Tests

The teachers will administer standardised tests in Literacy and Numeracy to all pupils in 1st – 6th Class during May.

Pupils in the infant classes will also be tested individually on their skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

(xvi) Book Lists

Book lists for Senior Infants – 6th Class 2017/2018 will be distributed to all parents on **Wednesday 7th June**. New Junior Infant parents will receive the book list when their child visits the school in May.

(xvii) School tours

3rd/4th/5th/6th Classes will visit Causey Farm on **Friday 2nd June**

1st and 2nd Class will visit Fort Lucan on **Thursday 15th June**

Infant class and the Special Class will go to the Pavilion Theatre on **Thursday 15th June** to see "We're Going on a Bear Hunt".

Infant classes will visit Glenroe Farm on **Friday 16th June**.

(xviii) School Sports Day

Due to the increased number of pupils enrolled in the school we have decided to hold the annual sports over 2 days. The junior classes (Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st Class) will have their sports day on **Thursday 8th June**, 9 – 12 p.m. Senior classes, 2nd – 6th, will have their sports day on **Friday 9th June**, 9 – 12 p.m. As always all the girls and boys who participate will receive a medal for their effort.

(xix) School Reports

School reports for 2016/2017 will be distributed on Wednesday 21st June.

(xx) 6th Class Graduation

The 6th Class Graduation will take place in the school hall on **Tuesday 27th June** at 7.30 p.m.

(xxi) Cuala Superstars

The pupils in 5th/6th Class will take part in the annual competition - *date to be decided*.

(xxii) Sportfest

The pupils in 5th and 6th Class will take part in Sportfest - *date to be decided*. Sportfest is organised by DRAFTS.

(xxiii) Literacy Loop

Ms. Donnelly, Ms. Mitchell and Ms. McCarthy have organised "Literacy Loop" for the pupils in the Junior Infant classes - *date to be decided*.

(xxiv) Cool Dudes Cooking

Cool Dudes Cooking for 6th Class - 5 weeks 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. - *dates to be decided*.

(xxv) After School Clubs

See separate note

(xxvi) Our twitter account

To access the account search twitter for @StjosephsNS1

(xxvii) Teacher supervision on the avenue at 2.30 p.m. daily

Every school day after 2.30 p.m., a teacher (usually Ms. Casey) is present on the avenue to assist any pupil who has not been collected on time. **Every parent, at some time, for whatever reason, is unable to be on time to collect their child from school.** There is no need for parents to worry if this happens. Talk to your child/children about it and advise them to find the teacher who is present on the avenue. If, for whatever reason, they cannot find the teacher please tell your child/children to make their way back up to the school where there is always someone to look after them until the parent (or person collecting) arrives.

(xxviii) Head injuries

Society is becoming increasingly aware of the dangers posed by bangs/knocks to the head. For this reason we have changed our procedure if a child bangs their head while in school. If a child receives a bang to the head (even a minor bump) we will contact the parent to let them know about it. The parent may then decide that their child should remain in school, where they will be closely observed by the class teacher, or they may decide to bring their child to the doctor/hospital. Obviously, in the event of a serious injury, we will immediately contact the emergency services.

(xxix) Holiday Schedule

Please find attached a copy of the holiday schedule for 2017/2018.

(xxx) Revised Homework Policy

A copy of our reviewed Homework Policy (Draft 4) and parents' comment sheet are attached. Please read the policy and complete the comment sheet. Please return the comment sheet to your child's class teacher before Friday 12th May. Following extensive research by the teaching staff we have drawn up this (Draft 4) of the Homework Policy. We would welcome your comments. We intend to consult with the pupils, and explore their attitudes towards homework, before the policy is presented to the Board of Management for ratification. The revised Homework Policy will be in place for September 2017.

