

# St Joseph's National School



## Newsletter -December 2022

November and December have been very busy months here in St Joseph's with many events and activities taking place. Well done to all pupils, parents and staff for their continued involvement and support.

**SCIENCE WEEK 13<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> November.** Classes took part in various science projects and experiments during the week. **Miss Jennifer Keogh** organized a competition for participating classes. Prizes were awarded to winners in junior middle and senior categories. Well done to all involved. Science equipment was audited and is available for teachers in the storeroom.

**ANTI- BULLYING WEEK 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November.** The Anti- Bullying policy was updated and is currently available online for parents. Themed lessons and announcements were delivered by the Principal Mrs Orla Egan via the intercom each day during the week. **Ms Helen Smith** mentored a group of **Anti-Bullying Campaigners** who visited the classes and delivered lessons to show the impact of bullying behaviour on others. Teachers followed up with lessons on Bullying as part of the SPHE programme.

**PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS** took place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November after school and were very well attended. These meetings are a very important way for parents to discuss all aspects of their child's school life and promote a positive link between school and home.

**PRINCIPAL'S AWARD:** Every week one child from each class is chosen by the Principal to receive a special award. This award acknowledges efforts made by the pupils to be helpful members of the school community, those who improve behaviour as well as those doing their best in class learning and activities. Congratulations to all who have received awards so far.

**DIVERSITY GAMES:** Pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> represented the school in this athletic competition in Athlone on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Well done to all who participated and also to those who received medals. A special word of thanks to **Mrs McGee** and **Mr Kiernan** for training the girls.

**GAA COACHING:** 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> classes will complete their sessions with Enda on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. We wish him a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing him in the New Year.

**SWIMMING:** Mrs McGee's and Mr Hilliards 3<sup>rd</sup> classes have just finished their six week programme of swimming lessons at Longford Swimming Pool. **CYCLE**

**RIGHT:** Ms Finan's and Mr Kiernan's 5<sup>th</sup> classes completed this six week programme facilitated by Brendan and Madeline Doyle, Longford Sports Partnership. The girls learned basic bike safety, the importance of wearing a helmet and the rules of the road. The girls had the opportunity to practice their skills on the road-a truly valuable and important experience for all.

**Junior Infants Ms Dooley, Ms Keogh, Ms McClean, Ms Rooney, Ms Ward:**

The children have been working hard on their phonics, reading, writing and number work. They made rice krispie buns, popcorn and hot chocolate. They enjoyed the Christmas show in the Temperance Hall. The children visited the Crib in the Cathedral. A special thank you to Sr Angela who has been doing Drama with the infants. Recently some naughty elves have been spotted in a number of classrooms getting up to all sorts of mischief and silly tricks.



**Senior Infants Ms Cox, Ms Gartlan, Ms Harte, Ms Kenny, Ms Walsh.** The children have been enjoying their Aistear lessons and even went for a special trip to Longford Post Office. The pupils have been busy learning their lines and songs for their **Christmas Nativity and Concert** which will be performed for parents in St Mel's Cathedral. There will also be a performance in the halla for the rest of the school. A special word of thanks to musical director/producer **Mrs Kenny** for her dedication and help.



**Music Generation : ASD classes (Ms McCormack, Ms Fortune, Ms Daly)**

participated in music and percussion sessions with Gary Baker . 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> classes ( Ms Brady, Ms McGovern, Mr McWeeney, Ms Rawle, Ms Flanagan, Mrs Kilbane, Mr Hilliard, Mrs McGee) completed their 10 week sessions of ukulele lessons with Gary . Each class wrote their own song which they performed at a special workshop /concert in the school hall on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Children have also been learning some Christmas songs to play on the ukulele. The music generation program will be delivered to the other classes after Christmas .



**4<sup>th</sup> Class: Mrs Duke, Ms McKiernan, Ms Duke .** The girls will perform a special concert in St Joseph's Care Centre for the elderly residents on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. This is a wonderful opportunity for young and old to get together to celebrate the joy of Christmas. The girls will then perform for parents and the rest of the school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>.



*Sounds  
of the  
Season*

**National Children's Choir : 6<sup>th</sup> class -Ms Dolan, Ms Leen, Ms Shanley.**

The pupils have been learning an extensive repertoire of songs in various languages from around the world. They recently had a rehearsal in St Emer's National School in collaboration with other schools from the area.

The National Children's Choir concert we'll be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.

This year as part of their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation pupils are participating in weekend masses and reading Prayers of the Faithful.



**HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON:** This term we have been delighted to welcome parents and guardians back into the school for various courses and classes including Arts, Crafts, Phonics as well as some Coffee mornings. English Language classes continue every Monday and Wednesday for the school community. Several volunteers have been organized to come to the school in the New Year to help with Paired Reading Programmes and Games for Fun.

**Attendance** everyone has made a huge effort to be in school every day . Many boys and girls have earned a **Bronze medal** for full attendance during Term 1. Well done everyone. Remember everybody starts off fresh in January.

### Dates for your Diary-

The Christmas Prayer Service prepared by Mr Kiernan's 5<sup>th</sup> class will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15 am.

*Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December Christmas Hat/ Jumper Day  
Donations in aid of St Vincent De Paul*

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Maureen Courtney RIP

We remember in our thoughts and prayers  
Maureen's family and all those in our community  
who are missing loved ones at this time.



#### Christmas Holidays:

School closes at 12.00 on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

School re-opens on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

*Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir.*

*Wishing you all a very*

*Happy Christmas.*

