

St Joseph's National School

Newsletter June 2022



Junior Infants: Ms Eimear Dooley, Ms Gemma Flanagan, Ms Jennifer Keogh, Ms Lisa McWeeney.

Well done to all the boys and girls who have completed their first year at St. Joseph's. They have embraced school life, have worked hard and also had lots of fun. **Making Pancakes & Pizzas, Plant Growing, Fruit Tasting, Heating/Cooling Science Experiments, Art, Music, Drama activities** were enjoyed by all. **Going on Bus, Swimming, Dance with Aimee, Visit to Train Station (with train driver waving and beeping), Visit to the Vet, Trips to Cathedral, Library and Lidl** were among some of the children's favourite endeavours. Everyone especially enjoyed the recent school trip to **Jungle Joes in Mullingar**.

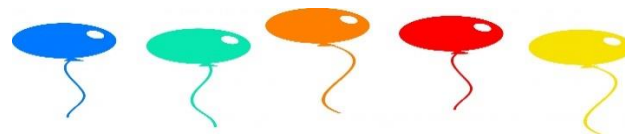
Senior Infants: Mr Colm Bannon, Ms Orla Cox, Mrs Aisling Gartlan, Ms Caroline Walsh.

The pupils participated in a variety of activities this year. They made a **special visit to the Library** to listen to a **wonderful story teller. An author - illustrator also** visited the classes. **Football** with Enda and **Dance with Aimee** were great fun., **Seachtain na Gaeilge / Cultural Performances** were recorded on video. The children also learned **Coding using BeeBots**



1st Class Ms Noeleen Brady, Ms Susan McGovern, Mr Nicholas McWeeney, Ms Rowena Rawle.

Longford Music Generation provided wonderful workshops for the pupils. Thanks to Gary who taught each child how to play the ukulele and helped them to compose and perform an original song "Fly high". The pupils went to **Glendeer Pet Farm** near Athlone recently. This was their **first school tour** and a fantastic day was had by all !! Other highlights of the year included **Swimming, Athletics, Football, Hockey, Dance, Balloon Experiments, Golden Time, Raffles and the new Playground**. We wish all the boys who are transferring to St Michael's N.S. for 2nd class the best of everything next year and for the future.



2nd Class: Ms Linda Daly, Ms Sandra McClean. Congratulations to the girls and the two boys from Ms Butler's Class who received the Sacraments of **First Confession** and **First Holy Communion** this year. We wish them and their families all God's blessings. Well done to the many winners from 2nd class in the **Community Games Handwriting and Art Competitions**. The girls had a brilliant time with lots of physical activity on the school tour to **Lough Key Forest Park** and **Jump Street**. Other highlights of the year were learning the **Tin Whistle, Collaborative Art** and **Dance**.

ASD Classes: Ms Kathy Butler, Ms Erica Fortune, Ms Patricia McCormack.

The children in the three classes experienced and enjoyed many physical activities such as **swimming, Gaelic football, hurling, rugby, athletics, playground climbing games** and **dance**. They went on several outings including to the **Mall, the Canal, the Shops, Glendeer Pet Farm** and **Megabowl**, The pupils recorded performances for **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. Well done to Ms Butler's boys who learned, sang and made a video of **Báidín Fheilimi**. They began learning the tin whistle too. A special thank you to **Sr Angela** for doing **Drama and Puppetry** with the classes.

3rd Class: Ms Barbara Donlon, Mr Brian Hilliard, Mrs Margaret KilBane.

Due to Covid restrictions in May 2021 the Celebration of **First Holy Communion Mass** was postponed until 2nd October 2021. It was a beautiful ceremony for the girls, their families and teachers in **St Mel's Cathedral**.

Throughout the year the pupils have been involved in various activities - too numerous to mention all!!!!. They have particularly enjoyed **Science Experiments, Art, Craft/ Knitting, Irish Dancing, Modern Dance with Aimee, Football, Swimming, Indoor and Outdoor Athletics, Skipping, Music and Singing**. Some of the girls have been learning to play the **Recorder**. **The classes recorded wonderful performances for Seachtain na Gaeilge**. The three classes attended an amazing show " **Luminaria** " in the **Backstage Theatre**. The School Tour to **Arigna Mines and Jump Street** was a favourite trip for all the girls.

4th Class : Ms Sarah Duke, Ms Helen Smith.

5th Class :Ms Finan, Ms Shanley .

The girls completed a number of **Basic Computer Skills and Coding Classes using Scratch**. They enjoyed many visits to the **library**. They participated in **Community Games and Scór**. They represented the school in **Football and Basketball**. They had a fantastic tour to **Lough Key**.

5th Class: Ms Seadhna Leen. The pupils undertook a year long initiative " **Creative Clusters** " which involved a wide variety of **workshops, tutorials, projects and tours based on the Arts**. The aim of this endeavour was to develop and enhance the creative potential of every child in the class through a variety of artistic creations which included.... **Song writing** with Waltons Music.... **Visual Arts & Jewellery Making** with Rachael McCreanor. Three separate **Mural Projects** with Ms Eibhlin Crossan, Gene Rhatigan and Phil Atkinson. **Illustrations** with Hannah. **Drama** with Maggi McKenna. **History and Nature Trails** with Eamonn Brennan. Many fantastic pieces were created which have enriched the school environment as well as the girls themselves. Well done to Ms Leen for all her hard work in co-ordinating this endeavour.

5th/6th Class: Ms Beatrice Shanley

6th Class : Ms Marie Dolan, Ms Catherine Gilmartin, Mr Alan Kiernan.

It was another busy year for the Senior classes who were involved in various projects and activities- **Quiz Events, Maths, Science Blast, Art Projects, Basketball/ Football Leagues /Blitzes Rounders, Dance, Music/Drama Performances, Poetry, Cultural/Seachtain na Gaeilge Events, Historical Tours (Longford & Dublin) Retreats, School Transition Workshops, Athletics/Sports**.

Kayaking- This was a new initiative introduced by Longford Sports Partnership and was available to some of the senior classes.

Confirmation: Congratulations to the 6th Class girls who were confirmed by Fr. James McKiernan in St Mel's Cathedral on 1st June. We pray the Holy Spirit will guide the girls and their families throughout their lives. Thank you to Mrs Egan and Mrs Harte who provided a party for the girls when they returned to school after the June break.

Graduation Mass -We say goodbye to the 6th class girls who are leaving St Joseph's N.S this year and moving on to Secondary School. We wish them all the very best for the next part of their journey in life. The Graduation Ceremony took place in the School Hall on 15th June. Thank you to all who attended to support the girls. The girls did themselves proud with Speeches, Singing, Music, Art Displays and Sideshow.

Scór Longfort

Pupils from 3rd to 6th represented St Joseph's NS in Ballad Group, Solo Singing, Recitation and Quiz at the Semi-Final in Killoe. They qualified for the Final in Abbeylara. Well done to all pupils and teachers involved. A special word of congratulations goes to Sasha who received 1st place in Recitation for her own composition " Upside- down World".



Sports Hall Athletics-This is a favourite event for the girls in the middle and senior classes each year. They attended sessions with Brendan Doyle in the Mall. Well done girls!!!

Diversity Games & Fast kidz Africa

A special word of thanks goes to **Ms Donlon** and **Mr Kiernan** who gave so much of their time to coach the teams who represented the school in **Tullamore**.

Swimming: Various classes from infants to fourth completed a course of lessons during the year.

Well done to all who received their PAWS certificates. Thank you, Mrs Kane, for organising the lessons at **Longford Swimming Pool** each year.

Polish Ambassador Visit:

Some parents came to St Joseph's over a number of weeks and taught the girls some **Polish songs** and **greetings**. The children then participated in a **Social Event** organised by Longford Town Council to welcome the **Polish Ambassador** to Longford.

Non Uniform Day in aid of Goal- Thank you to everyone who supported this event which took place in the school on Friday 10th June. This year we collected **€650**. Sincere gratitude goes to all involved in organising this event especially Ms Dolan.

New Playground.

All the classes are delighted with this new activity area at the school. It is hoped to have a **School Development FUNDRAISER** in the new school year so that more recreational and educational facilities can be purchased.



Classical Strings Quartet.- the pupils really enjoyed this performance which took place in the school hall on 7th June.

Home School Community Liaison

Attendance levels in all classes have improved and rewards such as Homework Passes, Treats, Cinema, Megabowl, as well as other smaller prizes have been awarded in May and June. Please remember that **“Every day counts”**. The challenge begins again in August!!!

Mrs Geraldine Kane has met with many parents during the year. Thanks to all parents who attended classes or participated in school events. We look forward to meeting up with more families next year.

School Lunches-Fresh Today-This scheme is running very successfully in the school and it is hoped to continue with it next year.

Thank you to all pupils, parents, guardians, staff, support staff, visiting tutors, visiting artists, Board of Management and members of the wider community for your continued co-operation, help and support in St Joseph's National School.

Summer Holidays

School closes 12.00 Fri 24th June.

School re-opens 9.20 Tues 30th August.

