

*Scoil Iosaif Naofa
Bothair an Chlochair
Cinn Mhara
Co. na Gailimhe*



*St. Joseph's N.S
Convent Road
Kinvara
Co. Galway*

Newsletter February/March 2014

Dear Parents,

Confirmation: On Tuesday 25th of March 2014, 6th class children were confirmed in St. Joseph's Church, Kinvara. A huge amount of preparation went into the smooth running of the ceremony especially as this year the seating arrangements were changed due to the large number of children being confirmed. Major thanks to Mrs Whelan, Ms Murray and Hilary Sexton for their invaluable help with the Art work for the ceremony. As they always do, the School choir excelled and added so much to the occasion. Under the directorship of Ms McGrath and Mrs Murphy, the choir, which included children from 3rd to 6th classes, sang the usual hymns associated with the ceremony of confirmation as well as some beautiful new pieces specially prepared in recent months for the ceremony. The children in 6th class also did themselves proud especially the singers, musicians and readers. A special thank you to Father Larkin for all his preparatory work with the 6th class during the past year. Well done to all.

Dramaí: Success at the Féile Scoil Drámaíochta

Comhghairdeas do na buachailli is cáilíní i rang a cúig i Scoil Iosaif Naofa, a bhuaigh sa Fheile Dramaíochta. Bhí an Féile ar súil in Inis mar chuid de imeactaí do Féile na hInise. Chuir said an ceoldráma 'Seosamh' agus a chota ildáite' ar suil. Maire Aine ní Flaithearta an móltóir a bhí ann ar an lá agus thaitin gach gné dén drama idir an ceol binn, na feisteas agus an scéal go mor leí. Congratulations to the children of 5th class in St Joseph's N.S. Kinvara who performed to a very high high standard in Glór for the Féile Drámaíochta last week. The musical they performed was based on the Broadway musical 'Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat'. The adjudicator, Maire Aine Ní Flaithearta (of Ros na Run fame) was very impressed with the wonderful singing and choreography and the high standard of dramatic effect displayed by the children throughout their performance. Go n-éiri libh!

Kinvara Tidy Towns Spring Clean:- Volunteers wanted to weed and clean the flower beds on Friday 18th April 2014. Meet at the Community Centre from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **and** 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Bring garden implements and protective gear. Looking forward to seeing you there.

New Skills For New Jobs: Europe 2020:

Last week I participated in a study visit to Portugal as part of the European Erasmus Mobility Programme. This conference was titled 'New Skills for New Jobs: Europe 2020 Strategy' and focused on a 'European Strategy for Smart, Green and Inclusive Growth' which involves a shared vision for education among European partners. While there I had the opportunity to meet and share with teachers from eighteen countries in Europe and to present a number of papers on the place of education in our school within the Irish and European contexts. The participants and organisers were highly impressed with our approach to education and as a result have indicated an interest in organising a study visit to our school to see at first-hand the excellent practices in place from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. Of special interest to the conference was how far we have come in relation to our use of ICT within our school planning and day to day use. A strong, core principle of the Erasmus Programme is that in order to grow and prosper as a nation within the European community it is vital that our pupils are given the opportunity to access and work with Web 2 tools which engage students; link

creative arts and technology to the primary school curriculum; and contribute to students' development as confident digital creators and citizens. Of major interest to the Erasmus conference was the fact the teachers in our school, in their own time, are constantly up-skilling through a variety of means. All teachers are involved with CPD (Continuous Professional Development) while three teachers have been awarded a Masters Degree in ICT in Education. A number of teachers are also involved in Global PLNs (Professional Learning Networks) where they meet once a month with teachers all over the world (via Skype, Google Hangouts) to discuss educational projects which will be of value to our students. These projects focus on combining 21st century learning skills with internationally recognised project based learning thus fostering the development of learning and innovation skills – the 4Cs – Creativity, Collaboration, Communication and Critical Thinking. They also develop the students' information, media and technology literacies, in line with Department of Education Guidelines, providing our students with important skills needed for the multi-dimensional demands of the 21st century workplace, and so helping them to participate fully in an increasingly global and connected world. In short, our school ticked all the boxes with regard to the important skills recommended by the Lisbon Strategy Group which include the following: Communication in the Mother Tongue; Communication in Foreign Languages; Mathematical Competence and Basic Competence in Science and Technology; Digital Competence; Learning to Learn; Social and Civic Competence; Sense of Initiative and Entrepreneurship and Cultural Awareness and Expression.

We are very fortunate to have a well-resourced school in lots of areas but particularly with regards to ICT. Every classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard and pupils have regular access to our laptop suite. 6th class also have regular BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) days where they use their own devices as tools to support their learning in a controlled and safe environment.

Information and Communication Technologies is recognised as one of the key issues and considerations taken into account in the revised Curriculum and is seen as a tool to facilitate teaching, learning and assessment. One of the general aims that we seek to implement across our school is that the child should be enabled to use information and communication technologies to enhance learning and equip children to become lifelong learners.

New technologies have the potential to widen access to information and expand the classroom beyond its walls to allow connection and communication within an instant to a community of learners and an unlimited audience. We achieve this through our school website, our blogs and constructive use of social media tools such as Twitter.

Look at our learning on our blogs which can be found on the school website under [useful links](#).

Please leave comments for the children when you visit if you can as it is a wonderful motivator for children when they have an audience for their work.

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and skilled team in our school. We are proud to share our professional experience and knowledge with all of our European partners.

Seoda: We are pleased to announce that “Seoda” is up and running. Seoda is our newest classroom where students with autism access the curriculum through a variety of specific teaching methodologies. The curriculum is adapted to facilitate the learning style, strengths, interests and needs of the students. The classroom itself is bright and has its own sensory room and play area. We look forward to providing our students with an enriched educational experience.

Tyre Aware: TyreAware is a local mobile tyre fitting service for cars, vans and 4x4s, the first of its kind for Kinvara and the surrounding area. Past pupils themselves, TyreAware are proud to support St. Joseph's National School!

They are offering to donate €2 to our school for every tyre you have fitted from them. All you need to do is ask them for a car window sticker with our school crest and their logo on it.

They'll display the sticker for you when they fit your tyres. Help them to help us!

TyreAware are also offering to run a tyre safety campaign from the school. They'd like to invite you to bring your car along and have your tyres checked for condition and air pressure on the Friday 1th of April at 9.10am-10am. Did you know that if your tyres are all 30% below recommended air pressure, they will not only wear out much faster but you'll also be burning much more fuel than you need to?

They have donated two "Tyre Pots" to the school, a colourful way to reduce, reuse and recycle!

Healthy Eating: As part of the Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.)

Programme we encourage the children to become more aware of the need for healthy food in their lunch boxes. In addition, the Physical Education programme supports the physical development and fitness of the children. The Science curriculum also looks at the development of the body and deepens the children's understanding of how the body grows and develops.

Aims of this policy:

To promote the personal development and well being of the child.

To promote the health of the child and provide a foundation for healthy living in all its aspects.

To enable the child to appreciate the importance of good nutrition for growing and developing and staying healthy.

To enable the child to accept some personal responsibility for making wise food choices and adopting a healthy balanced diet.

Lunch is an important meal for school going children. It should provide one third of their recommended daily allowance of nutrients without being high in fat, sugar or salt. It should also provide dietary fibre (roughage).

In our school the children eat twice a day, before going out to play. To ensure good concentration it is important for children to drink lots of water, so please encourage your child to bring a bottle of water.

What is a healthy lunch?

- It is full of goodness like protein, vitamins and calcium.
- Contains food with no sugar, because too much sugar is bad for your teeth.
- Contains no colouring or additives.
- Gives us strength and energy
- Makes us fit and healthy
- Helps our brain power

What could be in a healthy lunch?

- Sandwiches or rolls with cheese, meat or other fillings.
- Pitta bread, crackers
- Fruit (peeled and chopped for small children)
- Raisins
- Vegetables (washed and chopped))
- Pasta
- Salad
- Small, plain biscuits (no chocolate)
- Yoghurt (easy to open)

What should not be in a healthy lunch?

- Crisps, salted nuts or popcorn
- Chocolate, sweets, lollipops or jellies
- Chewing gum
- Cake, biscuits, pastries or doughnuts
- Chocolate spread
- Fizzy drinks
- Flavoured milk

What drinks could we include in a healthy lunch?

- Water
- Fruit juices
- Diluted drinks
- Milk
- Smoothies

What drinks should not be allowed?

- Fizzy drinks
- Sugary drinks
- Hot drinks (in case we spill them)

Who should make sure everyone follows the rules?

- Our parents, because they make our lunch and should set a good example. They are responsible for our health.
- We should, because it's our health and we want to be fit and full of energy.
- Teachers, because they can see what's in our lunch boxes and know who's eating the right foods everyday.
- The Principal

What should we do when children bring in foods not allowed?

- The children bring the food/drink home in their lunch box.

Should we make exceptions for special occasions?

- Yes, for treats after communion or confirmation
- Yes, for end of term parties
- No, for school trips (in case we get sick on the bus)
- No, we cannot have children's birthday parties in school.

The children of Scoil Iosaif are very keen to have healthy lunches and show a good understanding of what that means. We hope these guidelines will assist everybody in making healthy choices.

Uniforms: It is great to see pupils dressed in the full uniform each day. I would like to remind parents to ensure jumpers and all clothing to have their children's names written on them so that in the event of their loss they can be returned to the owners.

We will arrange a day for the collection of lost property.

Safety: It is tremendous to see pupils cycling to school each day. However, it is essential that they wear safety helmets, high visibility vest/belts and obey the rules of the road.

Communication: Please ensure that the school has accurate and up to date details of mobile numbers of parents/guardians so that messages can be sent and received promptly. It is also important that the designated phone is enabled to receive these messages. Practically all communications are now sent by email, so please check regularly.

Credit Union Table Quiz Competition: Well done to the pupils of Scoil Iosaif Naofa who participated in the local Credit Union Quiz. The teams were: Dónal Mulligan, Ella Costello, Conor Burke, Max Bonvicsini Bennett, Ultan Fallon, Cillian O'Driscoll, Seán Costello and Caoimhe Keely.

Credit Union CU Factor: This takes place on Sunday 13th of April at 3pm in Johnston's Hall. Applications forms are available from the school office.

Mobile Phones: If anybody has old mobile phones that they no longer need could you please leave them at the school office as they are been collected for a special cause.

School Closures: The last day of term for the Easter holidays is Friday 11th of April; the school will reopen on Monday 28th of April. The school will be closed on Friday 23rd of May-due to our school been a polling station for the local elections.

Galway Jersey: There is a Galway Jersey in the school office for a raffle-all proceeds go to the Irish Cancer Society. If you wish to buy a line for €2 please contact the school office.

Dates to remember: First Holy Communion will take place in St. Joseph's Church on **Saturday May 24th 2014 at 11am.**

Congratulations to: Rachel Curtin (SNA) and Martin Kavanagh on the birth on their baby boy Daithí and to Gearóid (teacher) & Stephanie Nolan on the birth of their baby girl Éabha.

Website: Please view our website on www.kinvarans.ie to see pictures of recent events at the school.

Is mise,

Dominic Ó Gallachóir (Príncipal)