

*Scoil Iosaif Naofa  
Bothair an Chlochair  
Cinn Mhara  
Co. Na Gaillimhe*



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

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## **December Newsletter 2018**



***Wishing you all a  
holy and peaceful  
Christmas, and  
every blessing and  
best wishes for the  
year 2019.***

Dear Parents,

[Nollaig faoi shó go raibh agaibh. Rath agus bláth na hathbhliana oraibh go léir.](#)

Happy Christmas to you all! May 2019 bring you all the peace and happiness you could wish for!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our fantastic Parent's Association for all of your time and effort brought to our school over the past few weeks in particular.

The bar seems to rise year on year. All of our pupils were treated to two days wonderful Christmas events. The atmosphere in the school was one of true festive feeling. All of our pupils get a real sense of the feeling of Christmas through the Santa Shop experience.

The school hall was set up and decorated beautifully which set the tone for the two days that were truly magical.

We are blessed to have such a vibrant Parents Association in our school. We really appreciate all that you do for school community. The positive and welcoming atmosphere that prevails within our school is hugely embellished by your input. From the moment one enters the school one is greeted with a lovely Christmas Tree right down to Santa's Grotto and then into the hall where Christmas Music playing gets us all into the Christmas spirit.

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Sincere to thanks to all who helped in any way. As I have already stated, so much work goes into organising these events. I thank all of you who donated gifts, set up the hall, organised Santa, Santa himself, photographers, parents who manned the stalls, parents who wrapped the gifts and Hilary who printed off all of the photos for all of the pupils in our school.

The Santa Shop is a fantastic opportunity for all of our pupils to understand that one does not have to spend large amounts of money purchasing a gift for a loved one. Parents in our school always turn out in great number to help with so many events in our school. They are led by a very hard working committee who plan meticulously making sure that events run smoothly and efficiently. It would be great if we could get more volunteers to attend the PA meetings in the New Year. They are always positive and high spirited meetings-great fun. On behalf of the Board of Management and staff of Saint Josephs I want to express our sincere thanks for all you do for our school.

#### **Junior/Senior Infants Nativity:**

The children of Junior and Senior Infants performed the Nursery Rhyme Nativity on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December for parents, guardians, grandparents and siblings. Every child had a role and performed wonderfully. The Senior Infant children had roles including narrators, Mary, Joseph, angels, stars, shepherds, inn keepers and wise men. Junior Infant children took part as animals, stars and angels. Well done to all involved for a fantastic performance, the show was much enjoyed by all. For anyone that missed it, the video is on our school Facebook page. Thank you to the teachers and SNAs involved for helping it to all come together, and thank you to 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils for helping with costumes and decorating the hall so beautifully on the day.



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**Christmas Carol Service:**

Our pupils in Fifth and Sixth classes school choir performed on Wednesday 19th of December a carol service in Saint Joseph's Church. It was such a lovely ceremony with lots of people singing along. Thanks to all of the teachers who helped organise this truly wonderful evening.

We are incredibly proud of our choir. They showed great commitment in learning a huge repertoire of carols over the past four weeks.

I would also like to thank Ms McGrath who accompanied the choir so beautifully. Special thanks also to Mr Nolan for preparing readers so well. Thanks also to Ms Murray and Ms Purcell who prepared the readings and Biblical excerpts. I cannot praise the children enough. They have been fantastic to work with and are excellent singers. There is nothing nicer than to hear children sing Christmas Carols. Well done all!

Thank you to all the parents and relatives who turned out in such a great number. Finally, special thanks to our Parish Priest Fr. Hugh Clifford. We were always made feel welcome during practice having the heat, sound and lights ready for us.

**Dolmen Centre Carol Service:**

Our sixth class pupils attended a special carol service for the residents of our local Dolmen Centre. Once more our pupils performed beautifully singing and joining in with other carols thereby creating a most wonderful atmosphere. This was a special and meaningful event where our pupils represented our school with pride and distinction. Maith sibh!

**3rd class play:** Well done to third class who led the whole school in dancing to Christmas tunes in the hall on Wednesday. The highlight of the dance-a-thon was the Crazy Santa Dance where the children danced a mixture of ballet, rocker, country and western moves on the dance floor. Great fun was had by all.



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**Carols Service 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> classes:** Well done to all pupils from First to Fourth Class who participated in some beautiful Carol singing in the hall on Thursday. They sang a great selection of Christmas Carols for the rest of the school. They were fantastic!



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**A final thank you and Happy Christmas From the PA:**



Well, we have finally come to the end of our busy run up to Christmas and we just wanted to say one final "thank you" for all the support you have given us over the past few weeks. Santa Shop, Santa's visit and Christmas hampers are now done and dusted for another year and each event's success was down to everyone's shared efforts. Yesterday evening, eleven volunteers created twenty fabulous hampers which will be delivered to people within our community over the coming days - none of this would have been possible if it wasn't for your generous donations - so, once again, thank you!

We have also come to the end of the never-ending stream of PA emails for 2018. Wishing you all a peaceful, happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



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**Farmers Market Art Competition:** Congratulations to Cora MacMahon & Erin Coy who were winners in the recent farmers market competition. Well done!!



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**Christmas Jumper Competition:**

We ran our annual 'Design a Christmas Jumper' Competition again this year with great success. The entries were simply outstanding and it was very difficult to pick a winner in each class. It has been fantastic to see such a wide variety of talent on display this week in the school from singing, dancing and now drawing! The winners were;

Alan Giersz and Anna Keogh- Junior Inf.  
Helen Nkikta and Lucas Burke- Senior Inf.  
Gavin Keane and Rónán O'Sullivan- First Class  
Beibhínn Whitney and Erin Coy- Second Class  
Ríona Kilkelly and Emmet Hawkins- Third Class  
Lilly Tully and Elena Alfonso Pujante- Fourth Class  
Diarmuid Crossan and Thomas Byrne-Fifth Class  
Brianna Meyler and Abbie Donnelly- Sixth Class



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**The Christmas Eve Children's Mass:** will take place in St. Joseph's Church at **5pm** on **Monday 24th December**. As in previous years, children from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class are invited to participate in singing and playing Christmas carols during the mass. Children taking part in the mass should be seated in the gallery in the church by **4 45pm**. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

**Dates to remember:** Confirmation will take place on Tuesday 12th of **March 2019** in St. Joseph's Church at 11am and First Holy Communion will take place in St. Joseph's Church on **Saturday May 18th 2019 at 11.00am**.



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**Remember to like our school Facebook page: St. Joseph's NS**

**Spring Mid-term:** the school will be closed Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd of February 2019.

**School re-opening:** The school will re-open on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.

*I hope that you all enjoy a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous 2019.*

*Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh go léir.*

**Is mise,**

*Dominic Gallagher (Principal)*