

*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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## **February & March Newsletter 2018**

### **Dear Parents**

### **Confirmation:**



I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Parent's Association of Saint Joseph's School for all of their support to the school so far this year.

This year the Confirmation Ceremony was followed by a social gathering in the school hall. It proved to be most enjoyable. Thanks to the Parents Association for hosting this event. Thanks to all who helped out in any way in making the day so enjoyable. Thanks to all of the parents who helped out on the day and to the many parents who baked or supplied goodies. We are blessed with most engaged and enthusiastic parents.

We at Saint Joseph's would not be what we are without their support and the effective partnerships we and our teachers have built with them to ensure our students' success. Thank you.

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This was followed by once again another fantastic Schools' Community event. The Bingo Night was a tremendous success. Thanks again to our Parents Association for all of the hard work put in in ensuring that all would run smoothly. Thanks to all of our sponsors and to all of the parents for your generosity in sending in such lavish donations of home baking and goodies for the shop.

Thanks to all who gave of their time in preparing the Community Centre and for clean up after. A lot of this work can sometimes go unnoticed and unthanked.

Congratulations to the pupils in Sixth Classes who made their Confirmation on Friday last. They have been a credit to themselves and to the school. All of the class can be proud of all of the roles they played during the ceremony. Their cooperation and enthusiasm to please was clearly evident leading up to and during the mass.

Thanks to Class Teachers – Ms. Murray and Ms. O' Keeffe who prepared the children so well and to Bishop Kelly and to Fr. Hugh who conducted the ceremony. Special thanks to Ms. Good and Ms. Killilea for helping with the artwork in the school hall and in the church.

Special thanks also to Bernie, Dana, Louise and Rachel for preparation of the gifts and photography presentation that was most impressive.

Special thanks to Ms McGrath and Mrs Murphy who prepared the musical arrangements and accompanied the choir so beautifully.

I have to pay a very special thanks to all of our pupils who sang in the choir. They have been a pleasure to work with. It is very rewarding to work with such a fantastic group. We have received many lovely compliments which I have passed on to the pupils. I've never seen so many people sing with such permanently happy enthusiasm.

I have to pay a special thanks to Hilary who works tirelessly in the background preparing meticulously for all of the events mentioned. Confirmation Booklets, Name badges, Photographs, Posters and Tickets are always of the highest standard. Your hard work and diligence are an inspiration to everyone.

All of the events were special because of the support extended to our staff by you the parents.

To the entire staff of Saint Josephs, thank you for providing the best for every child, every day!

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### **Toy Hospital:**

This month we held a 'Toy Hospital' for the children in the Junior and Senior Infant classes. Parents, teachers and children worked together to create a hospital like environment where the children's toy friends were minded and carefully taken care of. The Toy Hospital enabled the children to get a valuable insight into how a hospital works. It also developed within the children an understanding of our healthcare system and the various roles and responsibilities of the people who work there. It linked in nicely with the broad Infant theme for February that of 'The People Who Help Us'. With the MMR vaccinations due a week later it certainly put all our little people at ease by teaching them to be less afraid of hospitals and to understand the scenarios real medics are faced with daily.

The Infant classrooms were very busy in the lead up and indeed following on from the Toy Hospital. Important Literacy, Numeracy, SPHE, Art, PE and SESE links were made in bringing this event together. 'Play' links our cross curricular subjects together and this element of 'Play' adopts a central role in both the Junior and Senior Infant classes in our school.

The children were put into mixed groups across the Infant setting and each group had a leader in the form of a Sixth Class Buddy. The buddies played an integral part in the smooth running of the day as they helped steer the children from station to station within the hospital as well as answering and assisting the children with any concerns they had on their exciting hospital journey. Each child had their own appointment card and once greeted at the consultation area they were then assigned to their buddy. It was lovely to see the older children engaging and co - operating so well with the younger children whilst having a fun learning experience.

Sincere thanks to all of the parents who took time out of their busy schedules. We had Nurses, Doctors, Surgeons, Radiologists, Pharmacists, Dieticians, Ambulance Drivers, Technicians, Information Analysists and many other people from the medical setting attended the Toy Hospital and did an amazing job. The love and care given to the toys on that particular day was indeed special and something none of us will ever forget. We hope that the toys are still being well minded now that they have been given the TLC that they so badly needed.

It was great to see the children, parents and us as teachers gain a wonderful experience from the Toy Hospital. This was certainly a major highlight in our Infant calendar! We have created a display board of various images from the Toy Hospital Day so please feel free to pop in and take a look! Again a sincere thank you to all the

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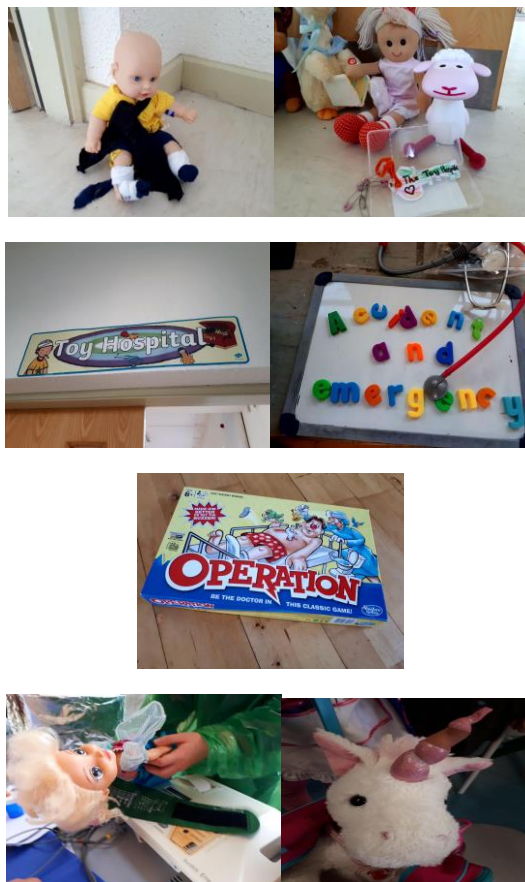
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parents and volunteers who attended the Toy Hospital and made the day so memorable. We cannot wait to do it all over again!

**Some photos from the Toy Hospital:**



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### **Bingo Fundraiser: Parents Association say a big thank you!**

The \*bakers\* who provided us with gorgeous treats to share with students and their families at the Confirmation gathering on Friday and who also baked for our Bingo night on Saturday.

\*Hilary\* for forwarding emails from us to you and for printing our tickets and posters.

Our \*sponsors\* for giving so generously to support our bingo.

The parent \*volunteers\* who gave up their time: approaching businesses looking for sponsorship for our bingo, selling tickets outside the school during the week, setting up the school hall on Thursday evening for the Confirmation gathering and for serving teas/coffees on Friday, setting up the hall on Saturday afternoon for bingo and for being there on the night ensuring that everything ran smoothly - it was a real team effort and we really, really appreciate everyone's help.

Finally, a big \*"thank you"\* to everyone who came out on Saturday night to play bingo and to support our fund-raising efforts. We raised an amazing \*€2,250\* which will be used to enhance STEM facilities in our school. We couldn't have done it without you, so thank you once again.

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**DARKNESS INTO LIGHT - KINVARA, morning of 12th May 2018 at 4.15am**

On Saturday morning the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 Kinvara, will host its fourth Darkness into Light 5k walk/run at 4.15 am from St Joseph's N.S. for Pieta House .

All registration this year is online only and the website is [www.darknessintolight.ie](http://www.darknessintolight.ie) to register.

Registration is now open!

**Allergies/ Medication:** please ensure if your child (ren) have any allergies or are taking medication that the class teacher is aware of this.

**Date to remember:** First Holy Communion **19<sup>th</sup> of May 2018** St. Joseph's Church at 11am.

**School Closure:**The school will close at normal time on March 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Easter Holidays.

**Note extra closure/finish early:** April 18<sup>th</sup> the school will close at 1.50pm for ALL PUPILS due to a staff meeting.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** –extra school closure day in the school calender as the teachers have a PDST course to attend.

*I would like to wish you all a very happy, holy and safe Easter break.*

**Is mise,**

*Dominic Gallagher (Principal)*

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