

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



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

H91 X673

**Newsletter January 2016**

H91 X673

Dear Parents,

Cuirim faillte mór roimh gach duine ar ais ar scoil tar éis saoire na Nollag.

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break and wish you well for the coming year.

**National Flag Presentation Ceremony:**

Last Tuesday the boys and girls of Scoil Iosaif Naofa experienced a little piece of history. Three members of the Irish Army came to the school to present us with our National Flag and a copy of the 1916 Proclamation. They were Lieutenant Rory Millane, Sergeant Michael Merrigan and Private Liam O Flaharta.

Lieutenant Millane explained to a packed hall that they had come to present the flag, and that it was a part of the government's commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1916, and that this year every school in Ireland will raise the flag on March 15<sup>th</sup>. This day will be known as Proclamation Day. He also invited the children to write their own version of the proclamation which will be read out on that day also.

Sergeant Merrigan presented the proclamation, and he invited Killian Corless to read the 4th paragraph,. This paragraph mentions equal rights and opportunities for all Irish citizens and contains the phrase "cherishing all the children of the nation equally". Killian read this very clearly and confidently.



When Killian finished reading the proclamation the flag was presented to Joshua Medina of Ms O'Keeffe's 6<sup>th</sup> class and a copy of the proclamation was presented to Liam Kenny of Ms Smith's Junior Infants class.



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Lieutenant Millane explained that we must show respect to our national flag, and that there were some simple rules we must follow; the flag should never touch the ground, when it's flying with other flags it must be the highest and that it must be taken down at night time.

The ceremony finished with everybody standing to attention and singing our national anthem, "Amhrán na bhFiann". The members of the Defence Forces saluted while we sang the anthem. To accompany the singing some teachers played music.



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## School Attendance – what every parent needs to know

Under the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 parents are responsible for making sure their child receives an education. The law also says that every child between the ages of 6 and 16 must attend school or otherwise receive an education. Most children attend recognised schools although some are educated at home or in non-recognised schools

The majority of children in Ireland start school at either 4 or 5 years of age. Your child must be at least 4 years of age at the start of the school year (September) to enrol in primary school. Here is what you need to know about your child's school attendance.

### What should I do if my child cannot go to school?

You must tell the school that your child cannot attend and say why. Write a short note to the school to explain why your child was out of school and send it in with your child when they go back to school. Generally, there are good reasons why a child is missing school (e.g. illness). **We strongly recommend that if your child is sick that you do not send him/her to school. We frequently find that pupils have been unwell in the morning, yet are still sent to school. This is most unfair on the pupil and all of the other pupils in his/her class. Stomach bugs and other illnesses take time to pass.**

Keep in regular contact with your child's school to explain why your child is absent and, where appropriate, provide medical certificates.

### What will the school do if my child misses a lot of school?

The school must tell the statutory Educational Welfare Services of the Child and Family Agency if your child has missed 20 days or more in the school year, or if it is concerned that your child is missing too much school.

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## **What we must do if your child misses a lot of school?**

If a school tells us that your child is missing too much school, an Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) will work with the school and may visit you to see how we can help to make sure that your child attends school more often.

## **Can I take my child on holidays during term time?**

Taking a holiday during term time means that children miss important school time. It will be difficult for them to catch up on work later on. As a result, they may fall behind with school work and lose confidence in their abilities. We strongly advise parents do not take their children out of school for holidays during term time.

### **Credit Union Table Quiz Competition:**

Well done to the pupils of Scoil Iosaif Naofa



who participated in the local Credit Union Quiz. The two team were: Sophia Doherty, Sadbh Hanley, Joe Meares & Ciara McIntyre who came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and the second team was: Éadaoin Quinn, Katie McLaughlin, Kai Hayes & Ciara Crossan who also did very well and all represented the school very well. Well done all!



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**The 10th annual Joseph Browne Spring School of Traditional Music takes place in Kinvara!!**

The Joseph Browne Spring School of Traditional Music, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, will take place again this year in St. Joseph's National School from Thursday 18th February to Sat 20th February 2016. Music classes will take place from 10am to 1pm each morning and 'Bearers of the Tradition' workshops, where students are given the opportunity to interact with and learn from members of the traditional music community, will take place on Thurs and Fri afternoons from 2pm to 3pm. The Joseph Browne Spring School provides an excellent opportunity for any children who are already playing an instrument as it allows them to experience music in context while they spend three continuous days playing and learning music with some of the best teachers and performers of traditional music in Ireland as well as meeting other young musicians from all over Ireland.

Classes are offered in fiddle, tin whistle, accordion, concertina, flute, pipes, guitar and keyboard. A new class for Harp was introduced in 2013 and due to the success of the class in the past three years, will be held again this year. A banjo class is also being re-introduced this year so spread the word. The Joseph Browne Memorial Concert is a benefit concert to help towards the cost of running the Spring School and it will be held on Fri night 19th February in KAM's stunning 'Gig Room' in Kinvara Community Centre where many of the tutors will perform. As this is the 10th year of the Spring School there will be lots of surprise guests!

Marking the 10<sup>th</sup> year, a special feature of the Spring School this year is the Joseph Browne Writing Competition for young authors and poets. Prizes will be awarded in two categories: Primary and Secondary School and the prizes are 1<sup>st</sup> €100, 2<sup>nd</sup> €50, 3<sup>rd</sup> €25. Application forms for classes will be available from Máire O'Keeffe or from Hilary in the office and may be returned to either at the school. Details of how to

enter for the writing competition will also be available. Watch out for further details in the coming days and please like us on

<http://www.facebook.com/josephbrownespringschool>

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**Camogie All Ireland Intermediate Final:** Best of luck to our staff member Eva Lahart who is part of the Eyrecourt team that will contest the All Ireland Intermediate Final on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Best of luck to all the team. Eyrecourt Abú!



**Rock & Road:** The run will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of March and this year again Dolmen Sports will donate t- shirts to the pupils of the school who will run the children's race. More details about time of race nearer the time.

The pupils of the school will be practicing for this race.

The plan is to put the older kids first (they'll be fastest), and younger kids behind. The roads are all closed to traffic from 10:30 so it's very safe. There is no entry fee.

Please feel free to run or walk the 2k with your child.

If people want more information the web site is at: [www.rockandroad.ie](http://www.rockandroad.ie)

**Enrolment Forms:** These can be collected at the school for all pupils who need to enrol in the school for September or can be downloaded from our school web site [www.kinvarans.ie](http://www.kinvarans.ie). Could all enrolment forms be returned to the school **on or before Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March.**

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**Clothes Collection:** This will take place at the school on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of February** please leave any clothes bags you have before 9.30am.

**Dates to remember:** Confirmation will take place on Thursday **10<sup>th</sup> of March 2016** in St. Joseph's Church at 11am and First Holy Communion will take place in St. Joseph's Church on **Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 11.00am.**

**Staff: Meeting:** There will be a staff meeting g on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of February and the school will close at **1.50pm for all pupils.**

**Best of luck to:** Hannah Durkan & Jamie Gunning who will swim in the All Ireland Schools Competition n on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of February in the National Aquatic Centre in Abbotstown. They will both compete in the butterfly stroke and we wish them both the very best of luck.



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**Welcome to:** Diego O'Connell Fernandes (Junior Infants)& Elena Alfonso Pujante (Second Class)who joined our school recently.

**Spring Mid-term:** the school will be closed Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> & Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2016.

The school will also be closed on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of February** due to the General Election as our school is a polling station.

**Is mise,**

*Dominic Gallagher (Principal)*