

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



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

H91 X673

H91 X673

Dear parents/guardians,

First, let me thank you for your support and understanding as we, as a nation and community, responded to the unexpected invasion of COVID-19 in March. I am very proud of the way our students, parents, employees, and community leaders handled the demands we were faced with to protect everyone as we continued to educate our students during the most unusual of circumstances.

As you know, there continues to be concerns and questions related to how schools plan to reopen in August 2020. While we are in the business of educating, our first priority is the safety of our students and our employees.

I know that this last part of the year was challenging for you as parents & guardians as you navigated the pandemic as it related to careers, childcare, staying healthy, and the overall safety of your family.

This experience will no doubt help teach our students the “grit” that it takes to succeed in tough times such as these with COVID19. So congratulations to YOU and our students for making it until the end of the year!

### **Sixth Class**

I don't think anybody thought when we received Government direction on March 12<sup>th</sup> that would be some pupil's last day in Saint Joseph's.

I feel genuinely very sorry that our sixth class were not present in the School for the last term which for the majority of pupils is both exciting and memorable. They were denied significant events such as confirmation, last school tour together, Garda Seven football tournament, 5 a side soccer

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



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

H91 X673

H91 X673

tournament, , the last sports day, signing each other's school shirts, graduation mass, the emotional farewells, the hugging and the tears.

The reality is that we all lost out a little. It was a pity you weren't allowed be part of the school for just a little bit longer because all of us both staff and younger pupils would have benefitted from your infectious enthusiasm carefree spirit and your overall kindness

I am excited about the future for each of our students graduating this year. You have the potential to be all you want to be.

It is also very disappointing that we cannot bear testament to the achievements of our graduates and to the love and support they have received over the years from the staff, parents and the whole school community.

I am enormously proud of the 6th classes of 2020. Each one of our pupils has worked very hard to realize their full potential. You have preserved and worked towards achieving your goals in a very determined way.

Many thanks to all the families, whose children have now left primary school

O' Hanlon, Finch Lees, Fitzpatrick, Gunning, Hayes, Mullarkey, O' Donoghue, O' Connell, Parsons, Breathneach, Breslin, Cunningham, Gorman, Meares, Mele, Mulleady, Droney, Keane, Waters and Sheridan.

### **Parents Association**

I sincerely thank our Parent's Association. Once more they have been and continue to be an excellent support to our school. Our vibrant PA adds immensely to our school's community in so many ways. The solid support which you give was exemplified in the amazing work accomplished throughout the school year. This year over half of the PA Committee will leave the school. I thank you all for your dedication and support over the past years. We will be

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



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

H91 X673

H91 X673

looking for replacements in September. I would encourage all parents to join our wonderful association and take up an active role in the school community.

## **Parents**

To our general parent-body, the entire school staff, pupils and all who combine to make our school a unique and special place we are very grateful for your contribution. I particularly acknowledge the many ways in which you, the parents, assist in the work of the school throughout the year.

Just like teachers you were thrown in at the deep end when suddenly faced with distance learning. I wish to thank you all for assisting us through these challenging times. Your hard work and endeavour has been a tremendous help to us all guiding and leading your children on a daily basis.

Thank you again for your on-going support and kind words of appreciation for the outstanding work of our professional staff and the online learning for your sons and daughters.

I've been touched by the heart-felt messages of support and "thank yous" from pupils, parents and the wider community – it's created stronger bonds between us all and has helped keep us motivated over the last few weeks.

## **Teachers**

I acknowledge all of the Trojan work of our entire school staff. We are blessed to have such a hardworking and committed staff. Teachers had little or no notice about our school closing and shifting to online learning. Teachers are just like the rest of us in that they were experiencing this strange new world as mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. They were trying to deal with their individual lives and take care of their kids and find new ways to make sure that learning continued.

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



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

H91 X673

H91 X673

The coronavirus pandemic forced teachers, students and parents into an education experiment -- one in which they navigated fluctuating schedules, new methods of keeping students engaged and confronting challenges of the technological balances.

I think now it will be easier to understand that schools aren't just buildings where students go to learn, and that teachers are irreplaceable. There's something magical about that in-person connection, that bond between teachers and their students. Having that face-to-face connection with learners and being able to support them across their unique skills—that's very hard to replicate in a distance learning environment.

### **Pupils**

I congratulate our pupils on their hard work and on their exemplary behaviour throughout the school year. They are a pleasure to teach and we are proud to acknowledge all of their valuable attributes they possess. I sincerely thank you all for the wonderful work presented to our teachers. Special thanks to those of you who posted very entertaining video clips during Active School's Week.

### **Hilary**

I would like to thank Hilary for all of her hard work throughout the year. The past months have been most challenging and Hilary as always has been a fantastic support to teachers pupils and parents. Hilary's concern and care for all of our pupils is clearly evident. Sincere thanks!

I would also like to thank Rob and Gerry for taking care of our school grounds and buildings. Visitors frequently mention the high standards maintained.

Remember, our aim is to benefit all children at Saint Joseph's National School, now and in the future. As we enlarge our school we are constantly striving to

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



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

H91 X673

H91 X673

provide the best opportunities and the best facilities and resources. If you have any ideas or can help in any way, please do let us know.

As one school year ends we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead. We look forward to welcoming all pupils (old and new) and families back in September to embark on another exciting and fulfilling year.

### **Confirmation & Communion**

We have just received the dates for Confirmation and Communion.

Confirmation will be August 22nd at 10am and 12:30pm (2 classes due to NPHET Guidelines).

First Communion September 5th at 10am and 12:30pm. (2 classes).

We will contact you if there will be changes to these arrangements.

As many of you are probably wondering, we are not sure what school will look like in August/September as of now due to COVID 19. I am hopeful that we will be back in the classrooms with our pupils and continuing to make our students better than they already are. I encourage everyone to follow our school website and social media sites for updates this summer as it relates to the 2020-2021 school year.

Kind regards,

**Dominic Gallagher**