

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



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

## **Newsletter June 2018**

Dear Parents,

Another successful year has drawn to a close. It is amazing how much has been achieved by the children, staff, parents and Board of Management in one year. The achievements extend from the academic, to the sporting and the creative arts and to the numerous fun and fundraising exploits of the Parent's Association. We achieve so much because we work together as a team and this is one of the greatest strengths of our school.

It is difficult to identify the highlights because there are genuinely so many.

We have achieved numerous awards this year. One can clearly see that we have had many outstanding moments this year. They are too many to list but if you look back over the year's newsletters you will see our many our successes.

To our sixth class pupils, I express my thanks for the many ways in which you have enriched our lives and our school during your time with us. I wish you every good wish and blessing in secondary school and in the years ahead. This year's sixth class boys and girls have been a marvellous example to our younger pupils and have left a very proud record for all the sixth classes of the future to emulate!

Well done, also, to our many pupils who have excelled in the academic, sporting, musical and dramatic fields throughout the year and been a source of pride to all of us. To any families who are finishing with us we thank you for entrusting your child to us for these very special years and wish you good luck and continued pride in their many achievements. I wish our sixth class graduates well. I hope they look back at their time at Saint Joseph's with fondness and perhaps return and regale us with their achievements. I am proud of them all and wish them good luck in the future. I also thank all of the families whose children have completed their educational cycle in Saint Joseph's. I hope you share our fond memories.

Many thanks to all the families whose children have now left primary school, Corless, Dillon, Dwyer, Fisher, Grefkes, Caselis, Heavey, Kilkelly, Locteau, Madden, Martin, Masciarelli, O'Deiscoll, Walsh, Bermingham, Connolly, Llyod and Dunford families.

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### **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 during the Bingo Night again this year. Maith sibh!

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.

I acknowledge all of the Trojan work of our entire school staff. We are blessed to have such a hardworking and committed staff.

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 would like to thank Hilary for all of her hard work throughout the year. 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 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.

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### **Camogie report:**

The camogie team participated in a 13 a-side competition hosted in Ballindereen. We had a very strong team this year and headed of on the day with high hopes. Our group consisted of Ballinderreen N.S, Leitrim N.S, Monivea N.S and Scoil Croí Naofa.

Our first game against Leitrim proved to be a tough battle, particularly in the backs. Strong performances from Abbie Donnelly in goals and from Lara Kilkelly in full back kept Leitrim out until the dying minutes of the game.

The girls put in a great effort in the second match against close rivals Ballindereen. Lara Killkelly and Katie Ann Walsh were unlucky not to score in the first half but with a strong performance from Ciara Crossan, Siobhan Geaney, Ellen Bermingham and Muireann Frawley they broke through to score a goal and a point to win.

It was all to play for in the third game but the girls had expended a lot of energy in the first two games on a hot day. Scoil Croí Naofa and Monivea got the better of us on the day. In both games there were strong performances from Holly Corcoran, Riona O' Donoghue, Bronagh O' Driscoll, Grace Bermingham and Naoise Flatley.

The team on the day was; Abbie Donnelly, Nicole Doherty, Lara Kilkelly, Holly Corcoran, Ellen Bermingham, Ciara Crossan, Siobhan Geaney, Muireann Frawley, Naoise Flatley, Bronagh O' Driscoll Riona O' Donoghue, Katie Ann Wlash, Grace Bermingham, Niamh Kidd, Sarah Talbot, Michaela Magnetti, Leah Hanley, Sunny Fahey, Leah Shaughnessy.

### **Sport:**

St. Joseph's N.S. has been busy on the sporting front over the last few months. The Cumann na mBunscol hurling, camogie and football competitions have provided the boys and girls with plenty of sporting opportunities.

Our school's hurling team were in a group consisting of Carnmore N.S., Killeeneen N.S. and Loughrea Boys School and ourselves. In our first game we were pitted against Carnmore away from home. This proved to be a difficult assignment with both teams being very even in terms of ability and application. St. Joseph's showed great tenacity to 'slug it out' and eke out a narrow but deserved victory. Our backs were unrelenting in closing down the opposition with Luca Danjou and Darragh Burke (second half) to the fore. Though taking a while to settle, our midfielders worked their way into the game and got the upper hand on their direct markers. The Carnmore defenders were defiant and our forwards had to be patient and persistent in their quest for scores. Pádraig Conole and Osgar Dunford delivered the crucial goals that proved the difference between the sides. Our next game was against Killeeneen. This also proved a difficult assignment with Killeeneen producing some

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magical hurling to deservedly win. We had some periods of dominance however and solid performances from Niall O'Donoghue, Darragh Kavanagh, Donnacha Ganly, Lorcan Heavey and Pádraig Conole. In our final group game we met an extremely strong Loughrea team. They were to the fore from the off and deservedly won the game. Again we had a number of defiant performances in the face of adversity. Jamie Molloy in goal, Luca Danjou and Lorcan Heavey in defence, Niall O'Donoghue and Seán Malone all strove to repel the relentless waves of Loughrea attack. This resulted in a disappointing end to our Cumann na mBunscoil campaign.

**The Garda Sevens Hurling competition** took place in Gort on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of May. We had to field without the vast majority of Sixth Class boys due to other commitments with Osgar Dunford and Stephen Connolly the only Sixth Class representatives. All other pupils were sourced in fourth and fifth classes. In our first game against Tynagh the boys set straight to their task and produced a convincing and commanding performance to win. Next up were near neighbours Northhampton. After a somewhat hesitant start our boys settled to win convincingly again. Our next test was against a very good Kilchreest outfit. This was the effectively the A semi-final and proved to be a very competitive encounter. Both teams produced some spell-binding hurling but scores were at a premium. St. Joseph's led by the minimum at half time but after the break we continued to impose ourselves on the game. A number a crucial scores from Pádraig Conole and Osgar Dunford and a breath-taking save from Jamie Molloy carried our boys over the line at the final whistle. This victory secured a final place against Killeeneen. After a short break we were back in action. The first half of this game was a real ding-dong battle with both teams asserting themselves and producing an excellent standard of hurling. It was Killeeneen who had a slender one point advantage at half time. However, after the break they scored two vital goals to put daylight between the sides and run out deserving winners. We are very proud of the boys' performances on the day. Sublime saves, tigerish defending and exhilarating attacking play epitomised the boys never say die attitude. It would be unfair to single out individual players such was the level of application and skill in every game. The panel on the day was: Jamie Molloy, Luca Danjou, Darragh Kavanagh, Darragh Burke, Osgar Dunford, Pádraic Conole, Donnacha Ganly, Stephen Connolly, Donnacha Ward, Shane Moriarty, Shane Flanagan, Darragh Kelly and Diarmaid Crossan.

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### **Cumann na mBunscoil Football**

The Cumann na mBunscoil 13 a-side football competition took place in Ballinasloe on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> April this year. We were grouped with Portumna, Ballinasloe N.S, and Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh Ballinasloe. We played Portumna in our first game. St. Joseph's settled quickly and established the upper hand. They defended stoutly and picked off some lovely scores after some intricate moves up the field. This continued into the second half and Kinvara ran out deserving winners. The players followed this up with another victory in our second game which was against Ballinasloe. The lads were playing with great confidence and again produced some fantastic football. These two victories meant that our final game against Gaeilscoil Uí Cheithearnaigh (who had won both of their games convincingly) was effectively a play-off to reach the county-finals in Loughgeorge. This was a fantastic game of football with no quarter asked or given. Gaeilscoil Uí Cheithearnaigh also had a very balanced team with two outstanding individual players. Scoring opportunities were limited with some excellent defending from both teams. However the forwards also had their moments with some excellent scores. Kai Hayes made a number of surging runs from centre-back to create some chances. We lost our influential midfielder Matthew Meares to a hand injury midway through the half and this swung the game in Ballinasloe's favour. The sides were level at half-time. Our lads regrouped to produce a tigerish performance in the second half. Ballinasloe had other ideas though and picked off two well-worked goals to lead by six points going in to the last five minutes of the game. A stunning goal from Pádraig Conole and a quick Kinvara point meant the game was now on a knife-edge. Alas the final whistle blew and Ballinasloe won out what had been a titanic struggle. The lads deserve great credit for the way they set about playing a lovely brand of football and no honour was lost in losing to an excellent Balinasloe outfit.

**The senior football panel this year was:** Dylan Corcoran, Luca Danjou, Shane Moriarty, Kai Hayes, Conor Martyn, Osgar Dunford, Matthew Meares, Pádraig Conole, Lorcan Heavey, Jamie Gunning, Stephen Connolly, Joe Corless, Sean Malone, Oisín Keegan, Donnacha Ganly, Jack Masciarelli, Niall O'Donoghue, Donnacha Ward.

We would like to thank all the players for their efforts throughout the year and we wish all the Sixth Class players the best of luck in their sporting endeavours in secondary school.

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### **School Camogie**

Our school camogie team under the guidance of Ms.Lahart took part in the Cumann na mBunscol competition in late May of this year. In our first game against near neighbours Ballindereen our girls set the tempo from the off to produce an excellent display. A great all-round effort resulted in a sweet victory which was a reversal of last year's encounter with the same opposition. Our second game was a tighter affair. It finished with a two point loss which effectively knocked us out of the group. In our third and final game the girls again produce an efficient display to eke out a narrow victory. Many of our players this year hail from the fifth and fourth classes and this points to a bright future for next year and thereafter. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms.Lahart for her time and effort, the girls for their commitment and any parents who helped out with lifts to and from matches throughout the year. We would also like to congratulate Kinvara U-10A camogie team who won the county title last weekend. We wish the U-10B camogie team and their manager Anthony Byrne well in the county final this coming weekend.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who have supported us in any way this sporting year – collecting pupils from training, bringing pupils to matches and helping out at matches. It is much appreciated!

### **Science Award:**

Another successful year in STEM!! Since 2014 we have successfully earned the DPSM Plaque of STEM Excellence. The school has achieved the award due to the engagement of the whole school in science investigations, using ICT and maths, inviting guest speakers and presenting our work in a science show. This award has really helped raise the profile of science and maths in the school. The children are really engaged and love the hands on work that comes with attaining the award. The



award is co-ordinated across the whole school by Ms. Marie Kelly. Congratulations to the staff and pupils for their hard work in retaining the award!

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### **Sports Day:**

This year we had a fantastic Sports Day which was most enjoyable. There were ten different teams who participated in ten different sports stations. Sincere thanks to all of the teachers for setting up stations of huge variety of which the pupils enjoyed thoroughly.

All of the pupils participating received a special treat on the day.  
Thanks to Hilary for organising.

**EWB:** The school is obliged to report the names of all children who are absent for over 20 days to the Education Welfare Board (E.W.B.). Parents/Guardians need not become unduly worried in circumstances where these absences can be satisfactorily explained due to illness, bereavement or family circumstances.

Please ensure that all absences are explained to the class teacher. Please do not call the school if your child is not going to be in school. A note on return to school will suffice.

**Full Attendance this school year:** Well done to the following pupils who have not missed a day of school this year, Nathaniel Collins, Grace Farragher, Cormac Madden, Oscar Giersz, Eli Collins, Brayden Morris, Evan Carroll, Jamie Kavanagh, Matthew Sexton, Darragh McInerney and Sunny Fahey,

**Well done all!!**

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**Twitter :** follow us on twitter @kinvarans to get an inside look at what goes on during the day in school. You will see artwork, science experiments, sports, mystery skype calls and lots of other interesting happenings from around the school.

Our ASD unit Seoda also tweets on @seodakinvara. For those who wish to read more about twitter please [click here](#) and go to our Online Safety Information section.

**Facebook:** follow our page st josephs ns

**Summer Camps: Cúl Camps: .**

Football Camp takes place from: 24th July -28<sup>th</sup> July.

COST:

€55 for 1st. child; €45 for 2nd child; €40 for 3rd and subsequent children.

For children attending a second camp, without gear, the cost is €35 (basically, both camps costs only €90 for the first child, including one set of gear). These camps take place at the Kinvara GAA pitch.

**Power Soccer:** Summer camp Monday 30th July-Friday 3rd of August.

See [www.powersoccer.ie](http://www.powersoccer.ie) for more information.

**Starcamp:** at the school July 23<sup>rd</sup> –July 27<sup>th</sup> [www.starcamp.ie](http://www.starcamp.ie) or call 021 4377900 or email [info@starcamp.ie](mailto:info@starcamp.ie)

**Lego camp:** [emailuhall@bricks4kids.com](mailto:emailuhall@bricks4kids.com)

**Welcome:** to all our new junior infants who visited the school on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Remember below about the first 2 weeks of school for the junior infants.





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Wishing all families an enjoyable and safe summer holiday.

**Is mise,**

*Dominic Gallagher  
(Principal)*