

*Scoil Iosaif Naofa
Bothair an Chlochair
Cinn Mhara
Co. na Gailimhe*



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

Newsletter November 2018

Dear Parents,

Burren Beo: In November, Ms. Harrison's class were lucky to have visitors from Burren Beo. They educated us on the local tradition of Winterage in the Burren. We loved meeting Vinny who is a local farmer and Kate from Burren Beo. They taught us about the importance of moving the cattle to higher ground where they graze for the Winter. We learned why this is so important for helping to protect the plant life in the Burren. Thanks Áine for our lovely treats. Well done to Adam Patterson and Connor Mc Garry who came 1st and 2nd in the Winterage Art Competition.





Credit Union Art competition: Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the Credit Union Art Competition. The adjudicators made particular reference to the very high standard from Scoil Iosaif Naofa. John Durkan was the overall winner from our school and John painting's will now go forward to the next stage of the competition Comhghairdeas John !



Regional (Connacht) Minor Schools Championships Report

Well done to **St Joseph's National School** students, Jack O'Shaugnessy, Hugh O'Shaugnessy, Sarah Gunning and John Durkan, who recently represented our school at the **Regional (Connacht) Minor Schools Championships** in Athlone.

Jack had superb swims in the Under 9's 50m Freestyle and 50m Breaststroke, narrowly missing qualifying times for the finals next year. Competing in Under 11's, Hugh swam a super 50m Butterfly, and went on to take bronze in 50m Backstroke! Representing the Under 12's, John swam a fast 50m Freestyle, and achieved a huge personal best time in 100m Individual Medley; and Sarah also swam extremely well in 50m Butterfly and 50m Freestyle.

These athletes did our school extremely proud, swimming exceptionally well, and should be delighted with each of their personal achievements.

Congratulations to Hugh and Sarah, who both made the qualifying times to go on, and represent our school, at the National Minor Schools Championships at the NAC Dublin in February 2019.



Santa Shop: This will take place at the school on **Thursday 13th of December.** I thank the Parents Association for organising this event. The Santa Shop is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to select their special gift. ***“It’s not the gift of the lover it’s the love of the giver”***

Santa Shop is coming to town!

We were very excited this week to hear that some of our students, parents and guardians have been busy collecting items for our Christmas Santa Shop on **Thursday, 13th December.** Collection boxes for donated items will be appearing in your student's classroom from the **3rd of December**, so please have a good look around at home for unwanted gift items you might have and enjoy the fuzzy feeling of helping the PA to fund not only **Santa's visit to "meet and treat" our children in school** but also **Food and Fuel vouchers for people in need in our community.** Remember, you are not only de-cluttering your home in the run up to Christmas, you are also helping two worthy causes. It's a win-win situation!

A quick reminder of suitable donations: **jewellery, toiletry sets or individual items, perfume, ornaments, candles, picture frames, books, cds. dvds, unworn gloves, hats, scarves, kitchenware, handbags etc.**

We do ask that items are **new or very nearly new** - **a good rule of thumb is to only donate what you would like to find under your own tree on Christmas morning!** If you have any questions please ask us, either via email through Hilary in the school office, or by contacting your class rep or committee member.

PA meeting , Monday, 3rd December, 2018:

The next meeting of our PA is on Monday, 3rd December at 8.30pm in the school.

We would love to see as many of you as possible there, especially those who have volunteered to help out setting up and running the Santa Shop (a big thank you, by the way!). Also coming along to our meetings is a great way to keep up-to-date with what is happening in school.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday evening.

Again, thanks for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,
your PA committee.

Santa Shop:



Please note children will not be allowed to spend in excess of 5 euro – they can buy two gifts for 1,2 or 3 euro – last year children brought in full wallets of money and we would hate for any child to mislay cash as a result of the Santa Shop so please ensure they know that 5 euros will be more than enough.

Seamount Musical: Congratulations to Seamount College on their wonderful performance of “All Shook up ”. It is great to see so many of our past pupils taken to the stage and performing so well. Performing on stage is very worthwhile and benefits each pupil in so many ways.

School Closures: The school will close at **12 noon** for all pupils on **Friday 21st of December** for the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Cards: We ask that Christmas cards would not be given out in school. Some children may feel excluded when they do not receive a card.

Kinvara Christmas Light Show 2018

WHERE? Kinvara Pier

WHEN? Sat. 1st of Dec.
(Weather permitting)

WHAT TIME? 6 pm

- * Christmas Carols & Music with the National schools.
- * Best Christmas Stocking Prizes (for stockings decorated by local schools)
- * Best Silly Christmas Hat Prize
- * Spot Prizes with Santa
- * Hot Ports & Mince Pies (adults only)
- * Drinks & Biscuits for the Children

C U There !!!!!

Christmas Tree: I would like to thank Ms Burns &, Ms Harrison and their class pupils for decorating the christmas stockings for the tree in Kinvara. The pupils really worked hard on this project. They were all wonderfully creative and decorative . Maith sibh.



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**

Allergies/ Medication: Please inform the school of any allergies which your child may have and any prescribed medication which they may require during school time. It is essential that our records in relation to this are kept updated.

School Visits: Keeping our schools safe would be much simpler if we allowed only the children and the people who work there to have access to the campus and the buildings. This is not the case. During the course of any school day, a variety of people have legitimate reasons to come inside, and many are there to interact with students. Parents are delivering forgotten items. . Vendors are making sales calls or providing contracted services. Maintenance technicians, consultants and contractors are routinely in the school to perform work related to the buildings and grounds. Keeping up with exactly who is coming and going can be very difficult.

We request that all visitors report to the school office and wait there for assistance.

1. **Parents are not permitted to go beyond this point.**
2. **Parents are not permitted to visit classrooms or school yard unless accompanied by a staff member.**
3. **We respectfully request that you do not pick up your child(ren) during break times.**

Child Protection Guidelines are in place for the safety of all.

Please use the *sign in sign out book* if you have to collect your child before home time.

Parking/drop off at the school:

Please park your car responsibly when dropping or collecting your children.

Parents/Guardians should note the following:

- Never drive into the staff car park.
- The Gardai have informed us that parking is not permitted on the yellow lines outside the school between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Parking on the Yellow Box lines is never permitted.
- Parking on either side of a continuous white line is never permitted.
- Never park across residents' driveways - there have been a number of complaints from local residents about parents/guardians of school-going children parking across their driveways.
- Please note that the area outside the school car park is a "set down" area. Parking is not permitted in this area.

Most parents behave responsibly during drop off and pick up times. However we have regular offenders who do not obey the rules of the road. You know who you are!

Junior & Senior Infants Nativity:

The junior & senior infant's nativity will take place on **Tuesday 18th of December** in the PE Hall at 1.30pm.

A must see performance!

Is mise,

Dominic Gallagher (Principal)