

*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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Newsletter October 2016

Dear Parents,

The Hallow'een break is approaching and pupils and staff are beginning to engage with the seasonal activities that occur at this time. Pupils need to be reminded of the need to be safety conscious when out and about during Hallowe'en and the winter period.

Welcome: to Ms Caitríona Rabbitt who is the new ASD teacher in Seoda.

Maths Survey:

I would like to thank all parents who contributed to the recent Maths Survey. This information is extremely useful to the staff and board of management of Saint Joseph's and enables us to get a better understanding of your thoughts and views of mathematics. It is also useful for us to compare your views with responses from previous surveys, so that we are able to gauge how well we respond to your comments and feedback.

We are also a school that is continually striving to get even better in the future. The responses that you have given us in the survey are therefore extremely helpful to us and help us in our plans for future developments. You can be assured that we take your comments and suggestions very seriously.

We are delighted with the number of responses received. Almost 80% of surveys were returned.

I would like to thank you, once again, for your opinions and would ask that if you have any further suggestions about how we can improve, please contact the school. We are always pleased to hear from you!

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Cumann na mBunscoil Football Sevens

Our first football outing took place in the Cumann na mBunscoil Sevens in Clarinbridge. Our panel was a mixture of experience and youth with a number of sixth class boys ineligible due to age restrictions applicable to bigger schools. Our players took the challenge in their stride however.

In our first game we were paired with Kileeneen. This was a very even encounter with both teams feeling their way into the competition. The final whistle saw Kileeneen win by the minimum of margins. St. Joseph's re-grouped however and in the next game against Doorus our players produced some excellent teamwork and work ethic to win convincingly. Our final group game against Ballyglass was a must win game. St. Joseph's players were now playing with confidence and again they played some scintillating football. Our boys were much more of a unit – they proved very difficult to score against while at the other end excellent team work created many chances which were converted with aplomb. Following on our well deserved victories, our destiny now lay on the result of a Kileeneen v Doorus encounter. Doorus put in a tremendous effort but were eventually defeated by a well drilled Kileeneen outfit. This meant that Kileeneen would progress at our expense. The competition was an excellent learning curve for our players however and will stand them good stead in future games this school year. Our full panel was: Iarlagh O'Hanlon, Liam Martyn, Ethan Sexton, Lorcan Heavey, Osgar Dunford, Matthew Meares, Jack Kilkelly, Niall O'Donoghue, Seán Malone and Jamie Gunning.

Garda Football Sevens (Gort)

On Friday 14th of October we participated in the annual Garda Sevens Football Tournament. Our initial group consisted of Tynagh, Ballymanagh and ourselves. In our first game, St. Joseph's were quick out of the traps and produced a convincing performance to defeat Tynagh. Quality teamwork, tigerish defending and accurate score taking were the order of the day as the boys looked forward with confidence to their next challenge. This was provided by a quality Ballymanagh side. The game ebbed and flowed as each team had their own purple patch. Neither side was prepared to yield but it was St. Joseph's that emerged victorious by a point at the final whistle. Having secured two group victories we now went forward to meet a very

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strong Craughwell side. St. Joseph's put in a tremendous performance in the first half of this match and led by four points at the interval. They had to face a strong wind in the second half. Craughwell scored an early goal however and this undid much of

the hard work by our players in the first half. A second goal put Craughwell in the driving seat, and try as we may St. Joseph's couldn't break their stranglehold on the game especially in the midfield sector. Craughwell ran out deserving victors.

We are proud of our panel of players. Iarlagh O'Hanlon was solidity personified in goal and brought off some excellent saves. In front of him Liam Martyn used his pace to good effect to make some telling interceptions and tackles. He was ably assisted by Niall O'Donoghue, Louis Breslin and Oisín Fahey when introduced. Midfielders Osgar Dunford, and Loran Heavey provided a steady supply of possession to our forwards while also endeavouring to protect our defenders. Jamie Gunning added drive and energy to this sector. Our forwards Matthew Meares, Kai Hayes, Jack Kilkelly and Seán Malone showed well for the ball and took their scoring chances confidently. Our stand out performer on the day was defender Ethan Sexton. His reading of the game was impeccable. He was always in the right place at the right time and this enabled him to make timely interventions and accurate clearances. We now look forward with confidence to future competitions.

Cumann na mBunscoil Hurling Sevens

The Cumann na mBunscoil hurling sevens took place in Clarinbridge recently. St. Joseph's picked a mix of youth and experience for this tournament. We were grouped with perennial winners Labane, Ballinderreen and Kiltiernan.

Our first game was against Kiltiernan. Scores were hard to come by in this game, especially in the first half. At half time Kiltiernan led by a goal to no score. Our players had found it difficult to convert possession into scores. St. Joseph's started the second half with renewed vigour and this was rewarded with an excellent Matthew Meares point. Further score opportunities presented themselves but unfortunately weren't converted. Kiltiernan punished us at the other end with a well taken goal on their first attack. They went on to win the game. It was now imperative that we win our next game which was against near neighbours Ballindereen. This game was very close all through. Defences were on top for both teams in a tough,

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uncompromising first half. A more attacking approach was taken by both teams in the second half and this yielded scores at both ends. With one minute left it was Ballindereen who led by a solitary point. With this in mind St. Joseph's attacked with purpose. Our full forward Donnacha Ganley found himself one on one with the Ballindereen goalkeeper. Having taken a touch on his hurling, Donnacha proceeded to score an excellent goal. To our horror however the referee blew up for a free out for touching the sliothar off the hurling which is not permitted in sevens. Time was up and Ballindereen won by a solitary point. St. Joseph's were now out of the group but they went on to play some excellent hurling in their final group game against Labane.

H91 X673

Luck wasn't with us on the day, but we also realise that we have to work a lot on our first touch so that we can do ourselves justice in the future. Our panel for the day was : Jack Kilkelly, Luca Donjou, Liam Martyn, Niall O'Donoghue, Padraic Conole, Osgar Dunford, Lorcan Heavey, Ethan Sexton, Matthew Meares, Sean Malone, and Donnacha Ganley. Well done to all concerned!

Camogie :

On Wednesday the 28th of September our Camogie team participated in the I.N.T.O mini sevens competition in Kinvara Gaa pitch. The team consisted of players from 4th to 6th class, they were; Kate Kidd, Shona Mullarkey, Róisín Geaney, Cara Mongan, Muireann Frawley, Grainne Droney, Sadhbh Connolly, Ciara Crossan, Aoife Brennan, Fiona Byrne and Ellen Birmingham.

We had a tough group on the day consisting of Ballindereen, Doorus and Tierneevin. In our first match the girls were unlucky to be beaten by Ballindereen by one goal in tough conditions. However they rallied together to beat Doorus by a point from Róisín Geaney in the second half. Both Ciara Crossan and Grainne Droney were very unlucky not to get a few more scores. Our final games was also a close contest but the St. Josephs girls came out on top beating Tiernievin by one point. Great performances in this game from Cara and Shona in the backs and Muireann Frawley in mid-field. Well done to all the girls, it's onwards and upwards from here.

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Meeting with parents: The annual Parent/Teacher meetings will be held on **Wednesday 23rd of November**. The parents /teacher meetings provide a great opportunity to exchange information. If there is any particular talent or interest area that your child has, please let the teacher know about it. If you have a particular concern regarding any aspect of your child's progress and wish to meet your child's teacher outside of the usual parent/teacher meeting, you are asked to contact Hilary, our school secretary, and a mutually convenient appointment will be arranged with your child's class teacher. The co-operation of parents in maintaining the appointment protocol is much appreciated. As parents will understand, it is not possible on health and safety grounds for teacher to leave their class unsupervised. Please note that the Parent teacher's meeting will commence at 2pm and last appointments are 5.30pm.

Please note that the school will close at 1.50pm for all pupils on this day.

Meeting with the principal:

I am always happy to meet parents and to work with them in addressing any concerns they might have. However, in the best interests of everyone, I would appreciate it if parents would arrange a specific appointment through the school secretary to facilitate such a meeting. In this way all matters can be dealt with thoroughly and professionally.

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Party Invitations:

I would ask parents/guardians and children to be judicious and discreet when giving out invitations to birthday parties during the school year. Some children may feel excluded when omitted and parents should not feel that they have to invite entire classes or large groups of children to these celebrations. Please give out invites outside of school. Also the school will not give out the phone numbers of parents.

Seamount Musical: This year's production is "***Guys and Dolls***" Thursday 10th of November in Kilcornan Community Hall. The cost is €5 per child –only 3rd to 6th classes will attend.

School Fees: See below the school fees for this school year. These fees are now due at school.

Senior Infants: €88

1st, 2nd & 3rd Classes:

€45 to be paid to class teacher in September to include the following: (Book Rental , Art, craft and photocopying, Journal Micra T/Sigma T tests , Reading record book). Bill for Personal Insurance will be issued in September.

4th, 5th & 6th Classes:

50 Euro to be paid to class teacher in September to include the following:
Book Rental / Art, Craft, photocopying / Journal / Micra T/ Sigma T tests)
Bill for Personal Insurance will be issued in September.

Booklists from 1st to 6th classes are on the school website.

Dates to remember: Confirmation will take place on Friday 10th of **March 2017** in St. Joseph's Church at 11am and First Holy Communion will take place in St. Joseph's Church on **Saturday May 20th 2016 at 11.00am in St. Joseph's Church.**

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Hurling for 1st class: All pupils in 1st class to have their gear in school Monday 7th of November.

Time change: Sunday, 30 October 2016, **02:00:00** clocks are turned **backward** 1 hour to Sunday, 30 October 2016, **01:00:00** local standard time instead.

The school will reopen on Monday 7th of November.

I wish you all a happy and a safe holiday.

Is mise,

Dominic Gallagher