

*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

September Welcome back Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school everyone. We hope to enjoy a great school year. We are delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants and their families. We sincerely hope that your time here in Saint Joseph's Kinvara will be happy and fruitful. We welcome also some new students to our school who have joined different classes throughout the school. You will find a warm and genuine welcome in Kinvara.

September can be a daunting month for many. Lots of new things, new teachers, classrooms, books and subjects. However it is also a very exciting time and together we will enjoy a wonderful and successful year filled with opportunities to learn and grow. To all our new students and parents, we extend a warm welcome to the Kinvara community. Everyone will endeavour to support you and we hope you will be very happy in our school.

We welcome the Junior Infants Class of 2018-2019:

Ms Joyce's Class: Diarmuid Whitney, Leyla Novakova, Layla Forde, Cillian Carroll, Owen Kilkelly, Cian Fallon, Daithí Kavanagh, Erin Vesey, Eli Smyth, Cian Henchy, Croíadh Kearney, Alan Giersz, Shay Kenny, Ryan Hyland, Cora MacMahon, Patrick Higgins, Clodagh Donovan, Adam Kavanagh, Liam Doody, Lelia McKavanagh, Billie Keane, Sophie Burke, Éabha Rose Nolan, Donnacha O'Connor and Samuel Bury.

Ms Good's Class: Ruairí Moylan, , Cillian McConnell, Eoin Connolly Glynn, Fiachra Hawkins, Maya Adela Voetter, Ali Murphy, Anna Keogh, Róise Gallagher and Jake Collins.

We also welcome: Brian & Eleanor McKavanagh, Brian , Conan & Art Macedo, Mizraim & Miqueias Requeira Silva , Luca Mele and Sophia Novakova.

Welcome also to our new staff member Ms Sarah Coen.

Website:

We hope you find our school website to be a useful resource where you will find information on important school events, samples of the work completed by our students and resources which will help parents, children and the wider school

*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

community. Click on the menu tab at the top of the screen to navigate to any of our pages.

The school website has become the main communicational tool in terms of making information available to parents quickly and effectively. This year we hope to continue using the website as a key form of communication, particularly for notes home, notices etc. Should you wish to receive any notices in hard copy form, please contact the school secretary and she will be delighted to provide them to you.



I would like to thanks Ms Murray and Hilary for all of the work done on updating and monitoring same.

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 Page: [St. Joseph's NS](#)



Like our page!

Communication: If your child is going to be picked up by another parent or will be going home to another pupil's home please inform the class teacher by writing a note in the school homework diary. It is not necessary to phone the school secretary.

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



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

H91 X673

This can be very time consuming.

H91 X673

The same applies to an absence on an illness-do not phone office on these matters.

Pupils in Junior/Senior Infants please bring in a note to the class teacher.

Please **do not** contact the school office as this is your responsibility.

In an emergency situation the school will facilitate.

Information for class teachers: There can be confusion some days with pupils who go to afterschool and take the bus some days after school. Every child from 1st class to 6th class has a school journal; the school suggests that you put a note in the school journal indicating where the pupils is to go. Some pupils go between the bus and afterschool and they sometimes forget on a daily basis as to where they are going.

Also if your child is going home with someone else please write this in the school journal, this also saves confusion at home time.

For pupils in junior/senior infants you can send in a note to class teacher if there is a change to your child's arrangement at home time.

Important notice about the school buses:

The school buses are much busier this school year (some are full) and if your child is going to "a friend's house" after school and they don't normally get the bus, you will have to make other arrangements to get them home.

Please note only children with a bus ticket get the school bus.

Pick up: If you have to pick up your child early from school please do not so during break times. Visitors to the school are not allowed into play area during these times. (Child Protection Procedures)

Dates for your diary: Confirmation 12th of March 2019 at 11am & First Holy Communion 18th of May 2019.

*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

Please note that the Junior Infants will finish at 1.50pm from Monday next September 17th.

Lost Property:

We encourage all pupils to appreciate, respect and care for the school environment. In addition I would be delighted to see pupils taking care of their possessions and making every effort to reduce the amount of lost property left in school. I urge parents /guardians to ensure that all clothing and property is named and that the children take responsibility for them. A weekly check in our lost property area would be great.

Breaktimes:

Morning break is 10 minutes long and lunch break is 30 minutes long. During breaktime the children have something to eat and some play time.

Please remember our healthy eating policy when preparing lunches for children and note that crisps, fizzy drinks, chewing gum and lollipops are not allowed.

Also it is important that children can manage lunchboxes, drink bottles (no glass please!) and food is pre-prepared if necessary.

While children get hungry during school, please don't give children so much

food that they have no time left for play. Remember the school day is not so long that children will starve!

School Calender:

These details are now available under the Calendar/Timetable tab on the school website. (www.kinvarans.ie)

TEXT-A-PARENT:

We have all the mobile contact numbers of pupils entered since last year but it is imperative that the school is informed of any change in mobile numbers or any

*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

additional contact names that need to be added to the system. Please feel free to contact the secretary should you wish to check or change any contact details/numbers we have on file for you.

For all new families who have joined the school, this is a "text service" for parents.

Please text your eldest family members name to 086 6067500 if you have not already done so.

E.g. Smith John, then your mobile number will be entered into school's database.

Also please send us an email address to info@kinvarans.ie as we send out newsletters etc via email. If you don't have email please let the secretary know and your child will receive the notes. If any families have changed their **phone details** or **email details** over the summer please also notify the school secretary.

School Uniforms:

It is very important that all pupils wear their complete school tracksuit or school uniform when attending school. The school authorities will monitor the dress code strictly as it represents the standards set by our school.

N.B. If wearing tracksuit bottoms the colour must be either black or grey!

How to help your child:

We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that your child:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject

Our commitment to you continues to be to work with the staff to provide a well rounded education that allows each pupil to reach his/her fullest potential. I have high expectations for myself, staff and our pupils. Please help your child(ren) reach his/her fullest potential by ensuring they arrive to school on time and attend daily.

*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

While we do not want pupils to arrive if they are ill, I do discourage parents/guardians from taking holidays during the school year as this causes disruption to pupil's learning.

Please speak positively about school and staff members in front of your children. If you have a concern please begin by consulting with your child's teacher. We will work collaboratively to make this year a positive learning experience for your child.

EXPENSES SETEMBER 2018: All school fees are due for payment on 26th of October and we have issued all parents with an email link for the school fees which are to be paid on line. No cash or cheques to the school please.

Insurance: We recommend that all parents avail of this insurance. At €8 for 24 hour cover, it is very good value for money.

OPENING/CLOSING TIMES:

The school day begins at 9.10am. Junior & Senior Infants finish at 1.50pm and all other classes finish at 2.50pm. It is very important that children **arrive on time** for school and are picked up promptly. The Board of Management does not take responsibility for pupils not collected after 2.50pm.

Like all schools, pupils are occasionally brought to school to St. Joseph's N.S. ahead of the official class starting time. To facilitate parents in this regard we do our utmost to ensure that the yard is supervised from 8.50am onwards.

Late Book:

Children who are late for school need to be signed in at the school office. Please try to get to school on time as it is disruptive for classes and discourteous to other pupils and teachers.

Some children are persistently late for school.

This is not the child's fault! Please make a greater effort to be in school on time - you know who you are!

*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

In terms of the pupils' education, it is critical that class contact is free of interruptions. When pupils arrive late, please allow them to enter the classroom quietly and on their own.

With regard to forgotten/overlooked items, I would request that parents who wish to drop items off to the school should leave all such materials with the school secretary. She can work with staff to ensure that the pupils receive their gear, lunch etc in ample time.

National Education Welfare Board:

The National Education Welfare Board (NEWB) was established under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 and is responsible for encouraging and supporting regular school attendance.

The NEWB has now been incorporated into Tusla, Child and Family Agency. Our school is obliged to make quarterly returns to Tusla based on pupil's absences.

Once your child is absent from school for 20 school days Tusla is informed, regardless of the reason for the absence.

It is therefore very important that if your child is not in school we are informed of the reason for the absence.

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason please let us know either by phone or email on the morning of the first absence.

This is to ensure children's safety, especially those who walk or cycle to school alone.

If your child leaves home but doesn't make it to school, this needs to be discovered early for the child's safety.

MEETING 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.

*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

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.

Reminder: Birthday invitations: Please note the school will not give out invitations –please do so outside of school.

Extra school closure: Friday 26th of October-school closed due to the Presidential Election.

Is mise,

Dominic Gallagher

(Principal)