



St. Joseph's Mercy Primary School

Hallowe'en Newsletter 2023



It has been a very busy term so far and we thank all of the staff of St. Joseph's for their hard work and commitment. Our building work continues and we are excited to see the progress being made!

Events that took place this term:

Mercy Day Mass took place in St. Mary's Church on Friday, 22nd September. It was celebrated by Fr. Noel and attended by pupils from 3rd to 6th classes. It was a lovely occasion and we thank the children, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Casey and Sr. Ciarán for the beautiful music and lovely prayers and readings. One child from every class also won the Mercy Award for showing kindness to others.

Children's Book Festival – October 2023: Many of our classes were invited to the Solstice Theatre and Navan Library to listen to authors telling stories. This was a great opportunity for our pupils to get an insight into the life of an author and to listen to exciting stories and we thank Mr. Lynch for booking the events. The Junior Infants enjoyed the puppet show telling the story of Little Red Riding Hood. We thank the parents of Junior Infants who attended storytelling sessions in their children's classrooms. We love to see all of our pupils enjoying books and stories.

Attendance Week: Attendance Week took place from the 9th - 13th October. We were delighted with the excellent attendance of so many of our pupils. In fact, 335 of our pupils attended school on five out of five days that week. Overall, our attendance rate for the week was an amazing 94.4%!

We had spot prizes during the week and we held a raffle at the end of the week for those children who had full attendance. We thank our Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator, Ms. Laura Regan, for her organisation of prizes and posters and we thank our pupils, parents and teachers for making our Attendance Week such a great success. Keep coming to school every day and be an Attendance HERO! Have a look at our website to see our prize winners. Every School Day Counts!

Maths Week: Well done to all of the children who participated in Maths Week (16th - 20th October). We thank Ms. Smith and Ms. Caffrey for organising the week's activities. The children took part in the Maths Eyes Competition by taking pictures of maths in our environment. They worked out daily maths riddles. They had to guess how many marbles were in the jar. Some classes went on Maths trails and played games in their classrooms. Second classes took part in Maths for Fun with the help of some of their parents and Ms. Regan. We thank the parents who volunteered. Have a look at our website to see our pupils enjoying Maths for Fun.

Preparation for the Sacraments: Enrolment Mass for First Holy Communion took place on Saturday, 14th October. Enrolment Mass for Confirmation took place on Saturday, 21st October. Families of those pupils preparing for the sacraments are reminded of the importance of attending Mass every weekend as part of their preparation for receiving the sacraments.

Enrolments: We are accepting **enrolments for Junior Infants** for September 2024. The Admission Form is available on the school website or by phoning the office on 046 9021989.

Sixth Class pupils are presently enrolling for secondary school places. We remind them to return their enrolment forms promptly to the secondary schools and we wish them the best of luck.

Oxford Reading Tree Scheme: Mr. Lynch is looking for parent volunteers to change Oxford Reading Tree books. If you could help with this, please contact Mr. Lynch in Room 29. Mr. Lynch will meet volunteers in the school on Tuesday, 7th November at 10am.

Fire Safety: October is Fire Safety Month. We have had two fire drills in school since the beginning of September. **We ask that you speak to your child about fire safety coming up to Hallowe'en and, in particular, about the dangers associated with bangers, fireworks and bonfires.**

The Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Association took place on Tuesday, 24th October. We thank all of the parents who attended the meeting and we thank all of the members of the committee for their great work in St. Joseph's.

Our Hallowe'en Fancy Dress: takes place on Friday, 27th October. We look forward to seeing all of the children's colourful costumes.

Sport

Gaelic Football: Well done to all of the boys and girls who took part in Gaelic Football training this term. Huge congratulations to the boys' team who have made it to the **Cumann na mBunscoil final**. This will take place on Saturday, 11th November in Páirc Tailteann. This is a huge achievement for the school and we are so proud of them. We wish them the best of luck. Well done to the children and the teachers who have trained them this term. We hope that many pupils and their families will attend the match. Entry is free for all children and entry for adults is €3 (cash only).

Skipping: Thanks to Mark McCabe who conducted skipping workshops for many of the children in the school. The children really enjoyed the workshops and they learned some new tricks! We hope to have Mark back for more workshops later in the school year.

Swimming: 5th and 6th classes will be attending swimming lessons in Aura Navan next term. We thank Ms. Hogan for organising the lessons and we thank the Parents' Association who are funding the cost of transport to and from the swimming pool.

Next term:

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on **Tuesday, 21st and Thursday, 23rd November**. They will take place after school and you will receive a letter with an appointment time prior to the meeting.

The Navan Silver Band has invited our pupils to sing with them as part of their Christmas Concert in the Newgrange Hotel on Sunday, 10th December. We look forward to working with pupils from 3rd – 6th classes in preparation for the concert. We will let you know when tickets go on sale!

Please look at the website for all recent events and photographs www.stjosephsmercypsnavan.ie

Happy Hallowe'en! Stay safe, everyone! The school will re-open at 9.15am on Monday, 6th November.

