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| ***Scoil Naomh Seosamh***  ***St. Joseph’s Primary School,***  ***Murgasty Rd., Tipperary Town*** | Email:st josephsnstipp@gmail.com **Web:** [**http://stjosephstipp.edublogs.org**](http://stjosephstipp.edublogs.org)  **Telephone 062-52154** |

**Scoil Nuacht / Newsletter**

September 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians,

A thuismitheoirí, a chairde,

A very warm welcome back to our pupils and parents/guardians at the start of this school year. We especially welcome our new Junior Infants, our three new pre-schoolers, and four newcomer pupils to other classes and their parents/guardians, we hope your first year at St. Josephs will be a very happy one. I also welcome back our Staff and hope they had a great Summer.

My first priority as school Principal is to ensure your daughter is safe and happy at school and then of course to ensure her best education. Together with you the parents, the staff, Board of Management and Parents’ Association, I will be working very hard to continue to ensure very high standards for all in our school. I will be in contact with you by text about any initiatives going on in school so you can discuss and encourage your daughter with same.

I look forward to a very happy and successful year and to meeting you all over the coming few days and weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Le gach dea-mhéin,

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Ms. Louise Tobin,

Principal

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| **Staffing Schedule 2018-19** |

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| **Principal (Administrative) : Ms. Louise Tobin** | | | | | |
| **Classes** | | **Rooms** |  | **Teachers** | |
| Junior Infants & Senior Infants | | Room 1 | : | Ms. Grace Dunne | |
| S.I. & 1st | | Room 4 | : | Ms. Eleanor Mac Sweeney | |
| 2nd & 3rd | | Room 7 | : | Ms. Carmel Hickey | |
| 3rd & 4th | | Room 9 | : | Ms. Patricia O’Brien | |
| 5th | | Room 11 | : | Ms. Anne O’Donovan | |
| 6th | | Room 12 | : | Ms. Mary O’Grady | |
| Resource Teacher / Learning Support 1 | | Room 8 | : | Ms. Mairéad Quinn | |
| Resource Teacher / Learning Support 2 | | Room 3 | : | Ms. Lorraine Ford | |
| Resource Teacher / Learning Support 3  (Shared with St. Michael’s B.N.S.) | | Room 10  (Library) | : | Ms. Edelle O’Donovan | |
| Joseph Beag Pre-School | | Room 5 | : | Mr. Michael McEvoy | |
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|  | **Special Needs Assistants** | | | |  |
| 1 | Ms. Julie O’ Dwyer Joseph Beag Pre-School | | | |  |
| 2 | Ms. Molly Maher Joseph Beag Pre-School | | | |  |
| 3 | Ms. Vera Power (mainstream) | | | |  |
| 4 | Ms. Peggy Lahart (mainstream) part-time | | | |  |
| 5 | Ms. Jennifer O’ Doherty (mainstream) part-time | | | |  |
| * Ms. Breda Seymour teaching staff member is on a Job-Sharing arrangement in another school. | | | | | |

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| **Wet Mornings** |

***A reminder that on wet mornings pupils arriving early for school will assemble in the shed under teacher supervision from 8.45 a.m. onwards. The small shed is for Junior Infants, Senior Infants & 1st Class. All other pupils in the big shed.***

***1. School doors open at 9.00 a.m.***

***2. Pupils may only enter via the back doors.***

***\*Pupils should only enter through the front door after the class lines have left the yard at 9.00 a.m.***

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| **Book Rental** |

All pupils received their book requisites and booklists in June. Additional copies of booklists are available at the office and indeed on the school website. All pupils are expected by now to have their books and copies on the booklist. If for any reason you are unable to provide same, please contact the office to discuss this. Kindly ensure you have sent in the appropriate money as soon as possible for your daughter’s book rental scheme. In these hard times we greatly appreciate the book rental scheme.

**Reminder: These books are on loan to your daughter and must be treated with care and respect.**

A further note will issue shortly with details of Book Rental Scheme Guidelines.

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| **Pupil Personal Accident Insurance** |

We encourage all parents to avail of the Pupil Personal Accident Insurance and to send in form and money as soon as possible.

Please return your form with fee of €6 for school cover or €9 for 24 hour cover (if you have not already paid).

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| **Healthy Lunches** |

We encourage all pupils to eat a balanced lunch at school!

We remind you that the following are discouraged and if pupils bring them to school they will not be allowed to eat them at school: taytos, peanuts, fizzy drinks, chewing gum, chocolate bars, lollipops, sweets and fruit winders. Popcorn and biscuit bars are permitted but should be kept to one a day.

* **All nut products are banned in the school due to pupil allergies. Pupils are not allowed share food at school.**

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| **Breakfast Club** |

We are part of the Dept. of Social Protection Breakfast Club Programme. Each pupil receives two snacks every morning. We have a different Breakfast Club provider this year with more choices. Please encourage your daughter to eat or bring home their two snacks. If you do not wish your daughter to get these two snacks daily please let the office know.

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| **Water** |

We encourage our pupils to drink plenty of water and all pupils are welcome to bring an additional bottle of water with them to drink if thirsty during the school day.

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| **Junior Infants** |

We welcome our 20 new Junior Infants who seem to be settling in very well with Ms. Dunne. They will now stay ‘til 1.40 p.m. A 4th year trainee teacher Ms. Edelle Ryan, will assist in the school over the next few months and will be working in Room 1 & Room 9 over the next while.

The 1.40 p.m. collection point for Junior Infant parents/ guardians is in the back playground.

**Any parents who escort their daughter into class in the morning must exit via the Front Door please for security reasons.**

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| **Uniform Reminder** |

Parents/ Guardians, you are all aware of our uniform updates and are now reminded that full uniform with correct footwear (navy or black flat shoes only) must be worn everyday or school tracksuit with crest and runners on P.E. days. A note must be given to the class teacher if for any reason a pupil is out of uniform. We hope to have a note out to you shortly regarding the P.E. day/s for your daughter for this term

**All items of uniform especially jumpers, cardigans and P.E. jumpers must have your daughter’s name on and we would ask parents to check to ensure their daughter brings home the right cardigan or top.**

**Reminder:** **\***Second hand uniforms are on sale in the local Wheelchair Shop on Main Street.

It would be great if all unwanted uniforms could be dropped into the Wheelchair Shop not

the school please.

**\***Navy knee length shorts are now part of our school uniform and can be worn during periods

of warm weather with the jumper/shirt/tie uniform or P.E. uniform depending on if or not it’s

P.E. day.

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| **Swimming** |

Aquatics is part of the prescribed P.E. Curriculum.

Swimming lessons this year will be for classes 5th & 6th (group 1) for a 4 week block and 2nd, 3rd & 4th (group 2) for a further 4 week block.

The lessons began for group 1 on Friday September 7th and for group 2 on October 5th.

Please return the consent forms and fee if not already paid. Please let class teacher know in writing if for any reason your daughter will not be participating in the lessons.

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| **Health Awareness** |

Parents or guardians who have concerns or updates on any health issues relating to their child are asked to put this in writing to Ms. Tobin to ensure staff awareness and vigilance if necessary and as appropriate.

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| **Contact Details (Senior Infants – 6th Class)** |

You have received an Update Contact Detail Sheet on which we ask you to submit your most up to date contact details which are essential should we need to contact you. We have set up the Text-A-Parent facility and would like to update the details with one contact number only where possible. Please return to class teacher.

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| **General Consent Sheet** |

You have also received a general consent sheet please sign and return to the school as soon as possible please.

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| **School Completion Programme** |

The School Completion Programme based in St. Ailbe’s is back up and running this year but unfortunately with less allocated time for the primary schools. The Homework Club will start on soon on Mondays and Thursdays. School Completion Personnel this year are Ms. Helen Kennedy, Ms. Chanice Quinn, Ms. Alanna O’ Donovan, Ms. Louise Casey and Ms. Stephanie Walsh. The Homework Club is on offer to 5th & 6th class pupils and if spaces are still available will be offered to 3rd & 4th.

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| **Car Park Safety** |

A reminder to all parents/guardians of safety as you park to collect or drop off your daughter(s). You are advised to park up in the allocated spaces for drop off and collection. Please do not drop your child at the front door while the class lines are still in the back playground. Pupils must join their teachers and class before entering the school building.

Pupils should walk onto the playground via the opening where the bars end – lifting over the bars is unsafe and is discouraged.

**Areas in which parking is not allowed are clearly marked. Please do not park in these areas.**

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| **Drop Off and Collection Of Pupils** |

**Parents/ Guardians and Pupils are reminded that pupils line up at 9 a.m. in the playground and enter via the back doors with their teacher. No pupils or parents should enter the school via the front doors before 9.00 a.m. other than for Office business.**

In the interests of safety, any variation in collection time for your daughter should be put in writing to the teacher who will let the office know of this collection. All pupils who leave early must be signed out at the Office.

**Any pupil arriving late should enter via the front door only and must sign in at the office. Any parents arriving or leaving the school other than arrival at 9 a.m. must enter and exit via the front door.**

Your support in following these important Health & Safety guidelines to keep everybody safe is greatly appreciated.

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| **Meetings with Staff and Principal** |

We would appreciate if parents/guardians would contact the Office to make appointments if they need to meet with the class teacher or Principal. We have our Appointments Policy in place for all meetings with the Principal, Ms.Tobin and all teaching staff. Please contact Chrissie to arrange all appointments.

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| **Morning Supervision** |

Teachers in St. Josephs are required by the Department of Education & Skills to work each school day from 9.00 a.m. to 2.40 p.m. The five most senior members of staff have agreed to offer voluntary supervision before school from 8.45 a.m. On-going parental support and appreciation of this voluntary initiative is acknowledged. Parents are asked not to bring pupils to school before 8.45 as there is no supervision.

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| **School Mass** |

Our annual School Mass to bless the start of this school year will take place on Thursday 27th September in St. Michael’s Parish Church at 11.15 a.m. All our families are welcome to attend. Provision is made at school for class for pupils whose parents do not wish their daughter to attend. Please contact the office.

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| **School Attendance** |

Parents/guardians are reminded of the importance of their child attending school everyday. Notes are required should any pupil miss a day. Please be aware that any pupil missing 20 days must be brought to the attention of the Attendance Officer and a letter will issue from the school to alert parents of this. We also send Attendance Postcards when pupils are near the 20 days absent.

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| **Sign In/Sign Out** |

Any person who is not a staff member - BOM members, Parent Association members, School Completion Programme staff, subs, visitors and parents who go past the front veranda must sign in and sign out for Child Protection.

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| **Child Protection** |

In St. Josephs we have fully adopted the Child Protection procedures of the Department of Education & Skills and The Department of Children & Youth Affairs. Parents/Guardians are reminded that all teaching staff are mandated persons legally obliged to report any concerns regarding Child Welfare or Protection to TUSLA. We take great care in protecting and keeping safe the pupils in our care during the school day.

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| **N.C.C.A.** |

We are delighted to have been asked to participate in the National Council for Curriculum & Assessment (N.C.C.A) Forum on reviewing and redeveloping the Primary School Curriculum. Ms. Mary O’Grady is our staff representative at this Forum and attends regular meetings re this in Dublin.

The N.C.C.A. would now like to seek the views and opinions of parents/guardians about a future primary curriculum. This one hour meeting facilitated by the N.C.C.A will be held at school during the month of October – date and time to follow.

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| **Joseph Beag Pre-School** |

This is the sixth year for our Joseph Beag Pre-School. We are delighted to welcome three new pupils to our pre-school and to welcome back three pupils from last year. Joseph Beag offers an excellent early intervention programme for children on the Autistic spectrum in our wonderful mainstream setting.

Please contact the office for any further details.

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| **Totally Kids** |

Totally Kids Pre-school continues to grow at St. Joseph’s Primary School in Room 6 and on the field in their outdoor classroom, lodge and covered areas. The preschool is a totally separate entity to our Primary School but is a very welcome addition to our educational campus. Totally Kids are now recognised as leaders in preschool education leading the outdoor education model.

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| **Kids Inc After-School Club** |

Our new after-school’s provider Kids Inc. are up and running in St. Josephs. We are delighted to continue to have after-schools care for you on campus at St. Josephs.

Please contact 01-6215790 for all info. All prices and forms are on school blog.

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| **School Hall** |

**The School Hall is available for rent to groups and organisations subject to certain conditions.**

**Please promote this and the classes listed below where possible to help raise much needed funds for the school.**

Luke Laffan runs Taekwondo classes every Wednesday 5.30 – 8.15 in the School Hall for 4-12 year olds and adults. Contact Luke on 087-7668548 for details.

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| **School Website** |

I encourage you to log on and enjoy the photos and updates on the school website [**http://stjosephstipp.edublogs.org**](http://stjosephstipp.edublogs.org)Many thanks to Ms. M. Quinn for updating the website.

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| **School Board of Management** |

A reminder our school Board of Management consists of the following members

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|  | **Name** |
| **Chairperson :** | Christine Lonergan |
| **Patron’s Nominee:** | Fr. Eugene Everard |
| **Principal:** | Louise Tobin |
| **Teachers’ Nominee:** | Anne O’Donovan |
| **Parents’ Nominee:** | Johanna Maher |
| Brian English |
| **Members appointed by the BOM:** | Lorraine Fahey |
| Owen Hogan |

Our B.O.M. meets regularly to discuss and agree issues relating to the school business. A voluntary body, we acknowledge the work of our current B.O.M., on year three of their four year term.

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| **Parent Association** |

Natalya is the current and outgoing chairperson of our Parent Association. The Parent Association consists of a very hard working group of parents who support and promote the workings of the school and the opportunities afforded to our pupils. New appointees to the Parent Association representing some classes will be sought over the next few weeks and we’ll be having our Parent Association AGM and meeting mid- October. More details to follow.

**Parent Association members**

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| Ellen Foley | Natalya Rudrjaseva |
| Paula Kenny | Sue Byrnes |
| Gillian Crosse | Majella O’Connor |
| Andrea O’Dwyer | Carmel Redfern |
| Helen Buckley | Johanna Maher |
| Niamh Toomey | Brian English |
| Sandra Gleeson | Helen Walsh |

**Calendar St. Joseph’s Primary School 2018/19**

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| **2018** |  |
| **August** | **Re-opening Thursday 30th - (half day) closing 12.15p.m.** |
| **October/November** | **Mid-Term. - Closing Friday 26th October**  **Re-opening Monday 5th November** |
| **December** | **Christmas Holidays – closing Friday 21st at 12.15 p.m.** |
| **2019** |  |
| **January** | **Re-opening Monday 7th January** |
| **February** | **Mid – Term - Closed Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd** |
| **March** | **St. Patrick’s weekend closed Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th** |
| **April** | **Easter Holidays- closing Friday 12th at 12.15 p.m.**  **Re-opening Monday 29th** |
| **May / June** | **Closed Monday 6th May**  **Closed Friday 31st May & Monday 3rd June - Bank Holiday weekend**  **Summer Holidays – Closing June 26th at 12.15p.m.** |