



# St. Joseph's Newsletter October 2024



Website: [www.stjosephskilcock.com](http://www.stjosephskilcock.com)

Ph: 6287-628 6757300. 6757301

E-mails: [office@stjosephskilcock.com](mailto:office@stjosephskilcock.com) OR [principal@stjosephskilcock.com](mailto:principal@stjosephskilcock.com)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping well. Tomorrow is non-uniform day and the pupils may dress up for Hallowe'en if they wish. Please ensure costumes are warm and safe. The school will be closed for mid-term from **Oct 28<sup>th</sup>-Nov 1<sup>st</sup>** inclusive. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Hallowe'en break. I look forward to seeing you all back on **November 4<sup>th</sup>**.

Is mise le meas,

Úna O' Kelly

School Principal

## Maths Week





There was great excitement here in St. Joseph's for Maths week. There were lots of fun activities taking place in all of the classrooms, e.g. Maths trails, daily problem solving, Maths board games, STEM activities, Maths art and quizzes. Some of the classes invited parents/guardians in to play Maths games with the children also. All of the boys and girls got involved in the various activities and showed great enthusiasm for Maths throughout the week. As we implement the new maths curriculum this year we encourage maths talk, playful learning in maths and using maths in real life each day. Check out our blog on the school website and the school twitter account to see lots more photos from the week.

### Intel Mini Scientist competition







Well done to Ms. Bracken, Mr McCormack and all the 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils for presenting such wonderful science projects at the Intel mini-scientists presentation to-day. The Intel judges were hugely impressed by all the innovative and creative ideas. It was lovely to see the collaboration and teamwork in each of the group presentations. All the classes were delighted to visit the projects too. Lots more wonderful photos of the science projects will be available to view in the blog section of the school website and on the school twitter account.

### **Team Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal**

St. Joseph's have decided to take part in the Team Hope Christmas shoebox appeal this year. Leaflets were given to pupils to-day. The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign sending gift filled shoeboxes from Ireland to children affected by poverty in countries across Africa and Eastern Europe. If any pupils wish to take part they can bring in their shoeboxes to the school or do a virtual shoebox online. The boxes will be stored at the back of the school hall until they are collected. Last date for collection is November 11<sup>th</sup>. You can visit the team hope website for details.

### **Hallowe'en Safety Talk**

Thank you to Lenny Donlon our community guard for organising a Hallowe'en safety talk Wednesday for classes 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. It was most insightful. The pupils were delighted to get all their Hallowe'en safety questions answered by garda Lenny. We hope now they can all enjoy a safe and happy Hallowe'en.

### **GAA Under 11s boys and girls**



Well done to the GAA U11s boys and girls football teams who put in a stellar performance all season. Well done to the girl's team on a great performance in the semi-final, just narrowly missing out in a place in the final. Thank you to Ms. Farrell, Ms. Durkan and Mr. Hodgkinson for all their hard work with the team. Thank you also to Ger for helping out.

**FAI Soccer U13s boys and girls**





**FAI soccer league U13s:** Well done to Mr. McCormack and our U13s girls and boys soccer team who have put in stellar performances over the last few weeks. Thanks to Máire for helping out also. It has been a great achievement for both teams to make the finals this year. The girls team put in a super performance at their final on Tuesday. We wish the boys the very best of luck in their final to-day.

**3<sup>rd</sup> class Bio diversity talk**



St. Joseph's is delighted to have their green school committee set up and working on our green flag for litter and waste this year. 3<sup>rd</sup> class enjoyed a very interesting talk from bio box recently on encouraging biodiversity in our environment. The green school committee will be in touch at various times during the year with initiatives to help us reduce, reuse and recycle.

#### **Author Visit**

2<sup>nd</sup> classes had a visit from a local author Alma Jordan Wednesday. She spoke to them about her books from the "Hazel Tree Farm" series and the writing process. She also spoke about farm safety which was a theme running through her book. Thanks to Siobhan our local librarian for organising this. We continue to encourage our pupils to join their local library.

#### **Smartphone Pact**

Thanks to the parent's council for promoting the smartphone pact again this year. You can still vote yes or no to this on the Aladdin connect permission link sent to all parents. The parent's council will be in touch after mid-term break with this year's results. St. Joseph's supports this pact and reminds parents that mobile phones are not allowed in the school. In exceptional circumstances, where a pupil walks home on their own and a mobile phone is needed, a permission form must be obtained from the school office.

#### **Dates for your diary**

- Enrolment open on Oct 25<sup>th</sup> for the school year 2025/2026
- School closed for mid-term Oct 28<sup>th</sup>-Nov 1<sup>st</sup> inclusive
- Science Week: Nov 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>
- Parent Teacher Meetings: Nov 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>
- Christmas Fair: December 13<sup>th</sup>

**Don't forget to download our Aladdin Connect App if you haven't already done so to keep up to date with news from school.**

**Don't forget you can also keep up with all our latest news in the blog section of the school website [www.stjosephskilcock.com](http://www.stjosephskilcock.com) and on twitter @sjnskilcock**

**Success for all, a happy school-Learning and Growing together**