



## St Joseph's National School

### Summer Newsletter- June 2023

Another busy year is almost over in St Joseph's and everyone is looking forward to the summer break to have a good rest. Plenty of hard work and fun have been happening over the past few months. There is far too much to include everything but here are some of the highlights of this term.

**Song Tales Faoin Spéir** was a very enjoyable and entertaining Musical experience for the Infant and ASD classes. The children joined in clapping, singing and dancing in the glorious sunshine. Thanks to **Ms Dolan** and Music Generation for organising this brilliant event.

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> classes participated in a series of music sessions with **Gary Brady** this term and loved learning how to play the ukulele. Every class in the school got the chance to take part in lessons this year and all the pupils hope that the **Music Generation Project** will be continued in the next school year.

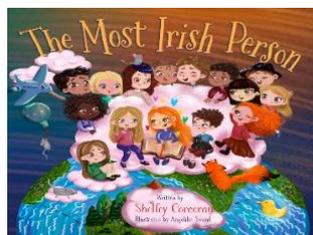


**Infant classes** enjoyed visits to Longford Garda Station, The Fire Station, The Train Station, Longford Library, The Vet, The Shop and St Mel's Cathedral. The pupils are looking forward to their Teddy Bear's Picnic and Sports Day.

**Swimming** Lessons for Infants and First classes took place at Longford Swimming Pool this term. Thank you to all teachers and parents who helped the children on their swim days.

**ASD classes** loved their various outings and sporting activities this term especially Longford Gymnastics Club and Longford Slashers GAA. They would also like to thank **Sr Angela** who came in each week to do Drama. They also enjoyed their cooking and baking each week.

**Author Shelley Corcoran** came to read her book "**The Most Irish Person**" and inspired the children in the **First classes** to complete a project based on India. This was entered into the Cruinniú na nÓg Festival . The children then visited Longford Library to view all the projects completed by various schools throughout the county. Thank you to **Ms Brady, Mr McWeeney, Mr O' Broinn and Ms Rawle** for their help.



**Sports-Hall Athletics** -organised by Longford Sports Partnership in **St Mel's Athletic Arena** in early May was enjoyed by athletes from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes. Both teams won first place on the day. Later in the month the pupils participated in the **African Games-at Tullamore Athletics Outdoor Stadium**. A fantastic day was had by all with St Joseph's girls bringing home many silver and bronze medals. Congratulations to Julie Taitt on receiving a First place trophy. Well done to all involved and a special word of thanks to **Mr Kiernan and Mrs McGee** who trained the girls.

**Confirmation:** Congratulations to the 6<sup>th</sup> Class girls who were confirmed by Fr. James McKiernan in St Mel's Cathedral on 17<sup>th</sup> May. We pray the Holy Spirit will guide the girls and their families throughout their lives. Thank you to their teachers **Ms Dolan, Ms Leen and Ms Shanley** for their continued guidance.

**First Holy Communion:** A beautiful ceremony was celebrated by Fr James on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Well done to all the girls and their teachers **Ms Flanagan and Mrs Kilbane**. Thank you to the beautiful choir under the leadership of **Mrs Kenny and Ms Dolan**. A special word of thanks to **Ms Gannon** for her fantastic work on the First Holy Communion Display Board. Thank you to **Mrs Egan and Mrs Harte** for the party at school.

**Global Citizenship Day-** was a wonderful celebration of the diversity of nationalities and cultures in our school. The pupils wore beautiful traditional costumes and some classes brought food associated with various countries. There was a very colourful display of flags, souvenirs, currency and items of personal interest in the classrooms.

**Well-fest Week 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May-** This was a very successful week co-ordinated by **Mrs Kane** based on Physical Activity, Well being, Mindfulness, Anti- Bullying, Good Citizenship and Caring for the Environment. Visitors were invited to the school to give various workshops based on the above themes. Children enjoyed a variety of activities each day - Mindful Monday, Thankful Tuesday, Well being Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday and Friendly Friday.

Girls from **Ms McKiernan's 4<sup>th</sup>**, **Ms Finan's 5<sup>th</sup>** and **Ms Shanley's 6<sup>th</sup>** classes competed in the **Dream Space Showcase 2023 Do Your Bit Challenge** run in conjunction with Longford County Council and Microsoft Ireland. They participated in the County Exhibition in St Mary's Community Hall, Edgeworthstown on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

St Joseph's won the **Overall Best School Award** and received the **Longford Tech All Star Perpetual Cup**. The girls also won four other group prizes-Best Design as well as Best Prototype of a Tech Solution to a Global Goal , Best Presented Project and Best Climate Action Project. The winning groups went forward to the Dream Space Showcase at Microsoft Headquarters in Dublin on 16<sup>th</sup> June to compete against other schools from around Ireland. The girls presented their projects on Smart Recycling as well as Energy Saving Sound and Light Detection Systems to adjudicators from Microsoft and Trinity College. Once again they were very successful and brought home one of the nine trophies (**Longford Rural Future Champion Trophy**) that were awarded on the day. Congratulations and well done to all involved. A special word of thanks to IT co-ordinator **Ms Shanley** for all her hard work and dedication.

**Green Schools :** The school is working on attaining its sixth Green Flag- Global Citizenship, Litter and Waste. Thank you to **Ms Kearney** for all her work in leading this. A number of workshops were organised with guest speakers working with children in various classes. Children were involved in a "Clean Up" of Longford, New Bins for School Yard, Creative Projects using re-cyclable materials, Gardening, Water based workshops, Caring for birds, Conservation tasks and Enhancing the School Environment. Well done to all involved in this endeavour.

**Student Council** led some of the middle and senior pupils in great work enhancing the school environment. They painted bright flower pots, planted summer plants, set up and filled bird boxes and picked up litter and encouraged others to keep playground tidy.

The highlight for the children each year is their **School Tour**. The following venues were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Infants- Jungle Joes, Mullingar.

ASD and First Classes- Jump for Joy, Athlone.

Second Classes- Rock n Bowl, Mullingar.

Third Classes- Dublin Zoo.

Fourth Classes- Turoe Pet Farm, Galway.

Fifth Classes- Bay Sports, Athlone.

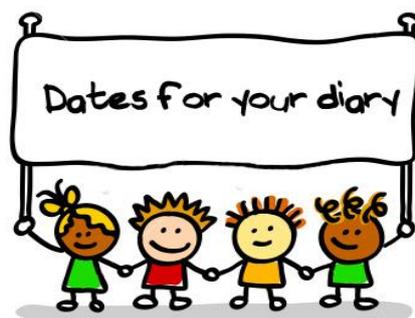
Sixth Classes-Emerald Park, Dublin.

Thank you to all staff who travelled with the pupils and to all those who helped in any way.

**Non Uniform Day for Charity**- Thank you to everyone who supported this event which took place in the school on Friday 9th June. This year we collected **€660**. Monies raised go to Little Steps for Ukraine, Shoe Box appeal and Goal. Sincere gratitude to all involved in organising this event especially **Ms Dolan**.

**Graduation Mass** -We say goodbye to the 6<sup>th</sup> class girls leaving St Joseph's N.S this year and moving on to Secondary School .We wish them all the very best for the next part of their journey in life. The Graduation Ceremony takes place in the School Hall on Tuesday 20th June. The girls are busy preparing Speeches, Songs, Music, Art Displays and Sideshow.

**First Class Boys** visited St Michael's NS last week to be introduced to their new teachers and school. Good luck to all and we wish them well in the future.



**Summer Holidays - School closes half day Friday 23rd June.**

**School re-opens on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August.**

*Wishing everyone a very happy and safe  
Summer Holidays.*