**St Joseph’s National School**

**Milltownpass**

**Co Westmeath**

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*Principal: Mrs. Pauline O’Hara Deputy Principal: Ms. Emer Bermingham*

22/11/’23 **November Newsletter**

**Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal :** A huge thank you to all families who supported the Shoebox Appeal this year. A total of 30 boxes were collected from this school and will be distributed to children less well-off this Christmas.

**Save the Date!**

Our Christmas concert takes place in the Community Centre on Wednesday 20th December at 7pm. More details to follow!

**School Closure**

Reminder: School will be closed on Tuesday 28th November to facilitate staff training for the new Primary Maths Curriculum.

**Christmas Raffle**

Each family has received a Raffle Card for our annual Christmas raffle, which takes place after the Christmas concert on 20th December. All support greatly appreciated.

**Peace Proms**

2nd to 6th Class are busy rehearsing with Ms Bermingham for the upcoming Peace Proms in February. A training workshop takes place on Thursday 7th December in Dublin and a bus has been arranged. This workshop takes place during school hours so children attend school at the usual time.A text will be sent with further details before the workshop. We would ask pupils to pay €5 towards the cost of the bus please.

**Football Blitz**

2nd and 3rd class are looking forward to participating in a Football blitz in Clonkill on Friday Dec 1st. Good luck to all! We would ask pupils to pay €5 towards the cost of the bus please.

**Loreto Musical**

4th, 5th and 6th class have been invited to attend the musical Sister Act presented by the Transition Year students of Loreto Secondary School Mullingar on Thursday 30th November. This performance is being offered free of charge. We would ask pupils to pay €5 towards the cost of the bus please.

**Cash for Clobber**

Don’t forget our Parents Association are organising a Cash for Clobber collection on Monday 27th November. Bags can be dropped to the school Thursday or Friday of this week.

**Christmas Jumper Day!**

Children, get your Christmas jumpers ready for Fri 8th December as this will be a fundraising day for the Parents Association. Donations of €2 would be very welcome.

**Cumann na mBunscol**

We have beaten St Michael’s Castletown Geoghegan recently and we play Clonbonny on Thursday 23rd November. Best of luck to all. Games will resume after Christmas.

**Prayer Service**

We held a lovely Prayer Service last week for the month of November, to remember all family members and friends who have passed away.

**Art and Photocopying Money**

Please check with the office if you are not sure whether you have paid this or not. Thank you.

**Congratulations**

We wish to congratulate and welcome Michelle Lacey who was recently appointed as SNA in our Reach Centre.

**School Self Evaluation**

We are currently in the 3rd cycle of *School Self Evaluation (2023-2026*) in our school. This is a Department of Education led process, which allows school to engage in a collaborative school review with a focus on school improvement in a chosen area. To this end ICT in our school has been prioritised as our focus, in conjunction with the Department of Education’s *Digital Strategy for Schools*. We will distribute questionnaires to pupils/parents/staff to elicit all perspectives. A text with a link to parent questionnaire will issue shortly. Please see attached information sheet on SSE.

Yours sincerely

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Pauline O’Hara

Principal