



# ST JOSEPH'S BOYS' SCHOOL TERENURE



**SEPTEMBER 2008**

**WELCOME BACK!** We extend a big welcome back to everybody and a special welcome to all our new pupils and to Ms. Bernice Byrne and Ms. Phillipa Fitzpatrick who have joined our staff.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the school calendar of closings for the coming year.

### **School Maintenance/Education Cut-backs:**

Extensive school maintenance was carried out during the summer holidays. The floors of classrooms, 6 toilets and the stairwell of the school were refurbished along with painting and redecorating. The boundary wall of the junior yard with the former Sunday World Newspapers was plastered. The total cost of the maintenance work carried out was €33,000.

This work has placed a huge burden on school finances at this time as only €14,676 has been received from the Department of Education and Science. The shortfall in funding from the DES is due to the education cutbacks imposed last January when the DES abolished the Summer Works Programme for schools. Under the Summer Works Scheme the school would have expected to receive €29,700 or 90% of the cost of the maintenance. The first major grant from the DES for the running of the school year 2008 - 2009 will be received in January of 2009 - that is five months into this school year!

The Board of Management is most grateful to the Parents' Association for a cheque for €15,000 received this month to help

meet the costs of the summer maintenance work. Without that support the school accounts would be in debt by October.

***Start of Year Mass:*** Mass to mark the opening of the school year will be held in St. Joseph's Church on **Thursday next 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 p.m.** This is a very special liturgical ceremony for the school and we look forward to meeting you there.



**Holy Communion/Confirmation:** The boys in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class will receive their First Holy Communion on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009** and the boys in 6<sup>th</sup> Class will be confirmed on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.**

***Registering prospective pupils for the school:*** If you have a child for Junior Infants next year (Sept. 2009) who has not been registered, it is important to contact the school immediately. Applications for Junior Infants will be processed in January 2009.

***Parent Teacher Meetings:*** Parent Teacher meetings will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December. The school will close at normal time for infant classes (1.30 p.m.) and 2.15 p.m. for all other classes.

**School Website** [www.stjosephsterenure.ie](http://www.stjosephsterenure.ie)

Our school website contains information for parents, examples of children's work, details of school activities, achievements and much more. Keep in touch with the various activities within our school by browsing the site periodically.

**Note:** All pupils are entitled to avail of discounted Microsoft software from [www.software4students.ie](http://www.software4students.ie). This includes Microsoft Office 2007 Professional for €84 and upgrades for your operating system. This is very good value compared to normal retail price.

## *Extra Curricular Activities*

**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class Football League:** The football league will commence on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September in the VEC Grounds, Templeogue Road. The games will run on Wednesdays up to and including October 8<sup>th</sup>. Please collect children from the grounds at 3.45 p.m.

**Senior & Junior Football Teams:** Two senior (Under 13) teams have been entered in Cumann na mBunscol leagues. The first team had a great victory over Hollypark in their first game and the second team will play their first match on Monday against Knocklyon. Training will usually take place from 3-4pm on Mondays in Bushy Park and matches will usually take place on Thursdays.

**Junior football** training will be on Mondays and Thursdays in Bushy Park. Games usually take place on Tuesdays. **Parents should note that boys are not supervised by a teacher on the way to Bushy Park.** Our thanks to those who provide support and transport to the matches.

**Temploogue/Synge Street Gaelic Football Club:** Football nursery/teams resume for all boys/girls age 6 upwards in Bushy Park on Saturday mornings at 10.30 a.m. For more details contact Ciaran Deeley at 0876207280



**Faughs Hurling Club** (beside the Spawell) provide coaching and training from Senior Infants upwards. For more details contact Sean Crowley 0879493599.

**Swimming** will recommence on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> in Terenure College. Mr. Hallinan will issue further details.

**Spanish classes** will take place on Wednesdays from 2.35pm to 3.15pm in Room 12 commencing on October 15<sup>th</sup> and will run to May 2009. Price €50 for 25 lessons. Contact Mr. Ring.

**French Classes** for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class will commence on the week starting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Contact Mr. O'Flynn.

**Recorder Classes** will commence in October. Contact Ms. O'Riordan

**Art and Craft:** Ms. Larmer and Ms. Harte will run art classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays commencing early October. More details will follow.

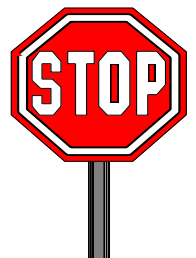
**Keyboard/Guitar/Voice Training** - Mr. Holt runs classes in the school on Saturday mornings. He can be contacted at 0876267477

### ***School Insurance:***

The Board of Management is concerned in relation to its duty of care to the large number of pupils who come into the school premises before the official starting time of 8.50 a.m. The school insurance applies to pupils within school hours and during teacher supervised activities outside of school hours. The Board cannot accept responsibility for pupils arriving before 8.50 a.m. A similar situation arises in relation to caring for pupils after school hours. The Board does not accept responsibility for pupils who await collection after 2.30 p.m. A premium of €6.00 for personal accident insurance has been included in the school expenses which should be paid directly to the class teacher. This insurance applies to pupils on a 24 hour basis.

### **Traffic Arrangements:**

Parents are requested to note the importance of observing the following traffic arrangements:



- (i) Parents are requested not to drive to the school building entrance i.e. the area inside the yellow barrier and between the church and school buildings.
- (ii) The Church gates at the Rathfarnham entrance are closed from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. (with the exception of wet mornings when children are not out in the yard).
- (iii) The gates at the church railings are permanently closed.
- (iv) **Collecting children at 1.30 p.m.**  
Cars are not allowed into the main churchyard at 1.30 p.m. This is to facilitate PE classes. The car-park from Terenure Road East is open from 1.00 p.m. each day and should be used.
- (v) **Collecting children at 2.30 p.m.**  
The gates at Beechlawn Way are open at 2.20 p.m. Access to main church yard will be from Beechlawn Way only. **Traffic may only enter or leave the main church yard from Beechlawn Way.**

***School Attendance and the Education Welfare Act 2000:***

Parents are advised of the following requirements regarding school attendance under the Education Welfare Act. Section 21 of the Act obliges the Principal of the school to maintain a record of:

- (i) all pupil absence for each school year and***
- (ii) the reasons for each absence.***

The school Principal is obliged to notify the school's Education Welfare Officer when a pupil is absent for twenty or more school days and when a pupil is not attending school regularly. In order to implement these requirements the Board of Management has decided that when a pupil returns to school following absence, the class teacher should be informed in writing of the reasons for the absence. The school is obliged to keep the written records which may be inspected by the school's Education Welfare Officer.

**School Uniform:** Thank you to all parents for your co-operation in implementing the school policy on school uniform. It is still important to remind some of our pupils that they are requested to wear a plain white tee-shirt - logo free - with their track-suit on PE days. **It is important for the boys to have an identity mark on items of clothing such as tracksuit top and bottom, sweater, tie and coat.** Items of clothing continue to accumulate in the school lost property.

**Mobile Phones:** Children with mobile phones must have them switched off during school hours. Mobile phones with photographic or recording capability may not be used in any way which will offend the privacy of any school individual and/or be damaging to the reputation of the school.

**Dogs:** Parents are advised that dogs should not be taken into the school premises. It is not our intention to be unfriendly to our canine friends but the Board of Management is concerned that an accident could arise if a dog became upset or stressed for any reason while in the school or classroom.

**Scooters/Skateboards:** Scooters and skateboards are not allowed in the school.

**School Lunches:** In providing lunch for your children we urge you to consider its nutritional value. The development of good food habits in a child will help to eliminate weight and health problems in later life. It is requested that you do not include sweets, biscuits, chocolate or fizzy drinks in their lunch packs. **CHEWING GUM AND CRISPS ARE PROHIBITED IN THE SCHOOL.**



**The Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Association will take place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September in the School Hall at 8.00 p.m.**

