



ST JOSEPH'S BOYS' SCHOOL  
TERENURE

SEPTEMBER 2009



**WELCOME BACK!** We extend a big welcome back to everybody and a special welcome to all our new pupils and to Ms. Mary Keane resource teacher whom we share with Sandford Parish National school in Ranelagh.

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

**Important Closures:** Please note the school will be closed on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October** for School Development Planning and **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** for the Lisbon Referendum.

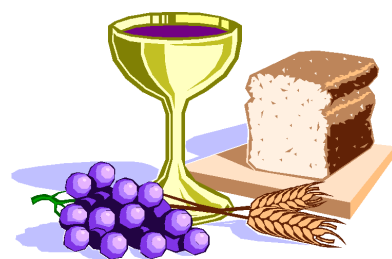
***School Maintenance Programme:*** School maintenance, as part of the Summer Works Programme was carried out during the summer holidays with the renovation of 13 classroom toilets. The total cost of restoration was €33,000. Fortunately the school received government support from the Department of Education and Science for €28,681. We do not know yet if this scheme will continue due to education cutbacks.

***Education Cutbacks:*** The change announced in the staffing schedule for primary schools has resulted in our school losing the services of Ms. Maher in learning support mathematics and choir. Ms. Maher along with Mr. Donnelly also provided class teaching cover when a teacher was absent without substitute cover. This school year will more than likely see boys being placed in other classes in the event of a teacher being absent.

This arrangement has not occurred in the school in over 28 years. What the future holds in cutbacks for primary education is anyone's guess but a cursory glance at the "McCarthy Report" is depressing. It suggests a further increase in class size, a reduction in the number of special needs assistants to primary schools and a further reduction in the number of English language support teachers. A cut of 20% in the capitation grant to schools is also recommended i.e. 10% in 2010 and a further 10% in 2011.

**Swine Flu.** It is important that we do not become complacent in our attempts to prevent the spread of swine flu. It is most important that all of us stress the importance of practising proper hygiene routines.

**Academic Year Mass:** Mass to mark the opening of the school year will be held in St. Joseph's Church on **Tuesday 29<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 8<sup>th</sup> May.** We have not yet been informed of a date for Confirmation.

**Registering prospective pupils for the school:** If you have a child for Junior Infants next year (Sept. 2010) who has not been registered, it is important to contact the school immediately. Applications for Junior Infants will be processed in January 2010.

**Parent Teacher Meetings:** Parent Teacher meetings will take place on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</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 Photographs:** Ms. Townsend, School Photographer will be visiting the school on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October to photograph the boys. More details will follow.

**Charity:** We are having a "Colours Day" on Friday in support of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a non-denominational charity dedicated to eliminating poverty worldwide. [www.habitatireland.ie](http://www.habitatireland.ie). The boys can wear the colours of their favourite county or teams and are requested to donate €2 for the Habitat fund.

**The Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Association** will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September in the School Hall at 8.00 p.m. The election of two parent representatives to the Board of Management (one father and one mother) will take place immediately after this meeting.



**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class Football League:** The football league commenced on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September in the VEC Grounds, Templeogue Road. The games will run on Thursdays up to and including October 8<sup>th</sup>. Please collect children from the grounds at 3.45 p.m.

***Junior/Senior Football Teams:*** Junior Football teams will train on Mondays and Thursdays in Bushy Park and matches will take place on Tuesdays.

Senior Football teams will train on Mondays and matches on Thursdays.

**Parents should note that boys (both junior and senior teams) are not supervised by a teacher on the way to Bushy Park and should be collected at 4.00 p.m.**

***Templeogue/Synge Street Gaelic Football Club:*** Football 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.

***ICT:*** Accelerated Reader has been introduced to all classes from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> in September. All pupils have now been tested to assess the level of book that would be most appropriate to their reading age. A selection of books will be recommended for each pupil to match his reading level. Each boy has access to a website that will monitor his reading progress, offer quizzes based on the books he has read and offer incentives to motivate further reading. Certain aspects of this facility may be accessed from home. The aim is to inspire a love of reading in all pupils, develop self-directed readers and encourage reluctant readers. It also ensures that each pupil is reading books that are suited to him. We have also introduced a computerised checking system for the library within each class.

Each boy has his own library card, a facility to write book reviews and a record of borrowing history.

Parents may access the secure part of the school website at [www.stjosephsterenure.ie/parents](http://www.stjosephsterenure.ie/parents). The username is 'parents' and the password is 'dublin6'. As the content of this part of the website is specific to St. Joseph's school community we would ask that the username and password would not be broadcast outside of this.

We are participating in a multilateral Comenius project called 'Making Europe Greener' with schools in the UK and Spain over the next two years. This will involve children and teachers from the partnership schools looking at issues of environment, sustainability, community and health and well being and how these issues will affect our future lives. The project will involve the use of modern technologies, an interactive web-site and the production shared materials.

Later this term we hope to offer 'information evenings' for parents on the use of our Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) and Accelerated Reader.

***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.

***After School classes*** will commence in October. Details of the following classes will issue in the next two weeks.

***Swimming*** will recommence on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September in Terenure College. (Mr. Hallinan)

***Spanish classes*** (Mr. Ring)

***French Classes*** for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class (Mr. O'Flynn)

***Recorder Classes*** Beginners from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class upwards. (Ms. O'Riordan).

***Speech & Drama*** (Ms. Moloney -Infants) (Ms. Hogan/Ms. Rooney for 1<sup>st</sup> Class upwards)

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

***Art & Craft.*** Ms. Larmer/Ms. Harte

***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:*** Once again 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 at 8.00 a.m. to 2.15 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 2.15 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.** A large amount of lost property has accumulated in the school and will be on display in the general purpose room on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September.** Unclaimed items will be given to charity.

**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.

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

**Dogs:** Parents are advised that dogs should not be taken into the school premises.

**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.

