

Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS, Johnstown.



NEWSLETTER

23rd October 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our October Newsletter. This month has been busy, full of Autumn changes and events. We would like to thank you all, for your co-operation with the wearing of the school uniform. As the weather becomes colder, we remind the children to wear their coat and or raincoat to school.

Halloween Cake Sale

Our annual Halloween Cake Sale will take place on Friday 27th of October 2023. The funds raised from the cake sale provide the funds necessary to run the Christmas Fair, which will take place on the 2nd of December 2023. Thursday homework will be baking. We encourage all families to bake and bring cakes. The cake sale is open to the children of the school during the school day.



Halloween Dress Up Day

Next Friday we will have Halloween Dress Up day, the children can dress up for the last day of the term.

Enrolment for Junior Infants 2024

*** Please note that applications for new Junior Infants starting in September 2024, will close on November 6th 2023. Please see the website for details and the application form.

www.johnstowngns.com



Beginning of Year Mass.

We had a lovely celebration in the church with Fr.Murney, for the beginning of the school year. He told the children about the Story of St Francis of Assisi to help the children to understand the importance of looking after the environment. We also discussed this at our school assemblies. We are as always, very grateful to Fr. Murney and Fr.John for their support of our school.



Looking at our Policies

Our Child Safeguarding Statement is available on our website, alongside our other policies.

Please note the following:

- The Designated Liaison Person is Lisa Breen and the deputy designated liaison person is Julie Cluskey. You can contact Lisa if you have any concerns of this nature and Julie in her absence.
- All teachers are deemed to be mandated people under the Children First Act. *A mandated person is legally obliged to report any child protection concerns to Tusla.
- Our Statement also contains a risk assessment and procedures that the school takes to address risks identified.

On-Going: School Self Evaluation

We are currently looking at Wellbeing in our school community and all staff had a training session at our last staff meeting. More details will follow during the year.



New Mathematics Curriculum

The Department launched the new primary mathematics curriculum in September. This year is Phase one and the training for this has begun. All details are available in the circular, (see link). We will keep you updated during the phases.

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/269558/cebcc1de-7408-4b4c-aa92-e2afef429629.pdf#page=null>

Maths Week

Last week, was Maths Week . The children took part in many different maths activities including using their 'maths eyes', a jelly bean estimation competition and a 'principals challenge' !! Many thanks to Mrs.Walker for her work on this.



Environmental Awareness in the School



Green School Update (Global Citizenship, Travel)

We had a visit from Jennifer Muscheidt of An Taisce for our Green School Flag (Global Citizenship - Travel). She did a 'walkability audit' in advance of Walk to School Week. Many thanks to Mrs. T. Walsh and the Green School Committee for all their work on this. We would urge parents and children to continue to walk, cycle, scoot or take the bus to school when possible. More updates will follow during the year.

National Tree Day

The Children celebrated Tree Day on 5th October in our school. We planted a hazel tree in our woodland garden. This tree was given to us by the Tree Council of Ireland to celebrate Irish trees.



Headlice

We note an increase in cases of headlice in all classes. To curb the spread, it is vital that children's hairs are checked with a fine comb at least weekly and treated if necessary.



We ask that you are all vigilant with this.

Artists of the Year



Congratulations to our Artists of the Year:
Alexandra Flynn, Keira Zhao & Etta Flanagan.

Sponsored Walk

Thank you and your families for your support of our Sponsored walk. We are very grateful for your generosity in helping us to raise €8,000. This money will go towards IT and Sports equipment in the school.



Many thanks to you all for your continued support and collaboration.

Kind Regards,

Lisa Breen & the Johnstown G.N.T Team

