

Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS

NEWSLETTER

JOHNSTOWN

June 30 2023



Dear parents,

We are at the end of another wonderful school year, full of activity and fun. As always, this newsletter includes news updates, important notes and dates for your diaries.

New Free Schoolbooks Scheme



Funding was recently announced to provide free schoolbooks, including workbooks and copybooks, from September 2023. This scheme will eliminate the cost to parents of providing these resources and they will be available for children in Johnstown when they start back to school. There are a small number of stationery items that parents will be required to purchase. Details of these are now on the school website

www.johnstowngns.com

School Uniform Change

After a consultation process with staff, parents and students we are making a number of changes to our school uniform policy. These changes are effective from the start of the new school year on August 30th, 2023.

- Navy trousers are now being offered as an alternative option to the school kilt.
- Sixth Class (only) will be allowed a navy leggings option.
- If shorts are worn, these should be navy and of a particular style.

Please see our website for further detail.



Welcome New Junior Infants



We were delighted to welcome our new Junior Infant parents to the school on June 19th. Our 6th Class girls did a great job of bringing the new parents on a tour of the school, where they got a flavour of school life here in Johnstown.

Our incoming Junior Infants came in to meet with their teachers last week. All apprehension and nerves were soon forgotten as they explored their new classrooms and chatted with their new teachers.

SIXTH CLASS Graduation

On Tuesday the 27th June we celebrated our 6th Class graduation. We started with a ceremony in the church for the school and the parents. Following the ceremony, the rest of the school made a lovely guard of honour to wave our 6th class girls farewell. This was followed by a reception in the staffroom and the school garden. We also celebrated graduation in The Meadow on Wednesday 28th June which was followed by a lovely party for our Meadow students and their families. We wish all of children well as they begin the next step on their journey. In the words of their chosen 6th class motto: 'Shine Bright like a Diamond'.



Junior & Senior Sports Days



We held our school sports days on June 21st and 22nd. We were fortunate to have glorious sunshine on both days. The girls had the opportunity to try a wide range of sports and novelty activities. They also had great fun on the bouncy castle.



Focus Ireland Picnic



Well done to our Fifth Classes and their teachers and SNAs for organising a whole school picnic in aid of Focus Ireland. It took place on June 26th and was enjoyed by all.



Artists of the Year Competition 2023

Congratulations to the recent winners of our Artists of the Year Competition.

Senior winner: *Etta Flanagan*

Snr. Runner up: *Alexandra Flynn*

Junior winner: *Clodagh Deasy*

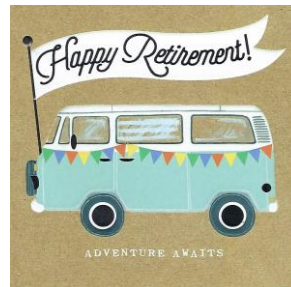
Jnr. Runner up: *Keira Zhao*



Staff Retirement



Our SNA Fiona Behan retires today after 19 years in the school. We wish to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the children over the years. We know she has great plans to enjoy this new stage in her life and we wish her a happy retirement!



Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Safeguarding Statement has been updated and is available to read along with our other school policies on our website. www.JohnstownGNS.com

On-Going: School Self Evaluation

All schools must engage in self-evaluation, these evaluations run in four-year cycles. Due to the disruption caused by Covid, this year is a year of review and reflection, with a focus on Well-being of the whole school community.

As part of our school improvement plan for well-being, the Homework Committee, comprising of both children and staff, are working on a policy review. The school uniform consultation has been completed.

School Calendar 2023-24

Please see our website also for the 2023-24 school calendar.

Free Used School Uniform Event 2023

The uniform swap took place this week. There are some uniforms (both boys and girls) remaining. Please contact the Parents Association for details of what's available.

**New Start and Finish Times for next School Year

Revised start and finish times:

JUNIOR CLASSES (Junior & Senior Infants): 8.40 start; 13.20 finish

JUNIOR CLASSES (First Class & Second Class): 8.40 start; 14.20 finish

SENIOR CLASSES (Third Class - Sixth Class inclusive): 8.50 start 14.30 finish.

Please note both Junior Infants and First Class will have earlier finishing times for the first few days. Details will be communicated on Aladdin.

I hope you all have a lovely Summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on August 30th. Many thanks to you all for your support and collaboration throughout the year.

Kind Regards,

Lisa Breen

