

Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS, Johnstown.



NEWSLETTER

September 20, 2023

Dear parents,

Welcome back everyone! We would particularly like to extend a special welcome to our new students who have all settled in very well. Also, to our new Junior Infants who have already found their feet in 'Big School'!

Results of our Curriculum Inspection in English



As previously communicated, we received a Curriculum Inspection in English in May this year and recently received the results. We are very pleased with the comments from the Inspectorate. They were very positive about the quality of learning, effectiveness of teacher's practice and the engagement of our pupils. The report will be published and available for review in the next few weeks on our website.



**An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna**
Department of
Education and Skills



Parents Association AGM - September 27th

This meeting will take place on **Wednesday the 27th of September at 7.30 p.m.** We have some very interesting and relevant content and encourage as many parents as possible to attend.

If you are in a position to take on a formal role in our Parents Association we would urge you to do so. It is a great way to get involved in your child's school and also to meet with other parents.



As part of the meeting there will be an important talk on Well-being from Stuart Wilson, behaviour psychologist.

<https://zestlife.ie/meet-the-team/> This talk is in conjunction with our new voluntary code for no smart devices. (Please see below for further details.)



In addition, Brendan Robinson from www.thelunchbag.ie will talk about The Lunch Bag. It provides healthy lunches and both schools plan to trial it after October mid-term.



No Smart Devices - Voluntary Code



With your co-operation, we intend to implement this code in both the girls' and boys' schools. As you probably know, this code has already been implemented in other schools in area, and many other schools in the country. There is much evidence to suggest that children are happier and safer without smart devices. We hope to encourage children, with the support of their parents, to refrain from using these devices until they are teenagers. Our hope is to adopt this code, following discussion with parents at the upcoming Parents' Association AGM. We thank you in advance for your support for this important initiative.



Sports Update



- Many classes got to sample cricket last week with a Cricket Ireland coach. They had a lot of fun and enjoyed trying something new.
- Starting from last Thursday, we are participating in a weekly GAA blitz, run by CUALA GAA club.
- GAA training for the Junior end of the school will start soon.
- We are delighted that Junior Infants to 1st Class have the opportunity to enjoy gymnastics, led by experienced coaches from Trojan Gymnastics.
- Basketball has started for 3rd & 4th classes with Ed Randolph.

Environmental Awareness

At assembly this week and at Mass in the church on Thursday, September 21st, we are celebrating the wonders of our world and how the children can protect the world for the future. We hope the children will discuss this at home with you.

Uniforms

Thank you to all of you for your support in ensuring all pupils are wearing the correct uniform. We are delighted to see a huge level of co-operation with this.



Vaccination Day - Supporting your children's health



On Tuesday, October 17th, 2023, both the Girls' and Boys' Schools will host a flu vaccination program. This will be available to all students, but will of course be optional. Permissions will be obtained from parents in advance. Further details will follow via Aladdin.

Friendship Week

Next week is Well-being & Friendship Week.

As part of this week we have a Sponsored Walk and whole-school picnic on Friday, September 28th. The funds raised from the Sponsored Walk provide us with vital funds to support IT and sport in the school. Thanks to your generosity last year, we were able to buy three Promethean Activ Panels for the school.

More details of the activities during this week will follow.



Enrolment for Junior Infants 2024

New Junior Infant enrolment for September 2023, will be activated on October 3rd, 2023. Please see our website, www.johnstowngns.ie for details and a link to our application form.

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.

School Policies including our Child Safeguarding Statement

At our September board meeting, several policies were ratified. These included our Child Safeguarding Statement, Anti-bullying policy and Code of Behaviour Policy. All our current policies are available on our school website, www.johnstowngns.com

School Calendar 2023-24

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

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

Kind Regards,

Lisa Breen & the Johnstown GNS Team

