

Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS

NEWSLETTER

JOHNSTOWN

May 5 2023



Dear parents,

Welcome to our newsletter. It includes our latest news from around the school, together with important dates for your diaries.

New Free Schoolbooks Scheme

As you are no doubt aware, the Government recently announced a new free schoolbooks scheme for Primary Schools. Funded by the Department of Education & Skills, the school must organise the buying of all books, workbooks and copies for the students. This will commence from this coming academic year, 2023-24. More details will follow.



Promethean Boards Update



Last week we had a training session for all teaching staff on the Promethean Boards. The staff now have more tricks and tips for using these Boards, which have transformed our classrooms. The remaining boards will be installed shortly in the Junior Infant classrooms this week to complete this whole school digital upgrade project.



Gay's Retirement Celebration

We celebrated the retirement of Gabrielle Byrne, our much-loved school secretary on April 21st. Each class created a personal entry for a Memory Book for her. We had a very moving whole school Assembly on her last afternoon.



Sacrament of Communion



The First Communion Ceremony will take place on **Saturday, May 13th**. We wish the 2nd Class students and their families well on this special occasion.

Thanks to Fr. John who is helping to prepare the students and will officiate the ceremonies on the day, assisted by Fr. Murney.

Also, thanks in advance to the Parents Association for providing refreshments on the day.

We would ask that all 1st Class students provide the cakes for the Communion Day

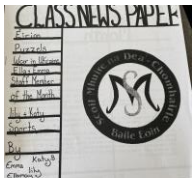


Meadow Chicks



In recent weeks there has been huge excitement both in The Meadow and the Mainstream School with the hatching of new baby chicks. The eggs were watched with much anticipation by all of the children in The Meadow. The whole school went to visit the cute new arrivals.

6th Class Newspaper



Some of the 6th Class girls have published their own class newspaper. It included interviews, games and poetry. We look forward to the next edition.

Sports Update



- We are delighted that Irish Dancing will continue for the Junior Classes this term.
- Johnstown took part in the FAI 5 a side Dublin County Finals in Blanchardstown on the 4th of May. The team were unlucky not to reach the semi-finals, winning a game, drawing a game and losing a game.
- Senior infants and 1st class are also involved in a soccer blitz this month in St Joseph's FC.
- Jenni McGuirk from Cabinteely United has also been coaching girls from senior infants all the way up to 3rd class.
- The school investment in table tennis is bearing fruit with the girls in the school playing regularly in the halla.
- Also, this month, 5th and 6th classes will take part in a rugby blitz in St Laurence's College week commencing the 8th of May.
- There will also be 4 weeks of hockey classes, run by an external coach.



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.

A consultation process with the Parents Association and Board of Management, has begun regarding the school uniform.

Child Safeguarding Statement

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

School Calendar 2023-24

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

Free Used School Uniform Event 2023

This popular event, run by the Parents Association, will return this year. You are invited to donate any outgrown uniform items in advance of this event. It is a great opportunity to pick up a free uniform.

School Closure on June 1st (half day) & 2nd (full day).

Due to mandatory staff curriculum training, the school will be closed for all pupils from 12 noon on June 1st and all day on June 2nd.

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

Kind Regards,

Lisa Breen

