

# Summer Newsletter 2026

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## Farewell to Our 6th Class

Today, we bid farewell to our wonderful 6th Class as they embark on an exciting new chapter in their lives. We wish **Kyrylo Hniti, Jamie McCormack, Sarah Healy, Charlie Doyle, Maksym Moroz, MJ Deane, Jake Moore, Danny Nolan, Aoibhinn Scahill, Harry Kennedy, Emma Kenny, Amber Lewis, and Donnacha Gleeson** every success and happiness as they begin their journey in secondary school. They will be greatly missed. This remarkable group of students were loved by all and they have made us incredibly proud. We had a Graduation Mass last week and pupils, staff, and families reflected on many happy memories. Thankfully, the emotional moments were followed by plenty of laughter, with an epic water fight afterwards! A sincere thank you to Ms. Lillis for organising the graduation ceremony, memory book, and hoodies, and to Ms. O'Dowd for the special blessing. We are also very grateful to our Parents Association for providing the delicious treats. We wish our graduating class every success in the years ahead. Remember, you will always be part of our school family!



**Confirmation** – Congratulations to all the 6<sup>th</sup> Class who made their Confirmation in May.



**School Tours** - Last week pupils from Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class went Castlecomer Discovery Park in Kilkenny. Lots of fun was had in the woods partaking in orienteering and team challenges. Pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class went to Lillyput Adventure Centre in Co. Westmeath where the highlight of the day for many was a mud trail - there was mud everywhere and it seemed the more mud there was the more our pupils enjoyed it! Thanks to our Board of Management who subsidised the cost of the buses.

**First Communion** - Well done to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class pupils who made their First Communion on 21<sup>st</sup> May. Thanks to Ms. Byrne who treble jobbed it as a photographer, parent and prepared her class for the Sacrament. Well done Maria Gonzaga Faria, Billy Moore, Leah Jordan, Caragh Doughan, Allyanna O'Sullivan, Teagan Greene, Oliver Chadwick, Cormac Brennan, Oisín Kennedy, Jack Hayes, Laoise Greene and Anna Grace O'Mahony.



**New Infants** - We were delighted to welcome 10 new Infants to our open evening in May. Thanks to our excellent tour guides from 6<sup>th</sup> Class for showing everyone around & Ms. Hilmi and Lucy for welcoming them. Thanks to the PA who provided goody bags.

**Yoga, Tennis, Hurling & Bowling** - Monday mornings this term started each week positively with Yoga facilitated by Siobhán O'Leary. Dermot Shiels completed his 4 weeks of tennis lessons last week. Andy Hoolan completed 3 months of hurling coaching & thanks Denis Dwyer for the after-school coaching. Well done to the U11 & U13 teams in your Cumann na mBunscoil matches this term. Our school summer hurling league finals were played off during Sports Day. Thanks Mr. Egan & Mr. Phelan for the lunch time coaching All our pupils really enjoyed our rounders coaching in recent weeks with Michael Sheahan from Limerick.

**Congratulations** to Mr. Phelan on becoming a father for the first time and the birth of his new baby Beth in June.

**Fundraising** - Thanks to everyone who supported our recent fund raising ventures. A very enjoyable evening was had at the recent BINGO evening. You will see a breakdown of the total phenomenal fundraising this year in the Board of Management Report. Thanks to everyone who supported our book fair, with consultation with our pupils we will purchase €1,000 of new novel sets for next year.

Many Thanks to Ms. O'Dowd and her budding gardeners who have been busy this term planting herbs, flowers, berries, peas, potatoes pumpkins, lettuce and radishes. Thanks also to the Hayes Family for donating two new raised beds to the school. Last week our pupils enjoyed a visit to **Moneygall Community Garden**. They were welcomed there by Andy Larkin, Carmel Quinlan and Pamela Ball and got to sample some garden produce - I believe there is not a strawberry left after our visit!

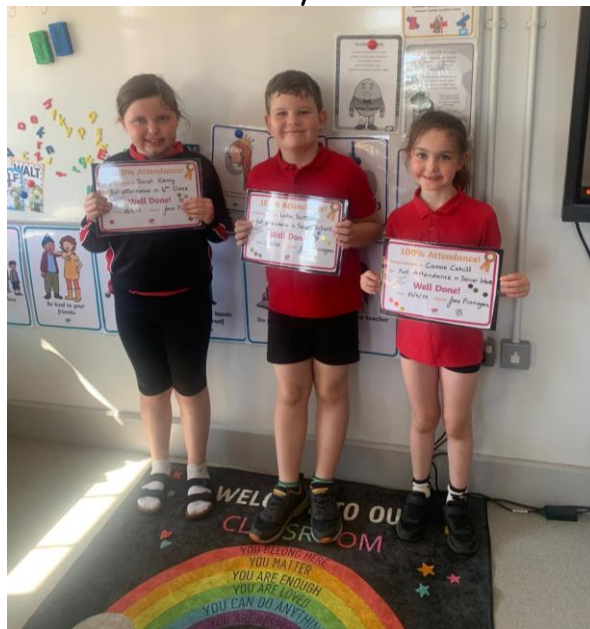


The **free book scheme** continues again this year. The school will be providing pupils with schoolbooks in September. You will still need to get your child stationary (schoolbag, pencils, pens, colours, folders, rubbers, toppers, glue sticks etc).

**Fitness Award** - In May Offaly Sports Partnership came in and tested every pupil in our school for fitness against a National Standard and our 6<sup>th</sup> Class boys were recognised as the fastest class in Offaly out of 40 schools. Individual awards went to Bronagh Murray (the fastest 1<sup>st</sup> Class girl in Offaly) and Amber Lewis (the fastest 6<sup>th</sup> Class girl in Offaly). Well done, what an achievement.



**Full Attendance 2025/2026** - Congratulations to Cassie Cahill & Luke Sutton (Senior Infants), and Sarah Kenny (4<sup>th</sup> Class) who achieved full school attendance this year.



**HAVE A LOVELY SUMMER BREAK!**

*From everyone at St. Joseph's National School, Moneygall.*

22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2026