**St Joseph’s National School**

**Milltownpass**

**Co Westmeath**

Roll No: 16304J Phone/Fax No: 044 9222512

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*Principal: Mrs. Pauline O’Hara Deputy Principal: Ms. Emer Bermingham*

**20/4/’23 April Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Guardians, thank you for taking the time to read the following information for April

TENNIS LESSONS

Tennis lessons begin for all pupils on **Tuesday 9th May** and will run for 6 weeks in total, finishing on Tuesday 6th June. The cost per child is €12 and money can be sent to the office in an envelope please with your child’s name. Some pupils have swimming money which can be used towards Tennis Lessons. Please contact the school office to check.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

* School will be closed for pupils on ***Tuesday 2nd May*** to facilitate further staff training for the Primary Language Curriculum.
* The Department of Education has launched the *Primary Curriculum Framework* and schools have been provided with a half day closure to facilitate whole-school review of the *Framework.* ***Friday 9th June*** has been allocated as a **half day closure** to facilitate this review and school will close for pupils at **12 pm**.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

We extend a huge thanks to Milltownpass Tidy Towns committee for their work on our outdoor classroom and polytunnel. Work is progressing very well and we hope to have it completed by May.

CYCLE RACK

Following an application to Green-Schools Travel for free cycle parking we are delighted to announce that our school has been accepted to receive a free 10-space cycle parking rack and shelter from Green-Schools. Thank you to Ms Bermingham for organising this. We hope that installation will take place over the summer.

STANDARDISED TESTS

Please note standardised tests will take place during the week of **15th to 19th May** for 1st-6th classes**.** Please ensure your child is in attendance for these important tests.

SCHOOL TOURS

**Junior School Tour** ( Infants,1st,2nd and Reach Centre) takes place on **Thursday 22nd** **June** to *Tearaways Pet Farm and Activity Centre, Roscrea*. Cost per child is **€10**

**Senior School Tour** ( 3rd,4th,5th,6th and Reach Centre) takes place on **Wednesday 31st May** to *Birr Adventure Centre*. Cost per child is **€25**.

Money for tours can be sent to school in an envelope with your child’s name please.

Further details on bus departure and return times/lunches etc will be issued closer to the time.

CUMANN NS MBUNSCOL

Our Cumann na mBunscol team are in a playoff on Wednesday 3rd May against Coole and Ballynacarrigy. The winners of this will progress to the semi-finals later in the month. Best of luck to all involved.

SCHOOLBOOKS GRANT

This year we see the launch of the free schoolbooks scheme for all primary school students. It will run in a similar way to our previously successful Book Rental scheme. Further details will follow. Please see the *Information for parents/guardians* attached.

Yours sincerely

Pauline O’Hara

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Principal