

St Joseph's National School

Milltownpass Co Westmeath

Roll No: 16304J

Registered Charity Number: 20137168

Principal: Ms. Emer Bermingham

Phone/Fax No:044 9222512

Mobile:087 1131259

Email: milltownpassns@gmail.com

Deputy Principal: Ms. Emma Martin

10/11/2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

After a very successful first half term, we have a busy few weeks ahead.

Child Protection Training Day: All staff will attend training on this day in Athlone Education Centre on this Thursday, November 13th. There will be **no school** for students on this day.

Parent-Teacher Meetings: PT meetings will be held on the week of 17th November. Your child's teacher will share your time with you directly. If you cannot attend or need to reschedule please let them know as soon as possible. PT meetings are an opportunity to discuss your child's progress. Meetings are scheduled every 10 minutes. Please be mindful of this.

SNA review to allocation: I am delighted to say that our recent application for extra SNA hours has been granted. We have been increased by half a full time post.

Hot food Preparation job: As we prepare to serve hot lunches to the students, we have been asked by our food company to look for a food operative locally. If anyone is or knows someone who may be interested, please contact the office and we will pass the details on. Please note, the school does not hire the food operative.

Christmas Carol Service: We will begin preparations next week for a special school gathering on *Monday December 15th at 7pm in Milltownpass Church*. We look forward to sharing some festive joy with everyone on the night. Finer details to follow.

Christmas raffle: Cards will be distributed to each family for our annual Christmas raffle which takes place on December 15th.

Local links: We are so lucky to have strong links with our community groups. Huge thanks to **Milltownpass GAA** who made a generous donation of training footballs, slalom poles, beanbags, hoola hoops and other sports equipment to boost our supplies and promote health and wellbeing amongst our students.

Congratulations to **Milltownpass Tidy Towns** who represented Westmeath in this year's IPB Pride of Place Awards. They have been working closely with us to provide engaging support, talks from Birdwatch Ireland, Paddy Madden and Ross Cochrane and materials as we work towards our Green Flag for biodiversity. Each family received a very generous gift

of a bird feeder last Friday and are invited to return their bird watch charts before Friday 21st to be in with a chance to win a prize

GAA coaching has commenced for all classes from Junior infants to third class

School Blog: Please keep an eye on our school blog for photos of school activities and Board of Management Agreed reports. www.milltownpassns.com

Punctuality School starts at 9.10a.m. every morning. Children arriving after 9.10a.m. are late. School finishes at 1.50p.m. for Junior and Senior infants. All other classes from 1st to 6th finish at 2.50 p.m. Please remember to share these times with anyone who may be assisting with drop offs or pick ups.

Children who arrive on the school premises before 9 a.m. are not supervised by school staff and remain the responsibility of their parents. This is in accordance with our School Insurance policy with Allianz insurance which states the following;

“The school will open to receive pupils at 9.10 am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before this time. Classes end each day at 1.50pm for Junior and Senior Infants and 2.50pm for all other classes. Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school gate no later than 1.50 pm for Infants and 2.50pm for all other classes as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after children after that time”. Allianz Insurance

Parent’s Association Fundraisers:

Toy sale: The PA are also hosting a toy sale in the community centre on Thursday November 20th. Donations of toys can be dropped into the community centre on the morning.

Clothing collection on December 2nd. Bags can be dropped into the school hall from December 1st.

Yours sincerely

Emer Bermingham, Principal