



St. John of God G.N.S. September Newsletter 2023

Before/After School Clubs

Our After School Programme is funded by the School Completion Programme. Places are limited and the clubs are always over-subscribed so we ask that if your daughter accepts a place that you commit to her attending as often as possible. The following clubs will be offered to children in our school

- Breakfast Club running daily 1st – 6th
- Homework Club is running Mondays and Thursdays for 4th – 6th classes
- Cookery Club is running weekly for 6th class
- Ukulele lessons will resume after Christmas



Our new Junior Infants

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A big welcome back to you all. It has been really lovely to see the happy and smiling faces coming in the door again and to hear the chatter and singing around the school. A warm welcome also to our new junior infants who are settling into life here in St John of God as well as to the girls who have joined into other classes this September.

Remembering Aaliyah



I know that many of us will have had thoughts of Aaliyah in our hearts as we returned to school this year. Especially as her First Anniversary passed on 18th August. We continue to remember her here in the school, where she was such an important part of our community and we keep her parents and family in our thoughts and prayers.

Home School Community Liaison Coordinator (HSCL)

Shane Ryan is our new HSCL coordinator. He will replace Nessa Clarke whose 5 year term came to an end in June. Shane is a teacher based in St. David's BNS and will be in our school 2.5 days per week. He will be with us on Mondays, Tuesdays and half day Wednesdays. He will be in touch over the course of the next few weeks arranging home visits, parent classes, classroom activities etc. Should you wish to contact Shane you can do so by phone on **086 0439773** or by email at [**artanehscl@gmail.com**](mailto:artanehscl@gmail.com)

He also runs a dedicated HSCL Instagram account **@hsclartane** where he will post details of different initiatives that may be of interest to you.

Family Mass

The first Family Mass this year will take place on Sunday 15th October at 11.30 in St. John Vianney Church, Ardlea Road. This is to prepare the girls for **First Holy Communion** and **Confirmation** but all children and parents are especially welcome at the Family Masses.



Morning Arrival

School starts at 8:50am. The gate will be open at 8:40am allowing the children plenty of time to come in the school. This time gives the children a chance to settle in, chat and share news etc. before school starts. This means that they begin their day relaxed and ready to learn. With this in mind, we encourage you to try to ensure that your children are on time for school.

Communication with teachers

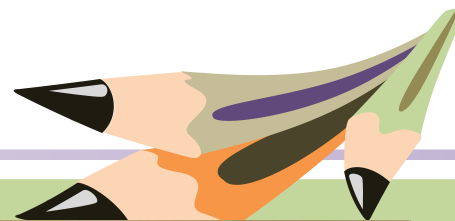
We really value the importance of good communication between teachers and parents. Parents can contact teachers via Seesaw or phone through the office. Please note;

- An important matter relating to your child is better dealt with by phoning the school office to arrange a phone conversation / meeting with your child's teacher.
- Contact with the class teacher via Seesaw should be done between 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday to Friday only, please.
- Teachers will communicate with parents in a timely manner where possible but will be unable to do so during their teaching time. (Any unexpected or urgent messages during the school day should be phoned into the office.)

Gardening – Can you help?



We are keen to get planting with the children this Autumn. First - we need to clear the large flower boxes along the edge of the playground. They are packed with weeds and thistles and need to be dug out. If you have an hour to spare, we would love your help. Please send an email to secretary@stjohnofgodartane.com if you would be willing to help out and we will be in touch.



Beautiful artwork from 1st Class

Parents Association

If you would like to join the PA as a committee member or a helper, please get in contact with the school and we will pass on your details. You do not need to commit a lot of time, an hour here or there to help out would be greatly appreciated. It is a lovely way to be involved in the school.

We have been selected again as a recipient of the **Tesco Blue Token** initiative. We are currently fundraising for new Ball Stoppers on the pitch and to help subsidise some swimming lessons this year. We are delighted to be included in this initiative. Please remember to pop the token in the St John of God box when you're next shopping in Tesco, Artaine Castle.

Reminder

There has been an increase in cars driving into the school, especially on wet days. This is a Health & Safety risk. To keep all of your children safe, we ask that you park nearby and walk your child to the school.

Dates for your Diary

2nd October – Good Behaviour Week

**27th October – Céilí na Samhna
(Halloween Dress up)**

**13th – 17th November - Parent / Teacher
meetings**

Is mise, le meas,

Sinéad Feery, Acting Principal

