



# Assumption Junior School

## Newsletter September 2023



### Welcome to our New Pupils!

This term we have welcomed 129 new pupils to our school. Many of these children are in our five Junior Infant classes and are already becoming an integral part of our school community. The children in all our classes have been so welcoming of the new boys and girls who have joined us this year, we are very proud of them all!



*A flavour of some of the amazing work taking place across our five Junior Infant classes this month.*

### Healthy Eating in School

We have a number of children across the school with severe nut allergies. For this reason, all our classrooms are nut free zones. We would ask you to consider this when planning your child's lunch for the week as products containing nuts will have to be sent home uneaten.

You can find our Healthy Eating Policy on our website here: <https://www.assumptionjns.com/healthy-eating-policy.html> Parents/guardians can support our healthy eating policy by **not** including these items in lunches:

- Sugary drinks, e.g. fizzy drinks and energy drinks
- Crisps
- Chocolate (or anything containing chocolate).
- Sweets or lollipops
- Biscuits/chocolate or candy bars

Glanmore Foods supply our free pupil lunches and work hard to promote healthy eating in schools and reflect the aspirations of our policy.

[www.assumptionjns.com](http://www.assumptionjns.com)

[@assumptionjns](https://www.instagram.com/assumptionjns)



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If your child is availing of the free school lunch, there is no need to send extra food to school with them. If your child prefers to receive a lunch from home and you would like to cut down on waste, you can cancel your child's school lunch for the year by emailing Nora on [secretary@assumptionjns.com](mailto:secretary@assumptionjns.com)

### Safety in the School Grounds

It is great to see so many of our pupils walking, cycling, and scooting to school. We have provided bike and scooter racks at the front of the school. We remind you that all cyclists and people on scooters must dismount when in the school grounds. Due to the number of children on the grounds cycling and scooting pose a very real safety threat, especially to our younger children. Thank you for respecting this.

Pedestrian and vehicular traffic now have separate gates. This should eliminate the danger of a child being knocked down by a car in the school car park. Thank you for respecting this and putting pupil safety first.

Please do not allow children to swing on the traffic barriers or to walk under closed barriers and never cross the perimeter wall to get into the school grounds. It is extremely dangerous and has led to serious injury in the past.

While the bollards outside the school are a source of frustration to many dropping children to school, our understanding is that the council are installing them at all schools on a rolling basis to free up footpaths for pedestrians and buggies. Please try to park in the Church carpark and in Supervalu. We are fortunate to have the cooperation of the local Church that allows parents to park there. Unfortunately Fr Glennon has been at the receiving end of some abusive language from parents when he has asked them to park in particular spots in the Church grounds. Please be mindful that access to that carpark is not a right but a privilege, and we are very concerned that the Parish will withdraw access to it if this kind of abusive behaviour continues.

### Enrolments

Enrolments for our Junior Infant and ASD classes for the school year 2024/2025 are now open. Please return enrolment forms and any requested accompanying documentation to the school office by October 16<sup>th</sup>, or by email to [admissions@assumptionjns.com](mailto:admissions@assumptionjns.com). Applications cannot be processed if birth certificates, and other required documents are not supplied. Further information and enrolment forms can be found on our website: <https://www.assumptionjns.com/enrolment.html>

### Parents' Association

Our HSCL Ciara Cole is currently in the process of setting up a new Parents' Association in the school. It is open to parents and guardians of any child in the school to join this group. We hope to set up a vibrant group of people who will be happy to contribute to school life through hosting and helping with school events and involvement in policy development over the coming years. We know that you all have busy lives and expect meetings to happen a few times a year on evenings that suit the parent group best. If you are at all interested, we would urge you to attend our Parents' Association training session in the school on **November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm**. This is being facilitated by the National Parents' Council and will be a very engaging session. If you have any questions about the Parents' Association or the training session, please contact Ciara on 083 164 5822 or by email on [hscl@drimnaghwalkinstown.com](mailto:hscl@drimnaghwalkinstown.com)

### Child Safeguarding

Child Safeguarding or as it was previously known, Child Protection, is a fundamental part of the safe running of a school. All our teachers are trained in child safeguarding procedures and additional training has been undertaken by Jean Leonard and Julie McCann. They are our Designated Liaison Person and Deputy



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Designated Liaison Person for Child Safeguarding respectively. Every year during Term 1 our Board of Management reviews our child safeguarding procedures and policy. As part of this review we will be sending round a digital parents' survey on child safeguarding during October. You will receive a link to this through your Aladdin app. We had a great response from parents last year and will share the results with you after we have completed the process. Thank you for your help with this.

### New Boards of Management

The term of office of the current Board of Management is coming to an end. This Board has made great improvements to the school in terms of infrastructure and resourcing and also in relation to supporting and enhancing our pupils' educational attainment. Our current Board was established in December 2019, and it had the onerous task of managing the school through the Covid pandemic. In October we will begin to seek interest from parents: one mother and one father of pupils in our school who would be interested in acting as parent nominees on the new Board. All families will receive an expression of interest form home with their child, and you can self-nominate if this is a commitment you feel you would be willing to make. Further information around ballots will be circulated once we know how many nominees there are.

### Communication with Teachers

Parents may message their child's class teacher using the Aladdin Connect App. This is a useful way to arrange meetings and pass on information. Absences should not be sent in messages to teachers but rather recorded in the attendance section of the app. In accordance with the EU Working Time Directive Aladdin messages to teachers will only be delivered between 8am and 4pm on school days. Please note that due to teaching time and meetings teachers may not see messages until after the school day has ended. If you have any urgent messages like a child being collected early for an appointment it is best to contact Nora in the school office about this.

### Upcoming Events

- **School Photographer: October 9<sup>th</sup>.** County Photos will be in the school taking photos of all the Junior Infant and ASD class pupils. No obligation to purchase, further information will issue from County Photos.
- **Optional Pupil Flu Vaccinations: October 17<sup>th</sup>.** Please see your Aladdin noticeboard messages for information on how to book a vaccination for your child.
- **Assumption Junior Maths Week: October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>.** We will be looking at all things maths in a fun way this week. Lots of Halloween themed maths learning experiences for all the children.
- **Fancy Dress Day: October 27<sup>th</sup>.** All children may come to school in fancy dress on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure that your child is wearing something warm and has suitable shoes (runners for example), to wear on yard.
- **Spooktacular Sponsored Walk:** Our annual sponsored walk will take place on **Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**. Sponsorship cards will be distributed next week. Last year all the funds raised were used to install our lovely new library space inside the main lobby. Please return all sponsorship cards by October 27<sup>th</sup> and a big thank you for your continued support.
- **Halloween Midterm Break:** The school will close at the normal times on **Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** for the midterm break. It will **reopen on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** at the normal times.