



# Assumption Junior School

## Newsletter September 2024



### Welcome to our New Pupils!

We were very excited to welcome 125 new Junior Infants to the school this September. The boys and girls have settled in extremely well and we would like to thank their parents for making a great effort to have the children ready to come into school independently from the very first day. This is something that we have found has led to the children making the transition to “big school” much easier than in the past. On the first day our HSCL Coordinator Ciara Cole with the help of our fantastic Parents’ Association organised a very welcoming “get to know you” coffee morning for all our new Junior Infant children and their parents in the school hall. It was a lovely way to end the children’s first day in school and we hope the parents who attended enjoyed the event also.



*A flavour of some of our Junior Infant activities this month.*



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### 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.

If your child is availing of the free school lunch, there is no need to send extra food to school with them.

### 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.

### Enrolments for the 2025/2026 School Year

Enrolments for our Junior Infant and Autism classes for the school year 2025/2026 will open on Tuesday next, October 1st. All enrolment applications must be made online, through our school website. Applications cannot be processed if birth certificates, and other required documents are not supplied. Further information can be found on our website: <https://www.assumptionjns.com/enrolment.html>

### Punctuality

We are increasingly concerned at the number of children arriving late to school each morning and staff often spend up to 50 minutes each morning dropping late comers to class. As I'm sure you can appreciate the school office is a busy place so if you are arriving late, we would ask for your patience as staff may be in meetings, on phone calls or dropping other late children to class so it may take a while for the door to be answered. To ensure you're not kept waiting at the door please bring your child to their correct entrance by 8:50am each morning. There are staff on the doors until 9am so there is no need to bring children to the front door before 9am. If you are collecting children early in the afternoon, please note that we cannot take children from class 10 or 15 minutes before bedtime as they will be in the middle of their tidy up routine and it will be quicker for you to collect them from their line. If you have an appointment, you will likely know this in advance so can message your child's teacher the day before and they can make sure your child is sent to the office for their collection time.



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### 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 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.

### 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, it is best to contact Jenny in the school office about this.

### Upcoming Events

- **Optional Pupil Flu Vaccinations: October 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Please see your Aladdin noticeboard messages for information on how to book a vaccination for your child.
- **School Photographer: October 7<sup>th</sup>.** County Photos will be in the school taking photos of all the Junior Infant and Autism Class pupils. No obligation to purchase, further information will issue from County Photos.
- **Assumption Junior Maths Week: October 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<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 25<sup>th</sup>.** All children may come to school in fancy dress on Friday, October 25<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 25<sup>th</sup>**. Sponsorship cards will be distributed early in October. This is our main fundraiser for the year. Please return all sponsorship cards by October 25<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 25<sup>th</sup>** for the midterm break. It will **reopen on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** at the normal times.

