



# October Newsletter (2025)

## St. Francis Xavier Junior National School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had a wonderful start to the 2025/2026 academic year, and are so proud of all of our students who have returned and settled so well, back into school life here at St. Francis Xavier JNS. A particularly warm shout-out goes to our wonderful Junior Infant boys and girls who have been busy making new friends, exploring their school and classroom and taking part in a wide range of fun learning activities. They are beginning to look like seasoned practitioners already!

**Junior Infant Enrolments:** Our enrolments for Junior Infants 2026/2027 will begin on the 3rd and finish on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. All applications should be made through our website (Enrolments/Junior Infants) or via the link <https://www.aladdin.ie/i/4796292773445632>

**Courtyard:** We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the O'Sullivan family for their generous donation towards our school. Their contribution has helped us redesign our courtyard into a vibrant new space featuring all-weather games tables and seating. This exciting addition provides our pupils with opportunities to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, while also encouraging focus, collaboration, and creativity during playtime. A special thank you also goes to our Parents' Association for their valuable contribution towards the project, and to Julian for his support and input throughout the process. Together, these efforts have created a wonderful space that will benefit our students for years to come.

**Maths Week :** Maths Week took place last week, and the children enjoyed a fantastic range of engaging and hands-on activities. These included maths trails, coding with Beebots, and designing their own maths games to mention a few. This year, as a school, we are focusing on developing the children's mathematical language, encouraging them to talk about how they solve problems and explain their thinking. We hope they have been sharing some of this Maths talk with you at home! Thank you Ms Mulready and our digital team, of Ms Keogh, Ms Reilly, Ms Healy and Ms Creaner.

### **School Improvement:**

This year, we are focusing on enhancing the following areas of teaching and learning:

**Literacy:** Word Analysis

**Numeracy:** Maths Talk (as part of the new Primary Maths Curriculum)

**Gaeilge:** Increasing our use of Irish during PE lessons

**Wellbeing:** Continuing to implement Restorative Practice

**Jersey Day:** Our recent and very colourful Jersey Day was a great success! The school was awash with team colours as students and staff proudly wore their favourite jerseys to raise money for GOAL. Together, we raised valuable funds to help vulnerable communities around the world who are experiencing crises and extreme poverty. At the last count, between online donations and cash collected on the day, our school raised a fantastic €761.35 for GOAL! A big thank you to everyone who took part and contributed so generously.

**Drumming:** Our senior infant classes and one very lucky second class took part in a drumming session last week. The children explored different beats, learned how to keep time, and it was wonderful to see every child fully engaged, listening carefully, cooperating as a team, and expressing themselves through rhythm. Thank you to Ms Healy for organising.

**Hot School Meals** : Our Hot School Meals tendering process is underway and we are hoping for delivery of the service in the new year.

**Assemblies:** Monthly assemblies continue at the end of each month where each class level comes together in the hall and we celebrate achievements, learning and recognise positive behaviour, effort, and kindness in awards such as Gaeilgeoir na Míosa, Mathematician of the Month and Act of Kindness. This month we will welcome a performance from our school choir.

**Active news:** Currently, the children are taking part in a school skipping challenge by counting their skips, converting them into kilometres, and tracking how far around the world they can “skip”! It’s a great mix of movement, maths, and motivation.

**Afterschools Clubs:**

<b>Corrigan School of Irish Dance</b>	Geraldine Corrigan	Monday / Friday
<b>Music Madness</b>	Ms. Healy	Tuesday
<b>Art Squad</b>	Ms. Creaner	Wednesday
<b>Social Club</b>	Ms. McCann and Ms. Farrell	Thursday
<b>Lego Club</b>	Ms. Farrell and Ms. Griffin	Wednesday
<b>Chess Club</b>	Ms. Dervan and Ms. Keogh	Tuesday
<b>Mini Sports</b>	Ms. Keogh and Ms. Dervan	Thursday
<b>Savage Martial Arts</b>	Marcus Mooney	Tuesday

**Restorative Practice for Parents:** We introduced Restorative Practise in our school last year. We are continuing to build on this initiative again this year, by introducing Restorative Community Circles. We are holding a Parents Circle led by RP practice expert Monica Monahan on Monday the 10th of November at 7 p.m. The purpose of this circle is to provide a simple introduction to Restorative Practices for Parents so that you can begin to use them with your children and support the ongoing practices in the school.

**Website:** The redevelopment of our school website is presently in progress. We anticipate that the new site will be launched before the Christmas break.

**School Maintenance:** Our new heating system is complete and working well as we head into the colder season.

**Lost Property:** Lost property will be available to view or collect outside the main door (if dry) on Thursday from 1.20pm to 2.20pm and Friday from 1.20pm to 2.20pm.

**Parent Teacher Meetings:**

Parent Teacher Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th November. Please note that all children will finish at 1:40pm on Tuesday 18th to accommodate the meetings. After the mid-term break, we will share the booking link on Aladdin so you can choose a 10-minute slot that suits you. The dates for meetings may differ slightly in some cases and your class teachers will inform you if this is the case.

**Pupil Safety:** The safety of our pupils remains our priority. We kindly ask parents to continue driving with care and vigilance both outside the school grounds and in the Tesco carpark. Please remind children regularly, to use the designated pedestrian path when walking to and from school.

**Healthy lunches:** St. Francis Xavier JNS is a nut free school. We promote healthy eating and lunches in school. Birthday cakes, party invitations and party bags are not allowed or should not be distributed in school.

**Upcoming Closures:** All children finish at 1.40pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November (Parent Teacher Meetings). School closed for training: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November

**Christmas Fair:** Our annual Christmas Fair will take place on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Parents Association are still welcoming volunteers to help either before the event or on the day. Please contact Kiera White at 087 781 6890, if you would like to help out.

As you know, the safe and smooth running of our school depends on our whole school community working together in partnership. I would like to thank you for your continued support and look forward to the remainder of the school year.

Le meas,  
Olivia Barrett

Principal