



St Joseph's Primary School

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Parent Update

5th January 2026

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all our pupils and families as we begin Term 2. We hope you have had a very restful break and are refreshed and ready to go again. We look forward to seeing you all on your return to school.

School Meals Cost Increase

As you may be aware, the EA have increased the price of School Meals, effective from 1st January 2026. School meals will now cost £3.10 per day. See the attached information from the EA which they have requested we share with families.

Key Dates for Term 2

Please read the key dates for the Term 2 below. Note that the date for Confirmation may change. This is outside of the school's control, and we are awaiting official notification from the diocese. We will update you as soon as we are informed. Thank you for your patience with this matter.

Dates	Description
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Beginning of Term 2
Monday 12th January	GL Testing Begins (3 weeks)
Saturday 17th January	Service of Light P7 @ 5.30pm in St Colmcille's
Monday 19th January	Catholic Schools Week
Tuesday 20th January	Grandparents Day
Saturday 24th January	SEAG results day
Tuesday 27th January	SEAG Parents Information Meeting @ 9.15am
Tuesday 27th January	First Confession parents' meeting Parochial Hall @ 7pm
Saturday 31st January	Enrolment Mass for First Confession @ 5.30pm
Wednesday 4th February	Online Safety Workshop for Parents @ 5pm
Thursday 5th February	Safer Internet Day

Monday 9th – Friday 13th Feb	Mid Term Break
Monday 16th February	Start of Term 2.2
Friday 20th February	Trócaire Bring and Buy Sale
Sunday 1st March	Peace Proms SSE
Tuesday 3rd March	Confirmation Day 3pm (<i>TBC</i>)
Thursday 5th March	First Confession @ 1pm
Friday 6th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 17th March	St Patrick's Day – School closed
Thursday 19th March	Class Photos and Mop Up
Friday 27th March	Talent Show
Thursday 2nd April	11.45 finish P1 – P3 & 12 noon finish for P4 – P7

Kind regards
Mr C Donnelly

School Meals Update

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The Education Authority (EA) recently set out a number of savings measures in response to a significant funding shortfall of around £300million.

As part of these measures, school meal prices will increase in January for the first time since 2017. Pupils entitled to Free School Meals will not be affected by this rise, and in pre-school, primary and special school settings will continue to receive a meal as before.

In post-primary, which operates on a cafeteria basis, the daily free school meal allowance will increase by 19.25% to £3.34 to mirror the price increase across all menu items.

For pupils who are not entitled to free school meals, new prices will come into effect in January 2026 and are reflected in the figures to the right.

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School Meal Prices Effective January 1 2026

Pre-School £3.00
Primary £3.10
Post-Primary 19.25% Price increase
Special £3.10
Adult Meal £3.99