

Scoil Eimhín Naofa

Welcomes Junior Infants
to their First Year in School

2024-2025

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Your child's first day at school is a day to remember for the rest of his/her life. **You can help to make it a happy one for him/her.**

Tell him/her about school beforehand casually and talk about it as a happy place where there will be a big welcome for him/her, and he/she will meet new friends.

Do not use school or the teacher as a threat. *"If you behave like that for teacher, she'll murder you"*, though said light-heartedly, can make some children very apprehensive.

Your child's books will be taken from him/her during the first week of school and the teacher will keep them until such time as they are needed. This minimises the risk of books getting lost. **Please have your child alerted to this fact in case he/she thinks he/she will never see the books again. All books/copies must be marked with your child's name on the outside cover and must be covered.**

Your child may feel more at ease if he/she has something in his/her schoolbag so perhaps you could buy a copy or colouring book for him/her, which he/she could use at home.

When you arrive at the classroom, be as casual as you can. He/she will meet the teacher and the other children and will be shown his/her chair

Hopefully, he/she will be absorbed in his/her new surroundings. So, having assured him/her you will be back to collect him/her, wish him/her goodbye and depart without delay.

Despite the best efforts of both teacher and parents a small number of children will still become upset. If your child happens to be one of them, do not panic. Patience and perseverance can work wonders. Again, a quick departure by Mum/Dad is best advised.

A Word of Advice:-

Trust the teacher. He/She is experienced and resourceful and is used to coping with all kinds of starting-off problems.

Try not to show any outward signs of your own distress. Sometimes the parents are more upset than the child and can be the main cause of his/her anxiety.

When you have reassured him/her, leave as quickly as possible. The teacher can distract and humour him/her more easily when you are not around.

To have a happy school atmosphere, rules are needed, and we ask for your full co-operation in their implementation.

Please read the copy of the **“Code of Behaviour & Discipline”**.

Take note of Page 3.

We ask that pupils be collected promptly at 1:45 p.m.

There is no facility to keep Junior Infants after this time. The School has applied for Bus Éireann bus tickets for those entitled to them.

See Dismissal of Infants Policy enclosed.

School Uniform must be worn

Girls and Boys

Navy Gynslip, Skirt or Trousers

Red V-Neck Jumper with crest

White Blouse or Shirt

Navy Socks or Tights

Navy Tie

P.E. Clothes (O'Neill's School Tracksuit and white Polo Shirt) are worn on P.E. days, or when requested to do so, depending on the event.

Following consultation between the Parents' Council and Board of Management, it was decided to provide the option of wearing the O'Neill's School Tracksuit as a uniform, from Hallowe'en to Easter, when the weather is inclement.

We advise that long hair be tied back, and it is essential that Parents/Guardians check heads regularly with a fine comb for head lice. Shoes should be strong, supportive, and suitable for P.E.

We expect that children could go to the toilet on their own, flush toilet, wash hands and dry them. There is a break at **10.50 a.m.** Children are encouraged to have a piece of fruit or a sandwich for this break. **Lunch is from 12.20 to 12:50 p.m.**

We do not encourage sweet food or drink as it has been proven that they cause hyperactivity. See **Healthy Lunch Policy** enclosed. Crisps, glass bottles, tins and chewing gum are not allowed for safety and health reasons. We request that Infant Pupils do not bring yoghurts or frubes to school, as they are difficult to open and regularly spill on clothing.

Chewing gum, winders, sweets, cereal bars, and other unhealthy items are not allowed in the school. Noodles are not permitted, as the use of boiling water is considered a hazard.

N.B. Pupils may bring a treat to eat with their lunches, on Fridays only.

School bags should be big enough to hold Workbooks measuring 21x30 cm.

A big, old T-shirt, clearly labelled, is needed for Art.

No toys are allowed in school as they can cause distraction and/or be damaged or mislaid.

All of your child's items of clothing and belongings must be clearly labelled/marked.

Regarding discipline, children need to know how to behave and if they do not understand rules at home, they will not understand them at school. You can appreciate the help and co-operation a teacher needs from you as Parents/Guardians to make the teaching day as trouble-free as possible with a big class. The teacher and Parents/Guardians are a team with the common aim of educating your son/daughter.

We ask Parents/Guardians delivering or collecting pupils to park on the **school side of the road** for the safety of all children. We ask Parents/Guardians **not** to park **opposite the school gate or the school barrier**. **Because of their size, children cannot see and cannot be seen if parked cars are in the way.**

Class will finish at 12.00 p.m. for Junior Infants until Friday, September 13th 2024.

During the year, your child will commence his/her formal education and will be introduced to the following subjects.

Gaeilge/Curaclam Teanga na Bunscoile

Basic Irish words and phrases, songs, poems, and rhymes.

English/Primary Language Curriculum

Building of self-confidence through the development of oral expression, dramatisation of folk, fairy and nursery tales and the development of reading and writing skills. Children will be introduced to the Jolly Phonics Programme.

Mathematics

The 6 strands (areas) in the Mathematics Curriculum are:

Early Mathematical Activities, Numbers up to 5, Algebra, Shape and Space, Measures and Data.

Social, Environmental and Scientific Education

A basic introduction to the subjects of History, Geography and Science.

Religion

The Religion Programme complements the Social and Environmental Programme. The child learns about the gifts he/she possesses and the world he/she lives in, leading to a closer understanding of God the Father. Mission Collection on Fridays.

Music

Action songs, singing games, singing of nursery rhymes, listening to sounds and playing of percussion instruments.

Physical Education

Weekly visits to the P.E. Hall, where individual and group co-operation skills will be developed.

Visual Arts

Children shall have experience of the six strands (areas) of the Visual Arts Curriculum. These are Drawing, Paint and Colour, Print, Clay, Construction, Fabric and Fibre.

Drama

Through engaging with the Drama Curriculum your child will be enabled to explore his/her feelings, knowledge and ideas which will lead to a greater understanding of himself/herself and of the world. Many other subject areas can be explored through Drama e.g. Gaelge, English, SPHE, SESE, etc.

SPHE – Social, Personal and Health Education

Your child shall be introduced to the S.P.H.E. Curriculum through the three strands of Myself, Myself and Others and Myself and the Wider World. They shall also experience programmes such as Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) and The Walk Tall Programme. The Stay Safe Programme is taught in all classes without modification every second year. “Stay Safe” is a mandatory element of the S.P.H.E. Curriculum

Your child will be exposed to a range of new influences and concepts during the coming year. He/she will need your help and support throughout the year, in addition to that given by the school. If at any stage you need advice or clarification, please contact the secretary, and make an appointment to meet the class teacher who will be only too pleased to assist.

