

Junior Infants-Guidelines

Moving from Home to School

Dear Parents/Guardians

If you have a child joining us for the first time, we welcome you as parents and look forward to happy successful association over the coming years. If you already have a child here, we are pleased to renew the link with you.

Please read **all** the enclosed booklet, you will find many useful hints.

Communication between home and school is essential if we are all to work together for the good of your child. Be sure to take advantage of the Parent/Teacher meeting and to contact the school with any information etc, which might affect your child's performance or happiness should any problem arise.

If you wish to speak to a teacher on any matter, please phone the office to make an appointment to see the teacher as classes cannot be left unattended.

We look forward to working with you and your child during the coming years. If you require any information, please do not hesitate to contact the:

- 1. Class Teacher**
- 2. The Principal on 057 93 31483**
- 3. School email: sbclara@eircom.net**

Yours sincerely

Nora Kavanagh-Principal

Some Helpful Hints

Uniform:

- *See the enclosed page for all uniform requirements*

Clothes:

- *If you are buying a coat, get one that is easily opened and closed. Practice putting it on and taking it off at home with your child. Attach gloves/mitts to the coat during the cold weather. Show your child how to open/close buttons and zips.*
- ***All parents are requested to give the class teacher a spare set of clothes to leave in school in case of accidents.***

Toileting:

- *It is vital that all children have mastered all toileting skills. They must be able to wash and dry their hands properly.*

Lunch:

- *As we are a Green School , we ask you to buy a re-usable beaker to cut down on bottles and cartons. Label lunch boxes, flasks etc. Fruit, sandwiches, yogurt and a drink {milk/tea or soup) makes a healthy lunch. Crisps and fizzy drinks are **not** allowed. We also discourage chocolate and sweets. If you give your child an orange, please peel it. **Don't give them too much.** When they start a full day, they will have two breaks so they will need a snack for the morning and something more substantial for "big break".*

Art:

- *Please give your child an old long sleeved shirt (This can be left in school)*

Copies:

- *Cover all copies and workbooks and label with names. A booklist will be given out on the "Open Day". Please have all your child's books on the 1st day of school.*

Crayons:

- *If you need to buy crayons, please buy thick ones.*

Money:

- *When sending money into school, put it in a sealed envelope. Write the child's name, the teacher's name and what the money is for, clearly on the envelope.*

Notes:

- *Check the school bag for notes particularly on **Thursdays**.*

Pencils:

- *The should be HB and should be labelled (no fancy pencils please)*

Personal Items:

- *Coats/mitts/hats/flasks/rulers etc, everything should have your child's name on it.*

School Bag:

- ***Buy a large one** which the child can easily open. Most of the workbooks are the same size as this page (A4) so that will give you an idea of size.*

Shoes:

- *Strapped shoes if possible/slip on runners.*

Times:

- *School commences at 9:20am. For the first two full weeks, children will finish at 12 noon, after that children will go home at 2:00pm. Children must be collected at this time, as teachers cannot supervise them. Only children waiting for a bus are permitted to stay in school until 3:00pm. After the two week settling in period, children will be collected at the door by their teacher in the morning and brought to the door in the evening.*

The First Day:

- *Our aim on the first day is for the children to relax and settle them as much as possible. It is a huge step for both children and parents and there is usually plenty of emotion on both sides. Your child is taking a giant step on the **road to independence**. They are moving away from you and from now on you will have to share them with a new circle of friends and their teacher. It is quite natural to want to wait to see how the settling in process is going, however the **best way you can help your child on the first morning is to make the separation and departure as quick as possible.***

The First Two Weeks:

- *For the first two weeks the children come to school at **9:20am** and finish at **12 noon**. During the first week they will have their break on their own at **10:50am**.*

From Week Three Onwards:

- *School starts at **9:20am** and finishes at **2:00pm**.*

Homework:

- *From the end of the Second Term they will get a little homework each night (5-10 minutes). Please always go over their new words with them.*

Communication:

- *Communication between home and school is important at all times but never more so than in the first two weeks. It is important to stay in close contact with the school at this time and to pass on any information which may be of help to the teacher. We will be doing all in our power at school to make the transition as smooth as possible.*

Help Your Child Be Happy In School:

- *Try to avoid anything which makes your child afraid of school or teachers. Don't let older children or adults tell silly stories about school which may frighten her. Don't say or do anything which would undermine her confidence in the class teacher. The children place great confidence in their teacher and it would be a negative step to damage such confidence. Be on time in the morning and collecting her in the evening as children get anxious when parents are late.*

Help Her Grow Up:

- *Coming to school is a difficult experience for your child. It means learning to:
-Live in a crowd
-To wait for attention
-To have her work and behaviour evaluated in front of her peers. You can help her adjustment by making her arrival as unemotional as possible. You can also help by making her as independent as possible. This will be hard on both the child and yourself. Be patient with her, it may take longer to get her to do things herself but it's the only way to greater independence. If you don't let her do things for herself she'll grow up helpless. Do not confuse giving her independence with allowing her to do what she likes.*

Is Your Child Prepared For School?

Please ask yourself the following questions?

Has your child?

- *Looked at picture books with you*
 - *Looked at counting books with you*
 - *Seen you reading and writing*
 - *Been sung to*
 - *Helped to make things*
 - *Spent time away from you regularly*
 - *Dressed and washed herself*
 - *Had responsibility for small jobs around the house*
 - *Played with sand, water, dough, clay Plasticine, stick and paste, balls or construction toys*
- *Looked at ABC Books with you*
 - *Sorted and counted with you*
 - *Had stories read to her*
 - *Been taken for walks*
 - *Talked to you*
 - *Played with other children*

How Well Can Your Child?

- *Put on her coat, socks and shoes*
 - *Wipe her own bottom*
 - *Wash her own hands*
 - *Care for her own things*
 - *Speak clearly without shouting*
 - *Describe experiences*
 - *Listen attentively*
 - *Climb steps confidently*
 - *Copy simple shapes*
 - *Do simple jigsaws*
- *Do up buttons*
 - *Wipe her own nose*
 - *Tidy up her own things*
 - *Share her own things*
 - *Ask questions*
 - *Recite nursery rhymes and sing*
 - *Carry out instructions*
 - *Kick a ball*
 - *Spot details*

Does your child?

- *Play well with other children*
- *Argue with words other than blows*
- *Understand taking turns, sharing and simple rules*
- *Like to be the "King Pin", "Bossy Boots"*
- *Show concern for younger siblings, playmates in distress*
- *Separate well from mother/father*

****If you feel your child has difficulties in any of these areas, please inform the school so that we can focus on them****

At School

Help Her With Numbers

Get her to help you counting things around the house. Draw her attention to:

- *Numbers on houses*
- *Telephone numbers*
- *Car numbers*
- *Number on clock faces etc*

Help Her To Develop Such Concepts As:

- *Big....little* *full...empty*
- *Over....under* *long...short*
- *Wide...narrow* *a few....a lot*
- *Tall....small* *heavy...light*
- *Enough...too much* *more....less*

Help Her With Her Writing:

- *Help her to understand that print is talk written down. Show her written language around the house/shopping lists etc. Let her help you with these lists. This will help her to understand that reading and writing are useful. Write her name often and encourage her to recognise it. Get her to make up messages and help her to write them. All these will help in learning to write.*

Some Do's and Don't's For Writing:

Do:

- *Get your child to sit properly when she is writing. She should not slouch over the paper or put her head on the table. Check that the pencil is held correctly.*

Correct Grip:

- *Thumb and first finger on top, middle finger underneath. Make sure that the paper is to her right hand side if she is right handed or to her left if she is left handed. If she is left handed, get her to hold the pencil slightly further back so that she can see what she is writing.*

Don't:

- *Allow her to develop an unusual grip-this will be difficult to change later. Allow her to write with a ballpoint pen. Never attempt to change her writing hand if she is left handed. Allow her to print in capital letters except for the first letter of a name or a sentence.*

- *Please study the enclosed handwriting page.
If you wish to help to write letters or numbers at home, do so, on blank sheets with crayons using the letters and numbers suggested in this booklet.*

****See the enclosed page on how to help with sounds****