# Parent Information Booklet
# Junior Infants

# WELCOME

You're off to Great Places.
Today is your day.
Your mountain is waiting,
So... get on your way!
-- Dr. Seuss

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new and exciting stage in your child's life. This is the beginning of a journey that will last 14 years and help shape your child's future.

During this year your child will make new friends, enjoy new experiences and learn new skills. Parents and teachers will work together to ensure that at the end of this school year your child will have a positive attitude towards education, based on social and academic confidence.

Today you are creating a memory, make sure it is a happy one!

Please be <u>positive</u> with your child in preparing him/her for school and explain what will happen regarding teacher, other children, breaks, sitting down and tidy-up time.

On your child's first day of school, you may leave your child at the main gate. Parents are not permitted onto the school grounds in the morning. Staff members will meet your child and show them to their line with their classmates.

Most children, even if initially upset, soon become distracted by their surroundings and settle down. Although it is very difficult to leave a child that is upset the teacher will ensure that they are settled and happy as quickly as possible.

**Camcorders or cameras are not allowed on school grounds. If you wish to photograph your child, please do so outside of school.** *(This is in line with best practices in child protection, Children First Act, 2015)*

## Breaks

All classes have two breaks. The first break is from 10.50-11.00 and the second from 12.30-1.00. Your child will be given adequate time to eat a small lunch.

## Lunch

As we have a healthy lunch policy in our school, bars, biscuits, cakes, etc. are not allowed except on Friday when one small treat is allowed. Crisps, peanuts, popcorn, fizzy drinks and chewing gum are not allowed in school at any time. Make sure that your child can manage their lunch. Can they open and close their lunch box and drink? Pre-peel oranges etc. so they can independently eat their lunch.

Please provide your child with a refillable water bottle as they will be allowed access to this throughout the day. Water only is permitted in school.

**As there is a pupil in our school with a severe nut allergy; no nuts, food containing nuts or nut products (e.g. Nutella) are allowed on the school premises.**

## Home-School Communication

Most communication from school to home will happen via noticeboard message on the Aladdin Connect app, e-mail or text. Please check these regularly. If there is any change to your e-mail address and/or phone number, please inform the school immediately and we will update our database. You may also email the office if you have any query or concern @ officeknockrahans@gmail.com. In the event of you wishing to speak to the class teacher, please contact Jean at reception and an appointment will be arranged.

At times there may be forms or written notes that your child will need to bring home. These will be kept in the homework folder. They may be retuned in the same way.

## Toys/Invitations

Children should not bring toys to school. There will be opportunities for "Show and Tell" during the year but you will be told of these in advance.

It is school policy that party invitations are not distributed within the school grounds and teachers will not be involved with any distribution of invitations either.

## Absences/Late

For all absences, ***parents may inform the school via Aladdin Connect.*** A phone call will ***not*** suffice. Under the terms of the Education Welfare Act, 2008, all absences must be recorded. If a child is absent for 20 days or more a report will be sent to Tusla. Parents must also enter reasons and keep track of their child's absences via the Aladdin Connect app. If you need to collect your child early during the school day for any reason this must also be recorded on Aladdin.

***The school strongly discourages parents from withdrawing children for family holidays during the academic year.***

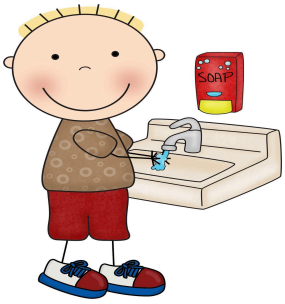
There is supervision in the yard every morning from 8:40-8:50 am. Children are brought into their classrooms at this time and the doors are locked. After this time children must enter via the main door and will be considered late arrivals.

## Hometime

Junior Infant's day finishes at 1.30pm. Please come promptly as your child may fret if you are not on time. The children will be dismissed from the door to a waiting adult. They are not allowed out until the teacher sees this adult.

If for any reason collection arrangements are being changed, please inform the teacher via Aladdin Connect in advance. It will not suffice for the child to inform the teacher verbally. If you find that for reasons beyond your control you will not be able to collect your child on time, please ring Jean who will then relay your message to the teacher.

Parking **outside the** school for an extended period of time is discouraged as spaces are limited. Please respect the yellow boxes and do not park in them. They are there to ensure the safety of **ALL** our children.




## Health and Safety

As part of our school health programme, we encourage regular washing of hands, particularly around eating time and after toilet use. We are not however always able to oversee this so please remind your child of the importance of personal care and practice with them at home. Unfortunately, germs and viruses spread very quickly in a classroom environment, so it is vital that the children are encouraged to use a tissue when they have a runny nose and to cover their mouth when coughing. If your child develops any contagious illness such as chickenpox, **please keep him/her away from school until the period of contagion is over and inform the teacher immediately.** Likewise, if your child has had vomiting or

diarrhea, please ensure that they do not return to school until 48 hours have passed from the last episode (as per HSE guidelines found on hse.ie). We recommend that you check your child's hair regularly for head lice. If necessary, treat immediately and inform the school so that notification of possible risk may be sent out to other parents. All information received, regarding your child's health is treated in the strictest confidence.

## School Uniform

Our school uniform consists of:

grey pinafore/skirt/trousers/shorts (regular school shorts only)

grey shirt (long/short sleeves)

grey socks/tights

navy jumper/cardigan

navy tie

plain black shoes

Our school tracksuit can be purchased in McCarthy's Sportsworld, Glanmire. The tracksuit can be worn with a

plain white polo t-shirt. Children can wear black shorts during spells of warm weather with the school tracksuit. The uniform can be purchased at chain stores..

When purchasing a school bag please buy one large enough to hold A4 size books and folders. Wheelie bags are not allowed as they topple easily causing the long handles to fall out. For this reason, they can be very dangerous in a classroom.

Please purchase a lunchbox that fits easily into your child's bag. Large "suitcase" types are not suitable.

***Please label all clothing and belongings even footwear as often a few children have the same shoes. It is impossible to keep track of items of clothing unless they are clearly labelled.***

## P.E.

All children are required to have the school tracksuit which is worn for P.E. (twice a week) and on other occasions. Runners are to be worn with the tracksuit. **When buying shoes or runners we strongly recommend that children in Junior Infants do not wear shoes with laces in them as they cannot manage them independently.**

As there is no available indoor space for P.E. inclement weather may mean that the lesson is cancelled or held in the classroom. Please be assured that this will be noted, and the required amount of P.E. will be given over the whole school year.

## Homework

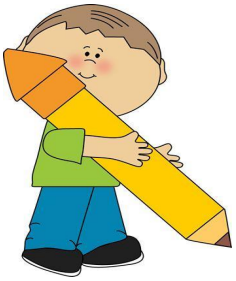
The infant class teacher will post homework via the Aladdin Connect app each week outlining the homework to be completed for the following week. You should take the time to complete this homework with your child and sign it when it has been completed, noting for the teacher if your child is experiencing any difficulty.
*Your child will not receive homework for the first fortnight in September and there will subsequently be a gradual approach to homework after this period.*

Supervision of homework is a parental responsibility and even if afterschool or a childminder has completed it, it should still be checked by a parent/guardian.

At the beginning of the new term the Infant Class teacher will organise an information session for parents outlining her expectations for the year. It is important that one parent from each family attends. This is also an opportunity to ask question that are not covered in this booklet and to meet the other parents with children in your child's class.

Please note it is not appropriate to ask questions/discuss issues as children enter school in the morning. Should you need to speak to the class teacher, please speak with Jean and she will arrange an appointment for you.

Parent Teacher meetings are normally held in November.



## Writing

The children will be learning to write lower case letters initially so it would be helpful if you could use these when writing with your child. Capital letters should only be used at the beginning of your child's name, not in the middle!

Pencil-grip and posture are essential to fluency in handwriting so please encourage proper grip and posture at all times. The teacher will discuss and demonstrate these with you at the meeting in September.

## Preparing Your Child for Schoolwork

Good writing is all about muscle and motor control so it will help your child greatly if he/she has lots of practice at colouring, drawing and painting. Practice at manipulating plasticine, construction materials, jigsaws etc. are also vital to your

child's development. Noting visual differences is essential to reading and this skill is practiced and encouraged by use of matching games. Reading aloud to your child will cultivate an interest in, and love of reading. Nursery Rhymes teach essential pre reading skills.

## Green School

We are an environmentally aware school and have been awarded our fourth Green Flag. We encourage reducing waste and energy, re-using materials and recycling. In September you will receive a note regarding our Green School practices!

## Aladdin Connect

The school uses the Aladdin Schools software service www.aladdin.ie for administrative purposes and Connect will give you secure access to messages from the school and to details of your child's attendance, test results, reports cards etc., via secure login from your internet browser or Aladdin Connect App.

Aladdin Connect is a fantastic way to enhance a school's

communication with parents. It enables parents to stay connected and informed about their child's education by:

- Ensuring that the school has their most **up to date contact information**
- Keeping parents appraised of their child's **attendance**
- Keeping parents up to date on **school and classroom news** via noticeboard messages
- Allowing parents to view what items their child had for **homework** today
- Allowing parents view their child's approved **report card**
-E-payments allow parents to pay for school trips and other expenses on Aladdin Connect.

Along with strengthening our home/school partnership, we also envisage Aladdin Connect helping the school by:

- Helping to **improve attendance** by allowing parents to keep track of any school days their child may have currently missed, along with late arrival and early leaving information.
- Helping to reduce the amount of **class/school notes being sent home**
- Helping the school/ teachers **communicate** with parents when the need arises
- **Reducing costs** by eliminating the need to send school report cards by post
- **Reducing costs** by reducing the number of text messages that need to be sent

You can rest reassured that Aladdin Schools uses

state-of-the-art security to safeguard information entered by the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish and European data protection laws.

Before September, you will **receive a text/email message** containing your **registration link**. There will be one link per parent which will allow the parent to access information for all their children in the school from one user account. Please do not forward this text/email or share this link as this is a unique registration code for each parent for your child/children in this school. During registration you will choose a password that will be used in conjunction with your email address to securely access the Aladdin Connect going forward. Once you are registered you will be sent an email with links to download the Aladdin Connect App for your mobile device. The main advantage of using the App is to receive immediate alerts for app messages sent by your school. Downloading the App is highly recommended to enhance both the parent and school's Connect experience.

**By default, both parents will have access to view their child's contact information**. If for any reason you do **NOT** wish to share your own personal contact information within the family circle or if you have any concerns regarding your particular family setup, please contact the school in confidence to discuss or have this facility restricted.

**In preparation for this, please let the school know if your email address or phone number has changed recently.**

We hope that you enjoy using Aladdin Connect. Your class teacher, the secretary or myself will welcome any feedback or questions you may have.

## Items needed on the first day:

★ All books clearly labelled. These will be collected and left in school.

★ A small lunch/snack.

★ Full uniform clearly labelled.

*Please note that Junior Infants will finish at 12 noon until Friday the 8th of September.*

# WE'LL SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

Together
MAY WE GIVE
our children
the roots TO
grow
AND THE
wings
to fly