

Beginning Junior Infants

“Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.”



Welcome!



- Welcome to all parents and guardians.
- Your child is finally ready to embark on their exciting journey into primary education.
- This presentation will inform you about what your child will learn in school, what kind of homework to expect, and practical advice to help you support your child as best as you can through their first year of school.

Preparation for School

- Please speak positively about school.
- Read books and discuss stories with your child.
- Take trips to your local library.
- Engage in fine-motor control activities: making jigsaws, play dough, fastening buttons etc.
- Show your child how to put on/take off their coat (buttons/zip).
- Label all belongings (especially jumpers and tracksuit tops).
- Shoes - Velcro/no laces if possible.



School Uniform



Uniform

- Navy tracksuit
- Blue t-shirt
- Navy jumper
- Runners (Velcro)



Label all uniform items please

Lunch

- Break time: 10 minutes & Lunch time: 30 minutes
- The children will receive hot lunches every day for their big break. Further details on setting up hot lunch orders will be shared in due course.
- Bring something small to eat at little break.
- Practise giving your child their small lunch in their lunchbox over the summer. This will help you to determine the amount they will have time to eat in school. It will also give them the opportunity to become more independent and familiar with opening and closing their lunchboxes and drinks bottles.



Lunch continued....

- Healthy Lunches - We have a healthy eating policy in Geashill N.S. All children are encouraged to bring healthy lunches to school. One small treat is permitted on Fridays.
- If fruit/vegetables are brought for lunch, ensure they are prepared in a way that your child can manage them independently.
- Bottles of water can be refilled in the classroom.



Curricular Work



- English Reading, Writing & Oral Language. (Jolly Phonics & Starlight Programme)
- Gaeilge (Bua na Cainte)
- Maths (Busy At Maths)
- Social Environmental & Scientific Education (S.E.S.E)
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- P.E.
- Social, Personal & Health Education (S.P.H.E)
- Religion (Grow In Love).

Play Based Learning

In Junior Infants, children will learn through meaningful play-based experiences across all areas of the curriculum.

Play helps children to explore, communicate, create and develop important social and learning skills.

Activities are carefully planned and guided by the teacher and may include:

- Role play
- Small world play
- Construction
- Creative and messy play

New vocabulary will be introduced with each theme and children will be encouraged to use this language during play and throughout the school day.

Themes will connect to children's own lives and interests, helping to make learning enjoyable, relevant and meaningful.



Phonics



- Children are taught to read using phonics.
- The children are taught 42 letter sounds. Each sound has a story, song and action to accompany it.
- Letter names become more of a focus at a later time.
- Reading is taught using a ‘blending’ technique, where children are taught to ‘blend’ sounds together. For example, c-a-t, b-a-g.
- Words that cannot be sounded out (also known as ‘tricky words’, such as ‘the’, ‘our’, ‘he’ and ‘she’), are given to the children to learn by sight. It is important to practise tricky words with your child each night.

Homework

- Should take 10-15 minutes with no distractions.
- Each child will have a zipped homework folder. Any worksheets, workbooks or readers will be placed in this.
- Homework will be assigned each Monday. It will explain what has to be done for the upcoming week.
- The children will receive a new rhyme each week to read. One written activity and some phonics based homework will be given each night.
- Reading will begin after Christmas.
- Phonics exercises/maths will always relate to the topic being covered in class that week.



Settling In



- Children to arrive to school from 8:50am. School begins at 9.10am.
- The children will come straight into the classroom for the first week or so. Then they can join the rest of the pupils at the back of the school until the bell rings at 9.05am.
- Seating places will be changed regularly to ensure the children get a chance to know everybody in the class.

ClassDojo



- We use ClassDojo as a means of communication from school to home.
- Any notes or messages you may need to send during the year can be sent to me using this app.
- You will be given instructions in September on how to set this up and a login code for your child's account.
- I will assign homework here and I can share some photos or videos of your child's work during the year also.



Assessment

- Continuous informal assessments will be carried out throughout the year at regular intervals - (Jolly Phonics/Busy At Maths/Gaeilge/Fine & Gross Motor Control etc.)
- Parent - teacher meetings held in Term 1 (Nov)
- The Belfield Infant Assessment Profile (BIAP) will be carried out in the second half of the Junior Infant year. It evaluates each child across five core areas: Perceptual Processes, Motor Development, Early Learning Styles, Language & Communication and Social & Emotional Development.



Assessment continued...

- Standardised reading tests in Senior Infants (M.I.S.T Middle Infant Screening Test)
- *If you have any concerns throughout the year regarding your child's progress please arrange a meeting.*

If your child is/has accessed ANY early intervention services please make us aware as soon as possible.

(Speech and Language Therapy/ Physical or Occupational Therapy/ Psychological Services/ Hearing or Vision Services, Primary Care/ Assessment of Need)



Dates for your Diary



School begins on Monday August 31st @ 9.10am

- First week: 9:10am-12:00pm
- September 7th onwards: 1:50pm finish.
- Children must wait behind school gates until a parent/guardian/minder approaches.
- If you require somebody different to collect your child please inform me by note, on ClassDojo or phone the school in advance.
- On-site afterschool service run by Clever Clogs to begin this year. Contact Lisa at cleverclogs63@gmail.com for more information.

Thank You

*Thank you for your time. I am looking forward to teaching
the children in the next school year.*

*If you have any question in the meantime do not hesitate to
make contact.*

