

Starting School



Bunscoil Mhuire
O'Brien's Place
Youghal

www.bunscoilmhuirejuniorinfants.weebly.com

Welcome:

Welcome parents to a new and exciting stage in your child's life. During this year your child will make new friends, enjoy new experiences and learn the vital skill of reading. We now, teacher and parents, have the chance to work as partners 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.



Our School:

Our school is a co-educational Catholic school under the patronage of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Cloyne. The school aims to promote the full and harmonious development of all pupils: cognitive, intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and other people and promotes a Christian philosophy of life.

As a Roman Catholic school, our ethos is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Church, under the protection and guidance of our Lady. Our ethos is inspired by the example provided by the life of our Saviour and the loving care of our Mother.

First Day - A Happy One!

Please be positive with your child in preparing him/her for school and explain to her/him what will happen re. Teacher, other children, breaks, sitting down, tidy-up time and home-time. On arrival it is very helpful if you can show your child where to hang her/his coat. After meeting the teacher and some other children and finding a place to sit please leave promptly because your child will pick up on your anxiety. Most children, even if initially upset soon become distracted by their surroundings and settle down. Please do not hesitate to approach the Junior Infant teacher at any time if there is a point upon which you feel anxious. However if you wish a more detailed discussion please arrange a convenient time in advance.

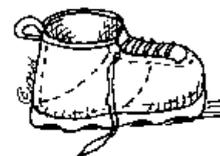


Seating:

For the first few days children will be allowed to sit in any seat. The different tables are colour coded and after a couple of days your child will be given a special place to sit. Each table then has a group leader on a daily Rota system which encourages responsibility and delegation skills.

Clothes:

The children wear either the formal school uniform or school tracksuit when coming to school. Please ensure that all clothes likely to be removed i.e. coats, hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers etc. **are clearly labelled** with your child's name as many children possess similar items. We have some spare clothes for use if needed. However, if your child has any toilet problems please let the teacher know and send in a spare set of clothes for emergencies.



Food:

We strongly urge you to follow our "healthy lunch box" recommendations to keep to an absolute minimum, sweets, biscuits, and other unhealthy foods. On starting school many children are too keyed up and distracted to eat a large lunch so we recommend a small nutritious snack, for example sandwiches, milk or fruit juice, a piece of cheese, yoghurt or fruit.



We try to ensure that the children eat a good portion of their lunch, particularly their sandwiches. We do not encourage swapping of lunch items. Please ensure that your child's lunch box is clearly labelled with your child's name.



Breaks:

There are two breaks during the day, a short outdoor one from 11.00 to 11.15 and a longer outdoor break from 12.50 to 1.20. We try to ensure that no child feels lonely or left out, and, to this end we recommend that older brothers, sisters and friends do not monopolise the younger children's playtime which may restrict them in forming peer attachments. However for the first few weeks they will be taken out to the yard on their own so as to familiarise them with their surroundings.



Home Time:

All Junior Infants go home at 1:45. For the first two full weeks Junior Infants will finish at 12.00 noon, for the third week at 12.45 pm and from the fourth week on at 1.45 pm. Please come promptly as your child may fret if he/she thinks he/she is forgotten. When the children are ready to go they will be brought out of their classroom in a line, & can be collected from the bottom of the steps. Please do not call

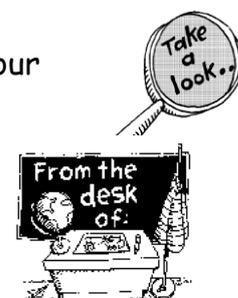


your child out of the line & remain behind the white dotted line so the teachers can identify each parent. If there is any special collection arrangements please let us know by note.

Preparing Your Child for Schoolwork:

Good writing is all about muscle and motor control so it will help your child greatly if he/she is practised at colouring, drawing, painting, manipulating materials such as playdough, construction work, jigsaws etc. Noting visual differences is essential to reading and this skill is practised and encouraged by use of matching games, construction work, jigsaws etc. Reading aloud to your child will cultivate an interest in, and love of reading.

We do not encourage parents to teach children to write before attending school as we teach specific letter formations and it is extremely difficult to rectify bad habits. Your child will be learning to write lower case letters initially so it would be very helpful if you could stick up your child's name written in this way perhaps on his bedroom door so that he can be familiar with it.



Reading:

We use the Jolly Phonics Programme and this entails a combination of two approaches, look-and-say and phonetic. We also have a "Literacy Lift-Off" scheme in place when the children are ready to start reading books. More information on Jolly Phonics and Literacy Lift-Off will be sent out during the school year. There will be an information evening in late September to familiarize parents with the Jolly Phonics Programme.

Toys:

There is no need for children to bring in toys into school and we do not encourage this practice because of breakages, competition and peer pressure.



Information Bulletins:

Please keep an eye on your child's lunch box and school-bag as they may contain notes for parents. We also have our own class website and school Facebook page. We post weekly updates and information here about all classroom activities.

Absences:

In the event of your child missing school for any reason the school teacher must be informed via note as to the reason. In the event that your child misses more than 20 days these notes will be used to justify these absences to Túsla. It is mandatory that any child who misses 20+ days is included in our report to Túsla.



Assessment:

Informal assessment will be continually made by your child's teacher. In the middle of Senior Infants our teachers will oversee a specific standardised reading test after which learning support teaching will be available if necessary.

Parent/Teacher Meetings:

Every year near the end of the Christmas term time is given over to parent- teacher meetings. It is VITAL to attend this meeting as it gives important up-dates on your Childs progress. A formal written end of year report is given.



Plean Scoile and School Policies:

On registering children in Bunscoil Mhuire parents are expected to 'sign up' to the various School Policies enclosed in the Plean Scoile and to support teachers in following the policies and procedures of the school. A copy of all policies and procedures is available for viewing by all parents at the school office and on the School's web page www.bunscoilmuirejuniorinfants.weebly.com. New Parents, upon request, may receive a copy of all policies and procedures if they so wish.



Health and Safety:

As part of our school health programme we encourage regular washing of hands, particularly after toilet use. We are not however always able to oversee this so please remind your child of its importance. 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 blowing their nose and to cover their mouth and turn away when coughing.

If your child develops any contagious illness such as chickenpox please keep him away from school until the period of contagion is over and

inform his/her teacher immediately. We recommend that you check your child regularly for lice and scabies, which are highly contagious, treat immediately if they occur and inform the teacher so that notification of possible risk may be sent out to other parents. All information regarding your child's health is treated in the strictest confidence. In the first term your permission will be required for health examinations that will be carried out by the school HSE nurse.

Savings Scheme:

The school takes part in a voluntary savings stamp scheme with the Credit Union. If you wish your child to save a little each week, please send in some money with him on Thursday morning (each stamp costs €1.) On starting to save each child will receive a little savings book. Children bring home their books when they are completed.

Bills:

School expenses such as insurance, computers, photocopying, art, etc need to be paid by Friday 17th of May 2019 in order to guarantee your child's place. These are at a cost of €50.

WE'LL SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

