

Knockanes National School
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Welcome Booklet
~June 2023~



Céad míle fáilte romhaibh go léir go Knockanes National School!

Your welcome pack includes;

- ✓ Junior Infant Welcome Booklet
- ✓ Information on our After School Fun Club
- ✓ Junior Infant Stationary & Charges List



The following can be viewed on our website

www.knockanesns.ie :

- ✓ Knockanes N.S. Code of Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- ✓ Knockanes N.S. Admissions Policy
- ✓ Knockanes N.S. Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

Starting school will be the first big change in the life of your child. Up to this s/he has felt safe and secure with you in the home and family but now he/she is facing the wider world of classroom and school. This may seem a big step for someone so small, but most children manage it without any great fuss or stress - and in fact take to it like ducks to water. However, it is also a time when parents and teachers should take special care to ensure that the transition from home to school is as smooth as possible. Your child may be transitioning from a preschool that they love - we are very mindful of this and aim to make this change as easy as possible for everyone.

If the child's first experience of school is one of happy involvement, a very good foundation will have been laid for fruitful school years ahead. It is important too, particularly during the first year, that parents understand what the aims of the school are, as many may be expecting too much in the way of academic achievement. We know from experience that parents are very anxious to help in any way possible. We have, therefore, included some ideas for the home which should stimulate the child's interest and nurture his/ her desire to know more. With these aims in mind we have put together this little booklet as a general guide for parents. It deals briefly with the period before your child comes to school and his/ her introductory stage in Junior Infants. We trust you will find it helpful and that your child will be happy and fulfilled with us.

*L O Sullivan,
Principal.*

Here is some information for you about our school:

Classes:

Our pupils work and learn in a multi-grade class setting. For the coming school year the class groupings are as follows:

Junior & Senior Infants

1st, 2nd & 3rd Classes

4th, 5th & 6th Classes

In September 2021 a **Special Class for Pupils with Hearing Impairment** was established in our school. Pupils enrolled in this class are supported in a specific way to target their area of learning need and are fully integrated with their mainstream classes throughout the school day.

Staffing:

Principal: Ms. Lucy O' Sullivan

Deputy Principal: Ms. Marie Cronin

There are 3 mainstream class teachers, 1 special class teacher, 2 SET (Special Education Support Team) teachers, 3 full time SNAs and 1 part time SNA (Special Needs Assistants). We also have a part-time secretary and caretaker.

Our School Routine:

Morning supervision is daily from 8:50 a.m. Pupils from all classes are greeted by the supervising teacher at the main front door and guided around the school to the yard area. Here the pupils will line up with their classes at 9:00am on hearing the school bell.

Lessons commence at 9:00 a.m.

Morning break: 10:50a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Lunch break: 12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Home time: 1:40 p.m. (Infants) 2:40 p.m. (1st - 6th Class)

Our school also has an *After School Fun Club* for Infant pupils who may need to wait for collection until 2:40 p.m. (Our school also runs a *Homework Club* for pupils in 1st-6th Classes from 2:40-3:40pm.)

Our school uses the *Aladdin Connect* app for home-school communications. This app is useful for parents to note when their child is absent and/or if they wish their child to be collect early in the day. Notes from the Principal and class teachers are also sent via the Aladdin Connect app. New parents will be sent a code to set up this app on their phone before the new school year begins.

Board of Management of Knockanes N.S.

The Board of Management is the management authority of the school. The Board of Management runs and manages the school. Two of its members are elected directly from the parent body every four years. The Principal acts as the daily manager of the school and implements the policies of the Board of Management.

Board of Management:

Chairperson: Mrs Rosie Healy

Patron's Nominee: Mary Woodcock O Sullivan

Secretary (Principal): Ms. Lucy O' Sullivan

Staff Nominee: Ms Marie Cronin

Parent Nominees: Mrs Niamh O Connor & Mr Michael Culloty

Community Nominees: Mrs Patricia O' Donoghue & Mr Leonard Moran

Knockanes N.S. Parents Association

The Parent Association is the structure through which parents/guardians in a school can work together for the best possible education for their children. The school has an active PA. All parents/legal guardians are part of the PA and are entitled to attend PA meetings and become a member of the PA Committee. Please get involved in any way you can and assist us to give our pupils the best learning environment we can offer. Each September, an AGM of the PA will take place.

Follow us online:

Our school has an informative website www.knockanens.ie that is updated regularly. Here you can access our school policies, family notes and other information regarding important events that have taken place in school on our 'Blog' section.



Our school also regularly updates the Knockanes National School Facebook page, highlighting the many positive events and activities that take place in our school throughout the year.

Knockanes N.S. School Uniform Policy:

Pupils are required to wear the full school uniform to school each day.

The school uniform consists of:

Wine/ Burgundy Fleece Crew Neck Sweatshirt

Blue short-sleeved polo shirt

Wine/ Burgundy fleece jogger tracksuit pants

Runners

The school Summer (May, June/ September) uniform consists of:

Wine/ Burgundy crew neck tracksuit jumper

Blue short-sleeved polo shirt

Wine/ Burgundy fleece jogger-style shorts

Runners

Our uniform is uncrested and unbranded.

Tracksuit items are available at the following stores: *Dunnes Stores, Marks and Spencer, Walshe Brothers Uniform Suppliers, Killarney.*

The school uniform does not include:

- ❖ Branded items of clothing (with the exception of runners)
- ❖ Hoodie/Zipped jumpers or sweatshirts.

Please see below for images of sample uniform items:



*Wine/ Burgundy fleece jogger
tracksuit pants and crew neck
jumper*



Light blue polo shirt

The Junior Infant Curriculum - some helpful points:



Early Literacy & Numeracy:

- ✓ Introduce your child to simple nursery rhymes. Read and chat about familiar fairy tales and stories.
- ✓ When talking, use names, numbers, mention colours, shapes, sizes etc.
- ✓ Talk about things being big/small, full/empty, wide/narrow, heavy/light, over/under, behind/between, first/last, middle etc.
- ✓ Read to your child as often as possible.
- ✓ Let them turn pages for you. Run your finger under the words while reading to help them see that we read from left to right.
- ✓ Talk about the pictures, question your child about the story - check their understanding "What will happen next?" and so on.
- ✓ Draw attention to everyday print, e.g. to street signs, shop names, household/food packaging etc.
- ✓ Let your child see you reading books, magazines and newspapers.
- ✓ Take your child to the library to choose some books.



The AISTEAR Programme:

Much of childrens' early learning and development takes place through play and hands-on experience. Through play, children explore social, physical and imaginary worlds.

These experiences help them manage their feelings, develop as thinkers and develop socially, be creative and imaginative and develop language skills to lay the foundations for communicators and learners. Aistear is a programme for early childhood education. It ensures that your child's transition from pre-school to primary school is as seamless as possible.

In our Junior Infant and Senior Infant classes much of the children's learning is through structured play and we have dedicated Aistear sessions.



Homework:

Homework given to Junior Infants will be minimal. Homework should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. Try and encourage your child to complete their homework when they come home from school, as they are still in school mode. Leaving homework until late means your child will be tired and may learn to resent it. Homework should be a positive experience enabling the pupils to revise and reinforce learning that has taken place in class.



Other helpful hints & reminders!

- ✓ Please ensure that your child's name is clearly printed on **all of his/her belongings** e.g. coat, jumper, lunchbox, schoolbag and front cover of books etc.
- ✓ Check that your child has a copybook, pencil and crayons or colouring pencils every day.
- ✓ When buying a school bag, please select one big enough for an A4 folder and check that they can open and close their bag easily.
- ✓ Check your son's/daughter's bag every day for homework, notes or just to see what they are doing in school, this can act as a key to talk to them about their day. Regular '**Family Notes**' will be sent home by the principal with important updates and reminders. These are usually circulated by email.
- ✓ Please note that we kindly ask that **birthday invitations** are distributed **outside** of school time to avoid unnecessary upset for pupils that may not receive an invite.
- ✓ Please use the Aladdin Connect App if your child is to be collected early from school or if your child has been absent.
- ✓ **New Junior Infant pupils will finish at the earlier time of 12 noon for the first week of school - Wednesday, 30th August until Friday, 1st September. Finishing time will be 1:40pm from Monday, 4th September.**
- ✓ Please return the **completed Enrolment Registration Form** to the school as soon as possible as well as any additional documents that are requested on the form.



Healthy lunches & Green Schools



Knockanes N.S. is a **Health Promoting School** with a healthy-eating policy. Please provide your child with a healthy lunch and drink each day. Please note all sweets, crisps and fizzy drinks are not permitted. Due to the increasing number of pupils with serious nut allergies, nuts or nut products are not permitted. Also, we kindly ask that no treats, birthday cakes etc. for sharing are sent to school as we cannot be completely sure of ingredients and do not wish to be in the position of returning them back home.

As we are also a **Green School**, please consider the packaging (tinfoil, cling film, excess plastic etc.) that could be avoided in lunch boxes. This helps our Litter and Waste Committee to maintain a cleaner & greener school.



Encouraging your child to be independent:

- ✓ Play with other children and take turns to listen to others while they are speaking.
- ✓ Put on and take off his/her coat and shoes.
- ✓ Fasten their own buttons and zips.
- ✓ Open and close his/her own school bag.
- ✓ Tidy up after themselves.
- ✓ Give them lunch boxes and drinks they can open with ease.
- ✓ Ensure that they can look after themselves in the bathroom.
- ✓ Encourage colouring inside the lines, drawing and painting to develop their fine motor skills.
- ✓ Cutting, water play, using play dough and making jigsaws are also very useful activities.



School Support and Wellbeing:

We are very proud of our home-school links and of the pastoral care system in our school. Our teachers and SNAs look out for your child and have his/her best interests at heart whether that is her academic welfare or her social and emotional welfare. If you have any concerns at all about your child starting school please let us know. If at any time you have a concern or query please do not hesitate to contact us as quickly as possible so that we can help resolve any issues that may arise. Sometimes a quick phone-call to the office can clear something up or we will be more than happy to make an appointment if you wish to discuss something in confidence.

Here in Knockanes N.S. we share the following vision across our school community:

Building on our school's foundations to meet future ambitions to create an inclusive, safe, nurturing, positive, learning environment that treats all adults and children with equal respect and integrity. Together creating a place where everyone does their best, in everything they do.

We look forward to meeting our new Junior Infant Pupils very soon.

We look forward also to meeting and working with you, their parents, over the coming months and years. We would like to wish you all a positive and successful time as part of the Knockanes N.S. School Community.

Wishing you all a wonderful Summer!
Looking forward to seeing you all very soon.



Unity



I dreamt I stood in a studio,
And watched two sculptors there.

The clay they used was a young child's mind,
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher, the tools he used
Were books, music, and art.
One a parent with a guiding hand
And a gentle loving heart.

Day after day, the teacher toiled,
With a touch that was deft and sure.
While the parent laboured by his side,
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last, their work was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had moulded into the child,
Could neither be sold nor bought.

And each agreed they would have failed
If each had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood the school
And behind the teacher the home.

-Author Unknown

