



Welcome to Junior Infants

St. Martin de Porres NS



WELCOME

The following information is to help you and your children get to know and settle into school life in St. Martin de Porres NS.

Junior Infant children will assemble in the school hall on Thursday, August 27th at 10am where they will meet their class teacher.

Timetable for Junior Infants

27 th August - 4 th September	10am - 12pm
7 th - 11 th September	9am - 12pm
14 th September - onwards	9am - 1:40pm

- * All children begin school at 9:00am.
- * Junior and Senior Infant classes finish at 1:40pm.
- * 1st Class - 6th Class finish at 2:40pm.

Children assemble in their lines in the yard at 8:50pm where they will be collected by their class teacher and brought into their classroom.



Parents should drop their children at the gate/front door of the school. Children will be permitted to wait in the hall where they will be supervised until collected by their class teacher and brought to their classroom.

Note: For Health and Safety reasons, parents are not permitted down to the classrooms or the corridors at any time unless given permission to do so by the Secretary or Principal.



Junior Infants are collected at 1:40pm. **Please avoid being late.** Collecting children 5 or 10 minutes early is discouraged as it can be quite disruptive. Any late arrivals/early collections are recorded.

School Attendance

There is much evidence linking poor attendance with poor performance at school. We monitor attendance closely and explanations must be provided for all absences.

Schools are obliged by law under the Educational Welfare Act, 2000 to submit reports on school attendance to the Educational Welfare Services or the Child and Family Agency.

Absences of over 20 days are reported to TUSLA. It is strongly advised that children should not be taken on holidays during school term.



The school uniform consists of a navy tracksuit with the school crest and white cotton polo shirt. The school tracksuit can only be purchased through the school office.

All items should have the child's name clearly marked. Comfortable footwear is essential.



We have a Healthy Eating Policy at St. Martin de Porres NS. Children bring their own lunches to school and we encourage healthy eating - crisps, sweets, chocolate bars, fizzy drinks or foods high in sugar are not permitted.

NOTE: Some children have food allergies. Anything containing nuts or 'traces of nuts' is not permitted.

Please ask for our Healthy Eating Policy for some healthy lunch ideas.



Contact Information



It is important that the school's Contact Information Form is completed in full in September.

We must have up-to-date phone numbers in case of emergency.

The Department of Education and Skills also requires specific information for their system. This is a separate form which you will receive in September.



Accident, Injury and Illness



In the event of an accident, injury or illness, parents will be contacted immediately. If, in our opinion, the accident or illness is serious, we may call for an ambulance or take the child directly to the hospital.

If children are extremely ill, please avoid sending them to school. This will help to control the spread of germs.

Insurance

Parents are advised to insure their child/children under the Personal Accident Insurance Scheme.

More information will be provided on this in September.





Book Lists



Book lists will be available from the school or can be downloaded from the school website from June 22nd, 2020.



The website is regularly updated and is a great source of information and a fantastic way to keep up-to-date with what is happening in the school.



Access to the School



Traffic congestion and parking is a major issue on Heatherview Lawn.

In an effort to avoid congestion and to keep the traffic flowing at peak times, please approach the school via Heatherview Drive and leave via Carrigmore Road. Please avoid parking in front of residents' driveways or stopping outside the school for long periods of time.

For Health and Safety reasons and at the request of the Board of Management, parents are not permitted in the Staff Car Park or into the school via the yard (see signs).

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings take place in November, but if you wish to speak with the Class Teacher, please arrange an appointment through the school office.





Getting Ready for School

Children are natural learners. They have an inbuilt curiosity and an eagerness to know more about everything - about themselves, about others and about the world around them. And they learn fast - but only when they are ready and they are interested.

The rates of progress of children can vary greatly. We try to give them an opportunity to move ahead at their own pace. Their first year in school therefore, is mainly about settling in, relating to others, making friends, feeling happy and gradually getting used to the routine of the school.

On the learning side, the emphasis is on getting children ready for learning by -

- * developing their oral language and expression.
- * developing physical co-ordination or fine motor skills, especially of hands and fingers.
- * extending their concentration span and getting them to listen attentively.
- * learning through play - the most enjoyable and effective way.
- * co-operating with the teacher and other and other children.
- * performing tasks by themselves.
- * working with others and sharing with them.
- * teaching the child to accept the general order, which is necessary for the class to work well.

Before Your Child Starts School

You should ensure that your child is as independent as possible—physically, emotionally and socially. If he/she can look after themselves in these areas he/she will feel secure and confident and settle in readily.

Before starting school your child should be able to:

Button and unbutton his/her coat and hang it up.



Use the toilet without help and manage pants/buttons.



Flush the toilet and wash their hands.



Use a tissue for their nose if necessary.



Open and close their lunchbox.



Share toys with others and 'take turns'.



Tidy up and put away toys, lunchboxes etc.

School Activities

GAA, Basketball, Athletics, Swimming, Choir, Band, Bodhrán Lessons, Green Schools, Active Schools, Quizzes, Speech & Drama, Cookery Club, Science Club, Dream Team



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