

School Activities

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



St. Martin de Porres NS

Heatherview Lawn
Aylesbury
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Principal: Valerie O'Loughlin

Welcome to
St. Martin de
Porres N.S.



The following information is to help you and your child/ children get to know & settle into school life in St. Martin de Porres N.S.

Junior Infant children will assemble outside the school gate on Tuesday August 30th at 10am where they will meet their class teacher.

Timetable for Junior Infants: August—September 2022

Tuesday August 30th	10am—11:45am
August 31st— September 2nd	10am—12 pm
September 5th—September 9th	9.15am—12 pm
From September 12th on	9.00am—1.40pm

Regular Timetable for the year

All children begin school at 9.00am

Junior and Senior Infants classes finish at 1.40pm

1st class up to 6th class finish at 2.40pm

Children may enter the school from **9.00am**.

They should walk directly to their classrooms.

NOTE: Parents are not permitted to enter the school for any reason. Enquires at reception only.

Before Your Child Starts School (Junior Classes)

You should ensure that he/she 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.

Getting Ready for School (Junior Classes)

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 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.



Punctuality



Junior Infants are collected at 1.40pm. **Please avoid being late.** Collecting children 5 or 10 minutes early is also very 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 term.

Uniform

The school uniform consists of a navy tracksuit 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—preferably Velcro.



Lunches



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. We ask that families do not send in party food for birthdays etc.



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 & Illness



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

If children are extremely ill, or displaying symptoms, similar to e.g. Covid 19, please do not send them to school. This will help to control the spread of germs/virus.

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

It costs €6 (school hours) or €9 2(4 hr 7 days a week).

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 the end of June 2022.

www.smdpns.com

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 traffic flowing at peak times, please observe the one way system: approach the school via Heatherview Drive and leave via Carrigmore Road.

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.

