



Welcome to St. Martin de Porres NS



WELCOME

Welcome to our school. We hope that you will be very happy here!

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

Principal	Valerie O'Loughlin
Deputy Principal	Valerie Neale
Secretary	Louise O'Doherty

- * 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.



Punctuality



Junior Infants are collected at 1:40pm. Senior Infants to 6th Class are collected at 2:40pm. **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.



Uniform



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.



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.

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



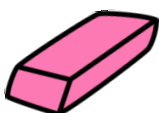
In the event of an accident, injury or illness, parents will be contacted immediately. If, in our opinion, the accident or illness is serious, we may call for an ambulance or take the child directly to the hospital.

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.

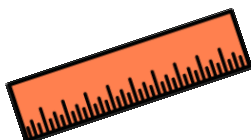
In an effort to avoid congestion and to keep the traffic flowing at peak times, please approach the school via Heatherview Drive and leave via Carrigmore Road.

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.





5 Ways to Help Your Child with Their Homework

Doing homework is not always the most pleasant activity for children, but if they are in the correct learning environment and have the right motivation, they can learn a lot and it can be a great opportunity to share knowledge.

1. Choose a calm, quiet place

It is essential to avoid distraction such as televisions, mobile phones, tablets and video games. In an orderly and quiet environment, it is easier for the child to remain focussed and on task.

2. Set a specific time

Structure is always important. Designate a specific time frame for homework to be completed. Creating a regular routine will increase productivity.

3. Take little breaks

Taking short breaks provides children with time to process what they are learning, as well as letting the brain have some rest.

4. Allow for mistakes

Remember, you're there to help your child, not to critique them. If they are having trouble with an exercise, calmly explain it to them, even if it takes several attempts. Using simple words and practical examples will help them to understand things more clearly.

5. Adapt to the pace of the child

Remember, each child works at their own pace. What matters most is engagement, concentration and understanding.



"Education
is the key to *unlocking*
the world, a passport to
freedom."

~ Oprah Winfrey



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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