



# Information Booklet

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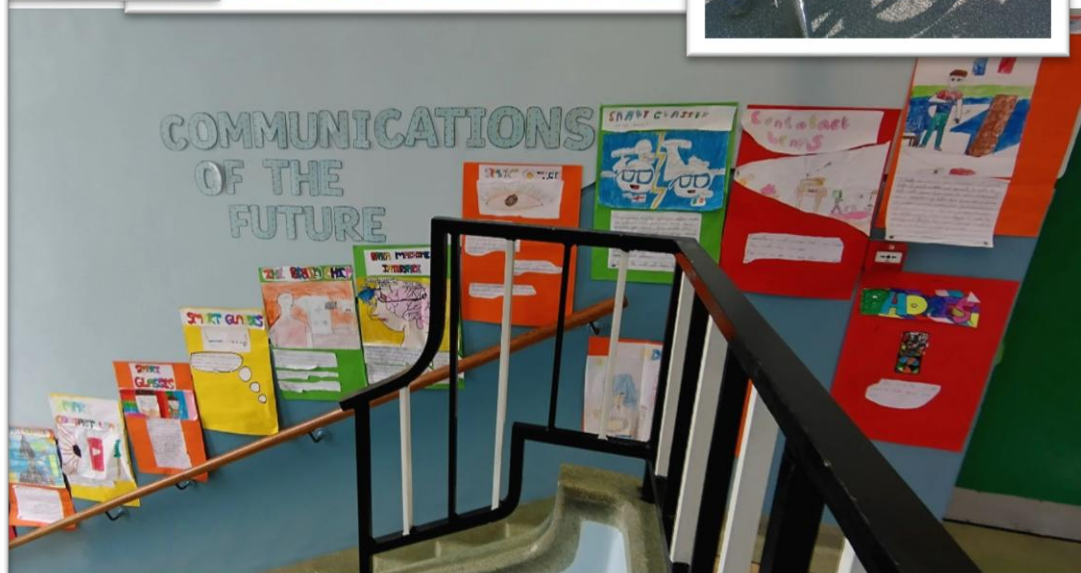
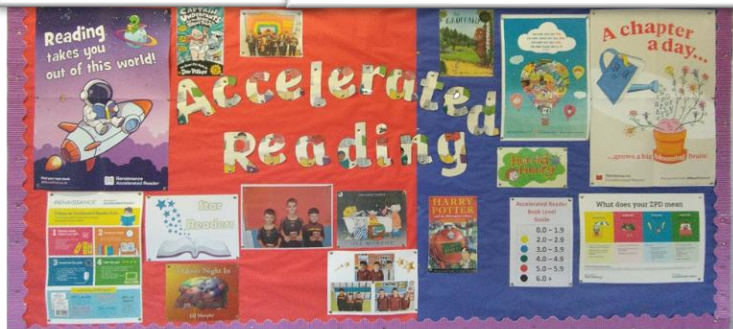
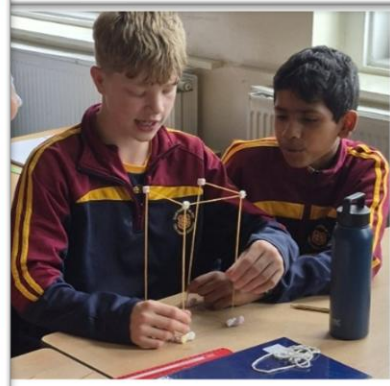
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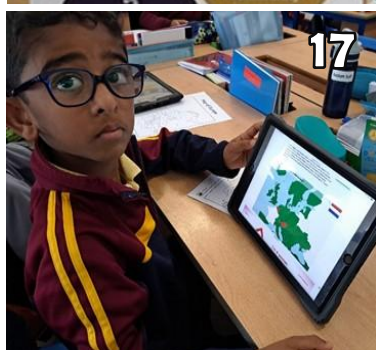
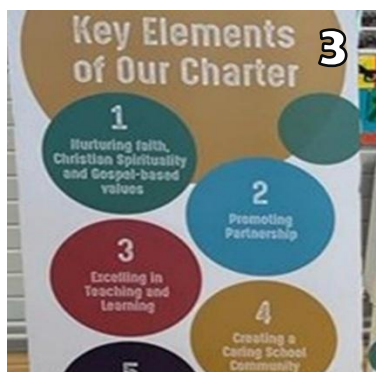
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**Scoil Iognáid de Rís**



## Welcome / Fáilte

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Scoil Iognáid de Rís, Kilkenny for what will no doubt be a very happy, productive and successful time for you and your child.

With a broad range of in-school and extra-curricular activities we are committed to encouraging the holistic development of your child.

Scoil Iognáid de Rís is an Edmund Rice school and the values of Edmund Rice are to the fore in all aspects of our work. Our school promotes equality of access and participation. Children of any faith, or none, at every level of ability, of any nationality or ethnic grouping are all welcome in our school.

We are offering this 'Information Booklet' as a practical guide to assist you and your child as you begin your journey in our school. We hope you find the information helpful and should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school.

We look forward to working with you as your child develops into a strong, bright, confident and independent student.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

*Niall Bergin*  
Principal



**We will be there to help **everyone** in the school and ensure everyone is **treated equally and fairly**.**





**Scoil Iognáid de Rís**

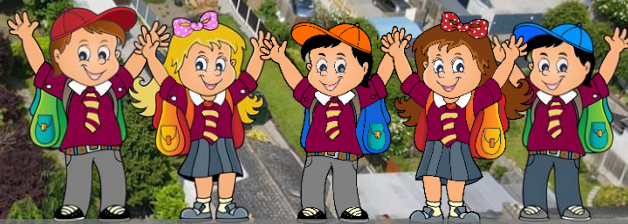


## Welcome to Scoil Iognáid de Rís

At Scoil Iognáid de Rís we seek to ensure that all our pupils are educated in an environment that is welcoming, caring, considerate and tolerant. The staff at Scoil Iognáid de Rís are committed to making sure that your children are happy at school and we aim to do this through working in close partnership with you.



**Welcoming Junior Infants – 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Girls and Boys in September 2026**



**We will continue to offer  
places to 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class boys.**

**Enquiries to [office@cbsprimarykilkenny.ie](mailto:office@cbsprimarykilkenny.ie) or (056) 7761739**







## Our Mission Statement

Scoil Iognáid de Rís, Kilkenny is an Edmund Rice, co-educational, catholic primary school which strives to provide a well-ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed.

Our school is a multi-cultural school that welcomes and embraces difference and uniqueness. We wish to give each child a sense of personal and cultural identity, with a respect for and a tolerance of other cultures and differences.

Our school aims to nurture a Christian atmosphere that cultivates a positive relationship based on respect between staff, pupil, parents and local community. In this atmosphere each pupil feels valued and special.

Our school aims to provide a full range of curricular and extra-curricular activities allowing pupils to develop their many talents and to develop to their full potential.

Our school encourages the involvement of parents through home/school contacts and through their involvement in the Parents' Association.

Our school will endeavour to enhance the self-esteem of everyone in the school community, to instil in the pupils respect for people and property and to encourage responsibility.

Déanfaimid iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt go minic.

## Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST)

At Scoil Iognáid de Rís we actively promote the five key elements of an ERST school in our daily school activities. These elements are:

|  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <br>Iontasbhas Scoileanna Eamainn Rís<br>Edmund Rice Schools Trust<br><b>An Edmund Rice School...</b><br>Nurtures Faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel based Values<br><b>We do this by:</b><br>Living our Catholic Faith<br>Experiencing God<br>Becoming spiritual people<br>Respecting the beliefs and values of each member of the school community<br>Promoting the full development of each person<br>Working for social and ecological justice<br>Following the example of Mary, mother of Jesus<br><b>In our school this means...</b> | <br>Iontasbhas Scoileanna Eamainn Rís<br>Edmund Rice Schools Trust<br><b>An Edmund Rice School...</b><br>Promotes Partnership in the school community<br><b>We do this by:</b><br>Making everyone feel welcome<br>Sharing mutual respect and interdependence<br>Creating a real sense of belonging to the school community<br>Building a Christian community with a shared vision and mission<br>Caring for the earth to the benefit of our and future generations<br>Recognising the voice of students, staff and parents<br>Respecting the role of Management and Trustees<br>Being involved in our parish<br><b>In our school this means...</b> | <br>Iontasbhas Scoileanna Eamainn Rís<br>Edmund Rice Schools Trust<br><b>An Edmund Rice School...</b><br>Excels in Teaching and Learning<br><b>We do this by:</b><br>Having high expectations of our teachers and students<br>Inspiring innovative methods of teaching and learning<br>Nurturing the development of all aspects of our lives<br>Responding to a changing world<br>Using technology responsibly and creatively to enhance our learning<br>Recognising the uniqueness and value of each individual<br>Developing an awareness of belonging to a wider, global community<br>Promoting learning as a life long enterprise<br><b>In our school this means...</b> | <br>Iontasbhas Scoileanna Eamainn Rís<br>Edmund Rice Schools Trust<br><b>An Edmund Rice School...</b><br>Creates a caring community<br><b>We do this by:</b><br>Showing care and compassion as exemplified by the life of Jesus<br>Identifying and serving the needs of students<br>Creating a happy and safe community for all<br>Respecting and celebrating the dignity of each person<br>Seeking to help those who are disadvantaged or in need in our society<br>Speaking up for those whose voice is not heard<br>Befriending those who seem lonely<br><b>In our school this means...</b> | <br>Iontasbhas Scoileanna Eamainn Rís<br>Edmund Rice Schools Trust<br><b>An Edmund Rice School...</b><br>Is committed to Inspiring Transformational Leadership<br><b>We do this by:</b><br>Motivating people to work towards the vision of Blessed Edmund<br>Encouraging and empowering all in our community to be leaders<br>Inspiring the minds and hearts of our students<br>Having courage and confidence to stand up for what we believe in<br>Working hard and with creativity<br>Hearing the voice of all partners<br>Leading by giving good example<br>Taking responsibility for our actions<br>Being good citizens<br><b>In our school this means...</b> |
|--|---|--|---|--|





## Board of Management

Scoil Iognáid de Rís, Kilkenny operates under the patronage of the Bishop of Ossory and under the Trusteeship of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. A Catholic ethos underpins our teaching and learning as outlined in our mission statement. Whereas the Principal is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school, the school's Board of Management is ultimately responsible for its overall management.

The term of the Board is four years and the current Board consists of:

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairperson       | Rev. Dr. Dermot Ryan, ADM |
| Bishop's Nominee  | Denis O' Reilly           |
| Parent's Nominee  | Sarah Murphy              |
| Parent's Nominee  | Shane Burke               |
| Community Nominee | Ann Marie Cahill          |
| Community Nominee | David Ryan                |
| Teacher's Nominee | Órla Brennan              |
| Principal         | Niall Bergin              |

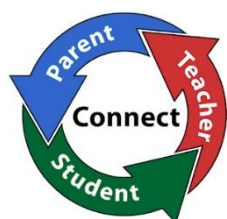


## School Staff

Our dedicated and caring staff are committed to providing a safe and happy environment where all our pupils can reach their full potential.

|                   |                               |                   |                  |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Niall Bergin      | Principal                     | Niamh Walsh       | Teacher          |
| Tom Cuniffe       | Deputy Principal              | Róisín Lawlor     | Teacher          |
| Caroline Boyle    | Teacher/Assistant Principal 2 | Conor Fitzpatrick | Teacher          |
| Nicola Ryan       | Teacher/Assistant Principal 2 | Catriona Condon   | Teacher          |
| Simone Minogue    | Teacher/Assistant Principal 2 | Emily Hayde       | Teacher          |
| Monica Moloney    | Teacher                       | Aisling Foley     | Teacher          |
| Órla Brennan      | Teacher                       | Elaine Malone     | SNA              |
| Aoife Cantwell    | Teacher                       | Martina Dalton    | SNA              |
| Conor Leahy       | Teacher                       | Nuala Butler      | SNA              |
| Anita Bolger      | Teacher                       | Claire Fortune    | SNA              |
| Maurice Reidy     | Teacher                       | Ann O'Neill       | SNA              |
| Emer Larkin       | Teacher                       | Tom Sinnott       | School Secretary |
| Maura Curran      | Teacher                       | Michael Luby      | Caretaker        |
| Emma Ní Bheacháin | Teacher                       |                   |                  |

## Parents' Association



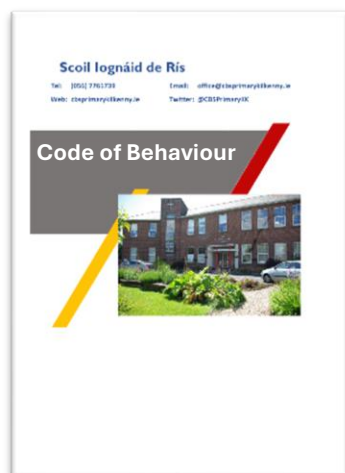
Scoil Iognáid de Rís, Kilkenny has a very active and supportive Parents' Association whose role is to enrich the education of the children through working with the principal, teachers and Board of Management. Membership of the Parents' Association is open to all parents/guardians of children in the school. The school values parent's opinions and support.





## Code of Behaviour/Anti-Bullying Policies

Scoil Iognáid de Rís operates a **Code of Behaviour** and **Anti-bullying Policy** which are available online on the school's website ([www.cbsprimarykilkenny.ie](http://www.cbsprimarykilkenny.ie)) or from the school office. The school fully endorses 'Children First', the designated guidelines for the protection and well-being of children.



## Medical Needs

Please let us know in advance if your child has any medical needs. A Care Plan will have to be put in place in advance for use of inhalers, and any other medicine.



If your child requires an inhaler for Asthma, you will need to complete and return a 'Self Administration of Inhalers for Asthma' form. This will need to be done annually.

## Communication

We strive to create a welcoming atmosphere in Scoil Iognáid de Rís. Good communication is based on good practice, and we recommend the following steps:

- If you have an issue you wish to discuss, please contact the school office, and Tom will make an appointment with your class teacher.
- All class issues have to be discussed with the teacher first - we are happy to meet you when it's not taking time from teaching your children.
- Uninterrupted class time is essential for learning. Though you may only have a quick question, if it's during school time- or if you are late, your child can be brought to the office via the front door, and make their way to the classroom from there.
- Many children find it extremely difficult to concentrate, and distractions at the side door can undermine learning for all the class.
- These steps prioritise the children and their learning.
- Always inform the school secretary, Tom, if there is a change in arrangements regarding the collection of your child at end of or during the school day.







## Aladdin Connect

The school uses the Aladdin Schools software service for administrative purposes and Aladdin Connect will give you secure access to messages from the school and to details of your child's attendance, test results, reports cards etc. via secure login from your internet browser or the Aladdin Connect App. It also allows parents to communicate with the school.



This App will largely replace communicating with parents via text message and reduce the quantity of paper notes home. School reports will also be issued through the App and will no longer be posted to home addresses.

The Aladdin Connect App is **free** and is available to download on Apple and Android.

You can rest assured that Aladdin Schools uses state-of-the-art security to safeguard information entered by the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish and European data protection laws.

### How it works

1. In late August/early September, you will receive a text/email message containing your registration link. In preparation for this please let the school know if your email address or phone number has changed recently.
2. There will be one link per parent. Please **do not** forward this text/email or share this link as this is a unique registration link for each parent for your child/children in this school.

Please note: If there are any personal concerns, or legal provisions in place regarding giving access to Connect to any parent/guardian of your child please contact the school in confidence to discuss or restrict access as required.

3. The link will direct you to the Connect registration page. You will be required to enter the following information: your child's first name and date of birth, and your own first name.
4. To create your account, you will be asked to enter an email and password to act as your sign in details for the account. Make sure to use an email address that you have access to and a password that you will remember.
5. Once you've created your account, you will see a "Congratulations" screen. You will then have to download the Aladdin Connect app (it's available on Apple and Android).
6. Once the app is installed, you just need to log in using the email address and password you chose when setting up your account.

Once signed in, parents will be prompted to enter their mobile phone number, to validate your account. It will send a code to your mobile phone, and you enter that code into the app when it asks.

For more information please visit [https://www.aladdin.ie/connect\\_app\\_faqs.html](https://www.aladdin.ie/connect_app_faqs.html)





## School Uniform / Tracksuit

### Junior Infants / Senior Infants / 1<sup>st</sup> Class / 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

The [code of dress](#) for Junior Infants / Senior Infants / 1<sup>st</sup> class / 2<sup>nd</sup> class is the school tracksuit. Please label your child's clothes, especially tracksuit tops and coats.

- In very cold weather make sure your child has extra clothes under their uniforms e.g. T-shirt, Vest, Navy Base Layer.
- Make sure your child brings a warm jacket and hat in very cold weather and a rain jacket in milder weather.
- Please get your child shoes with Velcro straps. Young children cannot manage laces.
- In warm weather children may wear plain navy shorts with the school polo shirt.

Please note the [school uniform](#) will only apply to **pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class**. The full school uniform consists of:



- C.B.S. School Jacket.
- Maroon V-necked jumper with CBS crest.
- White/Cream Shirt.
- C.B.S. tie.
- Grey trousers.
- Black shoes or runners (must be worn with the school uniform).

The school tracksuit/gear consists of:



- C.B.S. tracksuit.
- C.B.S. Polo Shirt/Training Jersey.
- Runners.



The above items are supplied by:

| <b>Duggans Menswear,</b><br>High Street, Kilkenny | <b>Hennessy Sports,</b><br>Newpark Shopping Centre | <b>Pauls,</b><br>High Street, Kilkenny |
|---|--|--|
| Full uniform                                      | Full uniform                                       | Full uniform                           |
| School jacket & polo shirt                        | School jacket                                      | School jacket                          |
| School tracksuit.                                 | School tracksuit including training jersey         |  |





### Special Education

Our school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences. All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities, aptitudes and interests of each pupil. This is to ensure that all children progress at a level appropriate for them and reach their own potential.

We were delighted to open our first Autism Class in September 2023. This has been proven to be very successful and we are delighted to see all of our pupils thriving.



Regular consultation occurs between the Special Educational Needs (S.E.N) Team and class teachers to identify children at risk with a view to providing educational support. When children are seen to be encountering learning difficulties parents are requested to come to the school for a progress report with the class teacher and the S.E.N Team.

In Scoil Iognáid de Rís we operate an independent objective assessment programme and the results are communicated to parents in the end of year report. Parents may wish to discuss the results and their child's general progress at school. Every year, in the first term, two afternoons are assigned for parent-teacher meetings which provide an opportunity for discussing each child's progress.

While there are no formal diagnostic tests administered in Junior Infants, Senior Infants are given a Middle Infant Screening test (M.I.S.T) to monitor progress at Infant level.

### End of Year School Reports

Individual Reports on pupils are issued at the end of each academic year via Aladdin. Please retain your copy of these as they are often requested when your son/daughter is entering second level school.



### School Books

Your child will benefit from the new government grant which will cover **textbooks, workbooks and copies.**



Parents will have to supply their child's stationery e.g. pens, pencils, folders etc.

There are additional **school expenses** which will need to be paid for via Aladdin, such as photocopying, arts and craft materials, personal insurance, homework diary.

More [information](#) can be found on our website.





## Lunch / Healthy Eating



We encourage healthy eating habits in our school. Please do not give your child sticky bars, lollipops, peanuts, fizzy drinks or crisps for lunch. Also, chewing gum is not allowed in this school. Please only give your child something you feel that they can manage to easily eat and a lunch box that your child can open and close them-selves. Please ensure that you clean out your child's lunch box every-day.



On Fridays children may take one small treat with them into school. As we are a Green School we ask that children take home all rubbish with them.

## FreshToday

We are delighted to inform you that every pupils in our school receives free hot lunches at lunch time. FreshToday are our suppliers and feedback has been extremely positive since the initiative was first rolled out in our school in April.



FreshToday have a free app where parents can select their child's lunch. There are a variety of options to choose from. Your child can mix & match their favourite lunch items from one day to the next!



For more information check out their website <https://www.freshtoday.ie/>

## Health, Hygiene and Safety

Your child is now sharing a room daily with other children. Close contact with other children is unavoidable, so particular attention should be paid to health and hygiene. If your child has a particular health problem such as allergies, asthma, diabetes, problem with sight or hearing or is being assessed by a health professional or has any specific needs, please note you should advise the teacher and the school.

Please check your child regularly for headlice. The school should be made aware of the name and address of your family doctor. If your child needs medication on a regular basis you may need to make special arrangements for this.

If you have any medical reports on your child which may have an impact on their ability to learn, please share it with your child's teacher. We wish to care for him/her to the best of our ability.







## Respect and Courtesy

Social skills are very important. We encourage good manners at all times, 'Please' and 'Thank you', addressing teachers properly, being courteous to fellow students and teachers.

Children's moral and social education is covered right throughout the school day e.g. kindness to others, sharing with them, saying we are sorry.

**TREAT  
OTHERS**  
the way  
*you*  
want to be  
**TREATED.**



In our school grounds we have fun by playing fairly and safely, where everyone is included. Bullying, fighting and general roughness is totally unacceptable. Every child is entitled to play in a safe environment. A school policy on bullying is in operation. Children are supervised in the playground in the mornings from 8.40am and also during both breaks.

Time is given in the "Time Out" area for instances of poor or dangerous behaviour on yard. This is monitored by the supervising teachers.

It is important to ask your child whom he / she played with at school to ensure he / she isn't alone. This also encourages mixing rather than being dependent on one friend.







**Learning through  
fun and enjoyable  
activities.**



**We explore our  
creativity & help  
each other when  
we find  
something  
challenging.**



**Try different  
things that could  
spark a lifelong  
hobby or even a  
future career.**





## Extra Curricular Activities

- Extra Curricular Activities are hugely popular in our school, and we are very happy with the wide variety of activities available in our school.
- Extra Curricular Activities may be limited to specific classes due to capacity or age range e.g. Homework Club is offered to 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class students.
- Extra Curricular Activities usually run from **8 to 10 weeks** (late September – December, January – March, April – May), although the last term is kept short as there are a lot going on in the run up to Summer.
- An Extra Curricular Activities brochure with more details is sent home for parents in advance of a new term of activities. There is **no obligation** to sign up for Extra Curricular Activities.

Some of the activities e.g. Music Generation, Hurling, Gaelic Football, Tag Rugby and Swimming take place during school time.

School Initiatives e.g. Green Schools, Amber Flag, Student Council also take place during school time.

For more information about Extra Curricular Activities and School Initiatives check out our website [cbsprimarykilkenny.ie](http://cbsprimarykilkenny.ie) or contact the school.







Scoil Iognáid de Rís





IN OUR SCHOOL  
EVERYONE HAS A  
CHANCE TO SHINE



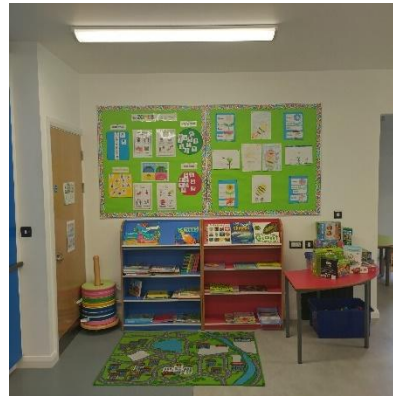




## Our Autism Class

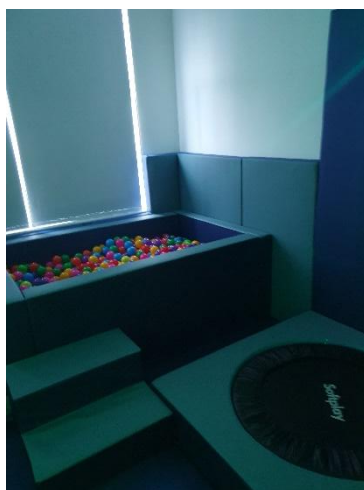
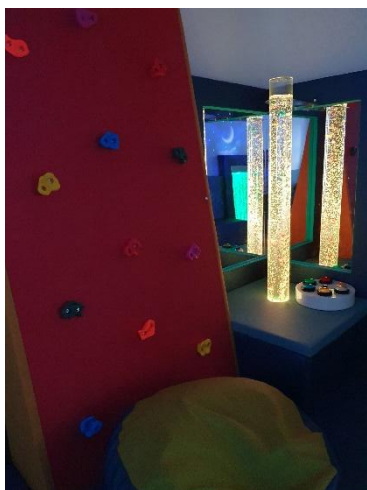
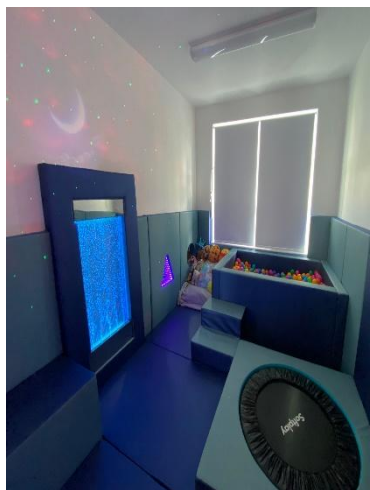
Scoil Iognáid de Rís has a purpose-built Autism classroom as part of our school community. Our Autism Class caters for 6 pupils. Each pupil is part of a mainstream class within the school. We have a pupil – teacher ratio of 6:1, along with 2 SNAs in the class.

Our class provides the opportunity for students to follow the curriculum at a pace and level suitable to each individual, whilst also participating in mainstream activities and lessons when appropriate.



Every individual's differences are celebrated in our school and we strive for an inclusive and holistic ethos.

In our class we focus on a variety of areas in addition to academic work in order to equip our pupils with the skills and independence to empower and enable them. We include communication and life skills, self-confidence, social and emotional skills and stress management strategies. We also incorporate a sensory programme into our daily schedule.











## Features / Technology

Pupils have access to a lot of resources at our school including:

- Our large school pitch.
- Soft play area.
- School Hall.
- Supervised visits to the nearby astroturf pitch (weather permitting).
- Interactive Touch Screens in both the classrooms and Special Education rooms.
- Chromebooks.
- iPads.
- Weekly lessons with Music Generation, the younger pupils learn about percussion instruments, and the older pupils learn to play the Ukulele.
- Classes have their own library.
- Accelerated Reading is promoted in our school. The aim of this is to encourage children to read more.
- Each class (2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) gets 6 weeks of Swimming lessons during the school year.
- The older classes (2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>) may also have educational class trips around the local area. For example, this year, our 3<sup>rd</sup> classes went on a Nature Walk.















## Planning for the Future

As you are well aware, we enrolled Junior Infant girls and boys in September 2023 and we also opened our first Autism Class.

Scoil Iognáid de Rís will:

- Enrol boys and girls into Junior Infants going forward from September 2023.
- Admit boys and girls into Junior Infants in 2023, Senior Infants in 2024, 1st Class in 2025 and so on, becoming fully vertical co-educational in 2030.
- Continue to offer places to boys from 2nd to 6th Class as per the enrolment policy of our school.
- Not admit girls to classes which are not yet co-educational.



**Minister for Education  
Norma Foley visits us.**





## Junior Infants











In our Literacy Stations we have been working very hard on our phonological and phonemic awareness, playing lots of rhyming and syllable games before we begin our phonics after the mid-term break.



At the stations, the boys and girls have also been doing lots of fine motor activities including making pre-writing patterns in sand and rice, cutting and pasting, colouring, threading beads, using tweezers, pegs, manipulating Play-Doh, making jigsaws and Lego constructions, all of which are helping to build up strength in our hands before we begin formal letter writing.



In our Maths Stations, we have been doing lots of sorting by colour, size, shape, and texture. We have been matching, copying patterns, and developing our early number skills. We have been working on our counting to 10, and recognition and formation of the numbers 1, 2 & 3. We have fun rhymes which help us to remember how to form the numbers, like "Around and back on the railway track, two two!"







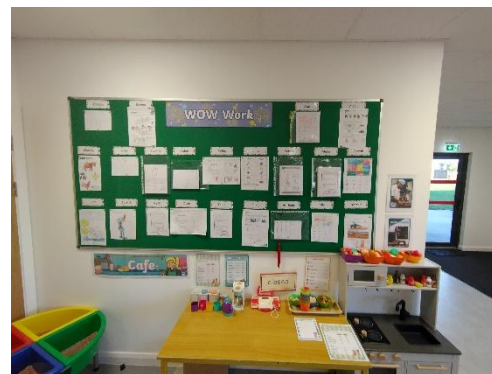
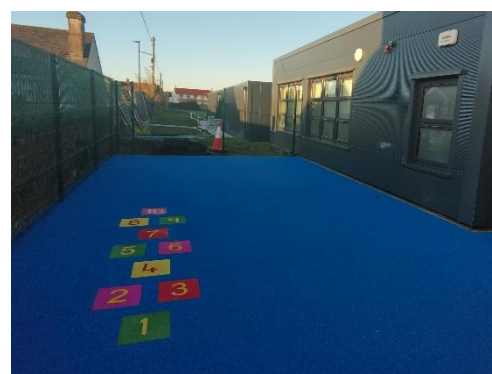
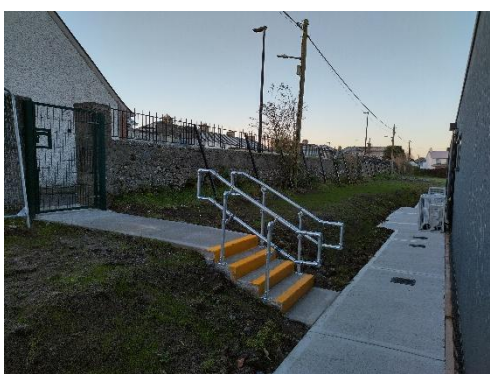
Purposeful play is at the centre of everything we do in the Junior Infant Classroom, and in Room 2 we have plenty of playful learning opportunities every day in our role-play, small world, construction, creative and sensory areas.







You may also have noticed that we've made a few changes around the school itself.








Scoil Iognáid de Rís



## Older Classes







PEOPLE WHO  
INSPIRE US TO BE  
KIND, HONEST, BRAVE AND  
HARDWORKING.







## Student Testimonials

“My time at C.B.S. was amazing. Everything about the school is great. All the teachers are very friendly, the school facilities are great, and the friends and memories you’ll make are unreal.”



\*\*\*\*\*

Overall, it’s been an amazing time and an adventure. Even though I’ve only been here since the start of 4th class, I have been treated well and all my teachers have been a big inspiration to me and my classmates. My classmates have all treated me well. I was welcomed to the school and in no time, I fit in like a puzzle piece. I have good friends and all of them have very bright futures.



\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Bergin is a big inspiration to me and treats us very well.



When I had first started my time at C.B.S. Primary I had no interest in sports as I had quit many sports over the years, but in C.B.S. Primary I was encouraged and inspired by my fellow classmates to join a football club and football has really changed my view on life and its qualities. I have made many friends from joining the club and I had lots of fun.



The school itself has treated me very well also. The people and friends I have met in C.B.S. Primary are lifelong and great kind people.

\*\*\*\*\*

I can still clearly remember my first day in 2nd class in C.B.S. when I was only 7 years of age. I was struck by the warm, welcoming atmosphere and the kind, helpful teachers. My opinions of the school haven’t changed since.

I can’t talk about the things I like about the C.B.S. without mentioning the wide range of extra-curricular activities available to do at school, which really helped me improve my Basketball and French skills.







The standard of work in this school is unbelievable. I mean with all the amazing group of teachers and SNAs, Tom, Michael, and Mr. Bergin it can't be that hard to believe. If you are struggling with anything they will help you out as much as possible. I have only had a handful of the brilliant teachers at this school, but I have worked with others through other things which leads me into my next paragraph...

Extra-Curricular Activities!!!! I mean the teachers work over six hours a day and then to help afterwards with stuff like tennis, chess, homework club, hurling, basketball and so much more.

In Gaelic we got to the semi-final and in Hurling we won the championship in Nowlan Park vs Freshford. It was the best feeling ever. There is a wide variety of players ranging from 3rd class boys to 6th class boys too.



While we are on the topic of teams everyone is super helpful and if you ever got yourself into spot of bother, I know I would have loads of people to help me out.

Overall, my time in C.B.S. Primary School Kilkenny was amazing and I am so proud that when somebody comes up to me and asks, "what primary school did you go to?", I can proudly say that I went to C.B.S. Primary.

I know two of my younger cousins will be attending this school soon and I can't wait for them to have as much fun as I did. I hope it's not too long till I come back to C.B.S., maybe just '5 Tom minutes'.





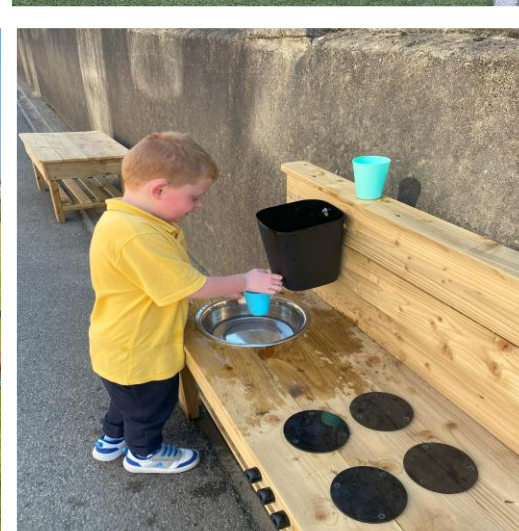
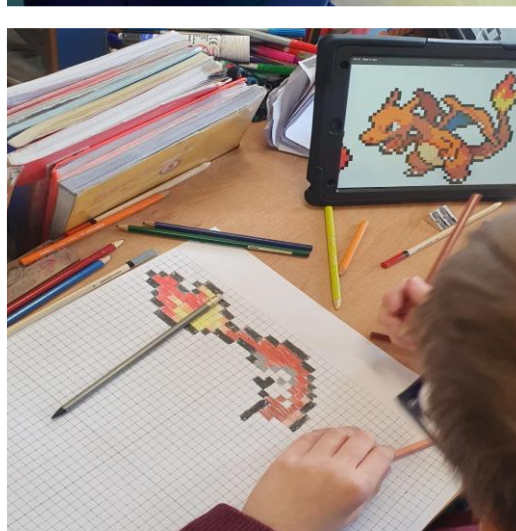
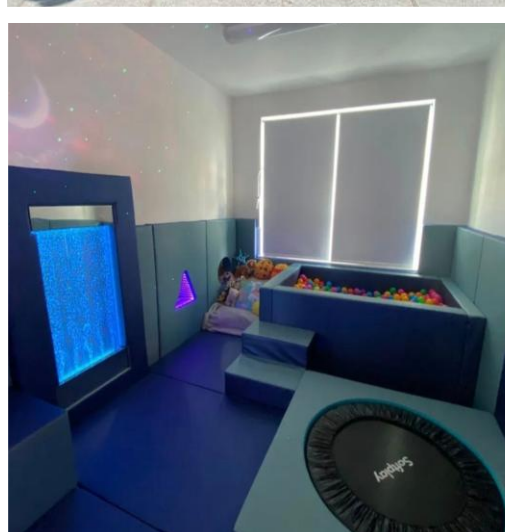
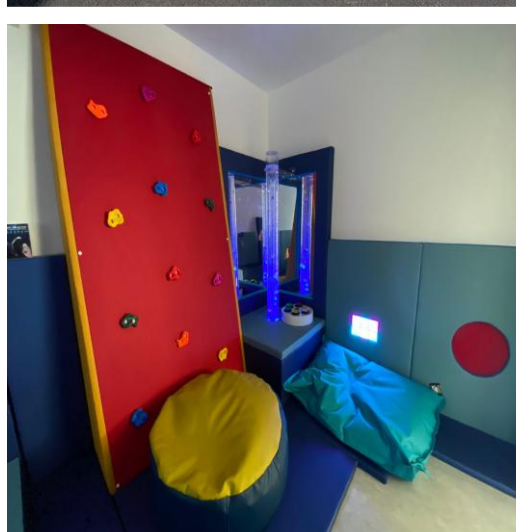




# CBS Gratitude Tree



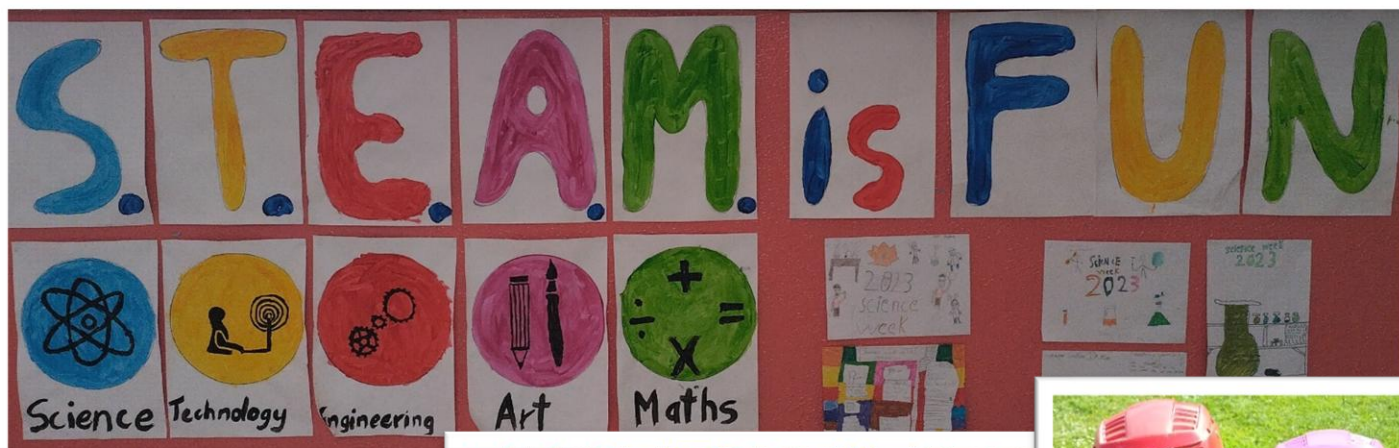








Scoil Iognáid de Rís











Scoil Iognáid de Rís





# Welcome to our class!







## Getting ready for Learning

**Tell your child about school beforehand. Talk about school as a happy place, where there will be a big welcome for him/her.**



There are many ways in which you can help prepare your child for learning:

## Play

### Talking and Listening

- Language is essential for developing reading and writing skills. Talk to your children and encourage them to talk at every opportunity possible....to describe everything you see and do ..... (model good vocabulary).
- Listen to them and what they have to say. Make time to listen to them when they want to tell you something important.
- Speak respectfully, quietly and kindly to your child and they will copy you and learn to speak in the same way.
- Give your child lots of time to use their imagination... to dress up as doctor, nurse, farmer, dentist or pretend play with dolls, cars, Lego blocks. A Lego block can be a phone, remote control, bar of chocolate etc...
- In developing your child's language skills you should encourage them to:
  - Listen      Explain      Tell
  - Talk        Question      Retell



### Stories, reading and books



Read to your child regularly. Read and tell them stories, say nursery rhymes, sing songs, poems, and encourage them to talk about what they hear (for example they could retell their favourite part of the story). Look at other books together, make jigsaws, play educational computer games and look at words around you e.g. road, shop signs etc.





## Play and Activities

Children learn through play and should be given lots of opportunities to:

- Act out roles i.e. pretending to be someone else. Children love to pretend that they are nurses, doctors, shopkeepers etc. and such play activities enable them to use language.
- Play with objects such as sand, water, jigsaws, boxes and bricks and other toys.
- Develop their oral language and expression.
- Sharing their senses, especially seeing, hearing and touching.
- Working with others and sharing with them.
- Performing tasks by themselves.
- Developing physical co-ordination, including hands and fingers.



## Preparation for school

As a parent you can do a lot to help your child prepare for school and this preparation should begin some months before your child starts school and should be carried out gradually. The following may help your child to prepare:

### It would help greatly if your child is able to:

- Put on / take off, zip and unzip their coat and be able to hang it up.
- Fasten/tie their own shoes — Velcro fasteners are very handy!
- Use the toilet without help and manage buttons (elastic waist is best).
- Share toys and playthings with others and ‘take turns’.
- Tidy up and put away playthings.
- Also encourage personal hygiene and cleanliness. Your child should know how to flush the toilet and wash his/her hands.
- Know to use a tissue and cover their mouth when sneezing and coughing.
- Practise staying away from you for a few hours at a time, at the home of a neighbour, grandparents, friend’s house etc... When children have this experience, separation from parents when they start school will not cause huge anxiety. This is especially important for your child.
- Practise opening and shutting lunchboxes and school bags.

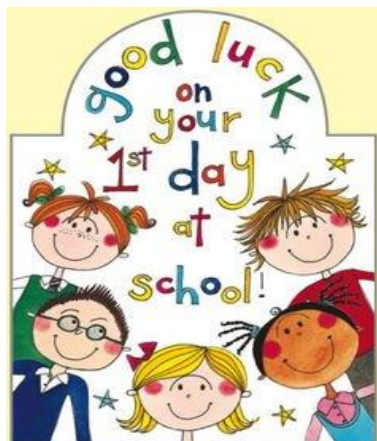






## The Big Day - School Times

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>School Starts:</b>   | 9.00am   |
| <b>Small Break:</b>     | 10.45am-11.00am                                      |
| <b>Lunch Break:</b>     | 12.30pm-1.00pm                                       |
| <b>Finishing Times:</b> | 1.45pm (for Infants)                                 |
|                         | 2.45pm (for 1 <sup>st</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> class) |



Junior Infants will finish at 12 noon every day for the first two weeks of school and then at 1.45pm thereafter. This helps your child to gradually get used to the longer day and helps them to settle into their new class gently.

- It is very important that your child is both on time for school and collected on time after school every day.
- It helps to have the tracksuit and schoolbag ready for the first day. **Note: no markers allowed.** Please remember to have a name label on **everything** that your child owns. **This is really important!**

### Arriving on the first day:

- Tell your children about school casually beforehand and talk about it as a happy place where there will be a big welcome and they will meet lots of new friends.
- In the morning the children assemble in their class lines in their allocated areas in the school yard and are collected by their teacher and escorted into their class.
- Hopefully your child will be comfortable in their new surroundings. Having given assurance to your child that you will be back to collect them, wave goodbye and make your departure without delay.
- Once your child is comfortable with the morning routine parents are asked to allow their child walk in themselves from the school gate.

### Going home:

- Be sure to collect your child on time. Children can become very upset if they feel they are forgotten. Your child will be kept in line with their teacher at the front of the school until the teacher and child are happy they see you.
- If you cannot collect your child on a particular day, tell them who you have organised to collect them so that they don't get upset.
- If you are running late, **please ring the office** so the secretary can make the class teacher aware.





### **Parking**

Parents are asked not to drive into the school grounds. Also, please do not double-park outside the school. Parents are encouraged to use designated parking spaces near the school or walk to and from the school.



### **Emergencies Happen:**

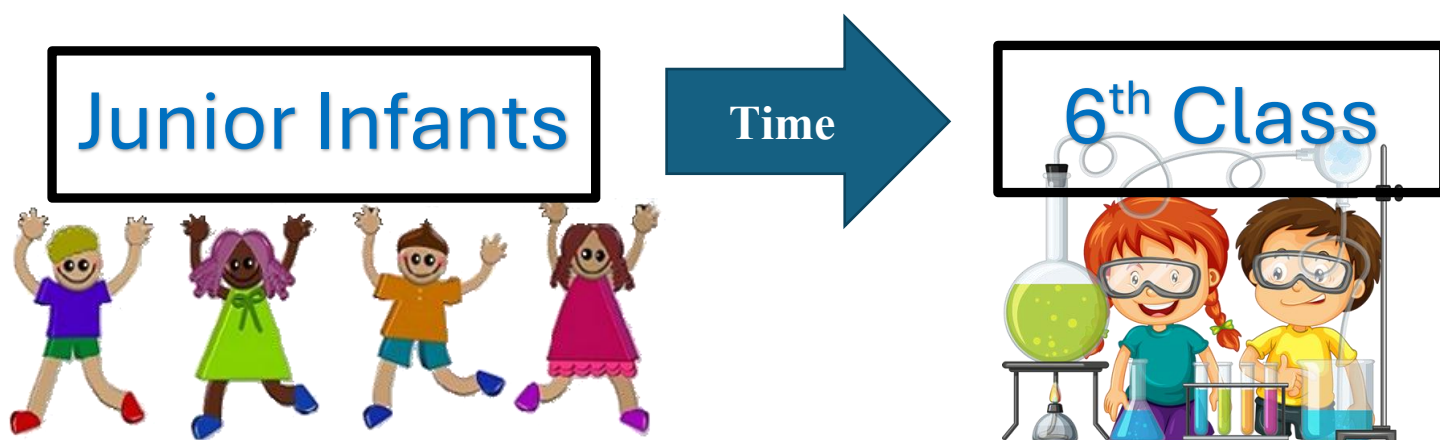
If at any time the collection routine changes unexpectedly, please contact the school. A phone call to the school can ease anxiety.



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### **As Time Goes On**

- Get your child into the habit of being on time coming to school every-day.
- Children need plenty of rest. Get your child into an early and set bedtime.
- Show an interest in the work your child brings home. Please support your child with any homework they may have.
- Young children often “forget” or bring home messages incorrectly so please check your child’s homework folder and Aladdin every night for messages.
- Do not compare your child’s progress to their peers. Be patient and give plenty of praise for their efforts.
- If your phone number or address changes during the year, please update on Aladdin or give your details to the office. We need to have an up-to-date contact number for you should we need to contact you.







## Attendance

What does the Education Welfare Act mean for us?

### Parents

- You must ensure your child attends school every day.
- If your child is absent you must tell the school the reason for the absence.

### Schools

Must inform the Educational Welfare Officer (TUSLA)

- a) If your child is not attending school regularly.
- b) If your child has missed 20 days or more.

### Effects of Poor Attendance

- Poor attendance at Infant level means your child will miss out on the foundations for all subjects which may lead to problems later.
- Your child will miss out particularly if the teacher begins a new topic.
- Children miss time with friends. This may lead to *feelings of isolation and loss of self-confidence*.
- *Poor attendance leads to Early School Leaving.*

## School Matters!



### Encouraging Good Attendance

What happens in Scoil Iognáid de Rís?

- Good attendance is rewarded.
- Good communication between home and school is encouraged.







- Children are encouraged to voice their concerns e.g. in Circle Time & SPHE class.
- Children with poor attendance are identified, supported and encouraged.
- At Parent-Teacher meetings parent's attention is drawn to attendance.
- Regular contact is kept with the Education Welfare Officer - TUSLA.
- Parents are given as much notice as possible with regard to days off.
- Parents are notified when their child misses 15 days of school each year and a letter is issued when 20 days are missed.

## Acceptable absences

- Sickness, accidents, medical procedures, urgent family reasons.

## Helpful Hints for Parents

### Be organised

- School bags.
- Lunches.
- Uniforms.



### Get Ready

the night before.

### Early to bed-Early to rise

But if you are late.....

Please still send your child to school...



### Communication

- Check bags for notes daily.
- The schools main form of communication is by Aladdin and text. If your mobile number or address changes, please ensure that Aladdin is updated or please inform the school secretary.



### Make sure homework is done

If there is a problem with homework:

- Send a note into the class teacher on Aladdin or talk to the class teacher if homework is a problem.
- Please initial your child's homework each night.







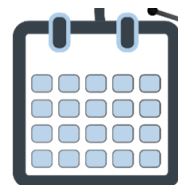
## Be Positive

- Encourage and praise your child.
- When possible, get involved in activities at the school.
- Talk to your child about the value of school.



## Be firm with your child regarding their attendance

- Especially on....
  - Half days.
  - Fridays / Mondays.
  - Birthdays.
  - Days when other children may have no school.



## If you suspect he/she may be pretending

- Check if there is anything worrying your child.
- Send your child in.
- Reassure your child that the school will contact you if he/she is sick in school.



## If your child is sick or in hospital

- Do not send your child to school if they are sick.
- Inform the school.
- Give a written note or enter the reason on Aladdin.



## Medical / Dental / Other Appointments

- Present yourself at the office to collect your child from school.
- Sign out your child in the book available from the Secretary's office on departure.
- Return your child to school if medically fit and sign your child back into the school.

## Family Problems

- Reassure your child.
- Send your child to school even if they are late or couldn't do their homework.
- Send a note to the teacher.
- Seek support from our school.





## Help your Child to Learn at Home

### Getting ready to read

Learning to read is a gradual process. Lots of work must be done before a child is introduced to their first reader. We deliberately do not rush children into reading. Reading is something to be enjoyed.

Surround your child with words and sounds:

- Have colourful books in the home.
- Practise your children's sounds of the week and revise previous sounds.
- Teach your child to respect and care for books.
- Read different types of stories.
- Look at the pictures with your child. You can tell a wonderful story from pictures.
- Point at the words as you read them. Your child will learn that we read from left to right.
- Teach how to turn a page.
- Ask predictive questions. What do you think happens next? etc...
- Take your child to the library. Read stories together, share a love for books and words. Your child will want to have a favourite story and they will want you to read it over and over. Gradually get them to tell you the story.
- When your child has a large bank of words, they will be ready to read.







## First Steps for Writing

### Getting ready to Write!

Making letters on paper is not easy for a small child. They must learn to hold the pencil properly and make regular patterns and shapes. Their finger muscles are only gradually developing at this stage. They must develop the ability to get the hand and eye working together. You can help train their muscles. Get them to manipulate toys like:

- Jigsaws, Lego, beads to thread etc.
- Plasticine (Marla) to make their own shapes.
- A colouring book and thick crayons.
- Sheets of paper to cut up with safety scissors.



If your child is naturally using their left hand, do not stop them, do not try to change it. This is natural for them.

As your child progresses, your child will learn to write using ‘Cursive Script’. This is the writing scheme used in our school. Please encourage your child to reinforce this style.

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## Getting ready for Maths

### Understanding Maths

Maths for a child is not just “Sums” or figures or tables or adding or subtracting. This will come much later. Maths is part of the language children use in understanding and talking about certain things in their daily experience e.g.

- **They associate certain numbers with particular things-two hands, four wheels, five fingers etc.**
- **Counting-one, two, three, four, five.**
- **Colours-black, white, red, green, blue etc.**
- **Prepositions (using these)-before/after, above/below, under/over, inside/outside etc.**
- **Matching/sorting-objects of the same colour /size /texture/shape.**
- **Shapes-circle, square, triangle, rectangle etc.**

Understanding these concepts comes quickly to some children, for others it can take a long time.

**Be Patient!**







## Gaeilge

All children enjoy learning another language besides their own language. They have no difficulty in picking it up because it fascinates them as another code of communication.

As with all subjects, support and encouragement will help your children in their efforts to acquire Irish.



When they learn new words in school please encourage them to use these words at home. Use little Irish phrases or words now and again. Children are delighted to find out that their parents are into their new language as-well.

---

## Other areas of the Curriculum

Your child's general development is enhanced through Art & Craft, P.E., Music, S.E.S.E and Religious Education. Moral and social aspects are covered right through the school day e.g. kindness to others, sharing with them, saying we are sorry, being aware of God through the beauty of nature etc.

As an Edmund Rice school we welcome families of all faiths and those of none. Provision is made for children who do not wish to partake in the Catholic Religion programme.



**Art & Craft**



**PE**



**Music**



**Drama**



**Science**



**Geography**



**History**



**Maths**



**English**



**Gaeilge**



**SPHE**



**Religion**





## Aistear

Our school implements the Aistear programme in Junior and Senior Infants. Working on a new theme each month, children learn new vocabulary, develop their problem solving skills, work as part of a team as well as developing communication and play skills.



**Aistear is based on 12 principles of early learning and development.**

**These are presented in three groups:**

1. The first group concerns children and their lives in early childhood:
  - the child's uniqueness / equality and diversity / children as citizens.
2. The second group concerns children's connections with others:
  - relationships / parents, family and community / the adult's role.
3. The third group concerns how children learn and develop:
  - holistic learning and development / active learning / play and hands-on experiences / relevant and meaningful experiences / communication and language / the learning environment.

**Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework presents children's learning and development using four themes.**

These are:

1. Well-being.
2. Identity and Belonging.
3. Communicating.
4. Exploring and Thinking.

**For more information on Aistear please see <http://www.ncca.ie>**





## Conclusion

The staff of Scoil Iognáid de Rís are looking forward to meeting you and your child and we hope that you will feel very welcome in our school.

**Slán go Fóill!**

***A picture may say a thousand words  
but we only need four.***

***“Welcome to C.B.S. Primary.”***







**Scoil Iognáid de Rís**



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