



Starting School ***Scoil an Chlochair***

***A Practical Guide for Parents of
Junior Infants***

We welcome all children and their parents to a new and exciting stage in your child's life. During this year your child will make new friends, enjoy new experiences and learn many vital skills. Teachers and parents have the chance to work as partners to ensure that at the end of this school year your child will have a positive attitude towards education .

First Day - A Happy One!

Please be positive with your child in preparation for school and explain what will happen regarding the teacher, other children, breaks, sitting down, listening, tidy-up time and home time. On arrival on the first day it is very helpful to hang up the coat, introduce your child to the teacher and then find a seat. Please leave promptly because your child will pick up any anxiety which you may have. Most children, even if initially upset soon become distracted by their surroundings and settle down.



Seating: On their first day your child can choose where they would like to sit in the classroom. Later on the seating arrangements will be finalised and your child will be given a named place mat to put on their special place. A list of duties that need to be done around the classroom such as looking after the class library and class toys will be drawn up and jobs will be given to the children on a weekly rota basis. This system encourages individual responsibility .

Home Time: For the first week the Junior Infants will finish school at 12.15pm. After this period Junior Infants will go home at 2 o'clock. Please come promptly as your child may worry if he or she thinks they have been forgotten. Parents should wait in the playground until the class teacher brings the children to the main door. Once a parent or guardian is there to collect, the teacher will release the children to their care one by one. If there are any special collection arrangements it is important please let us know.



Clothes: Please ensure that all clothes likely to be removed i.e. coats, hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers etc. are clearly labeled with your child's name as many children possess similar items. Velcro shoes are more practical than shoes with laces. If your child has any toilet problems please let the teacher know and send in a spare set of clothes for emergencies.

School Bag: Make sure the school bag can hold an A4 size folder.

Breaks: There are two breaks during the day, a short one from 10.50 to 11.00 and a longer break from 12.30 to 1.00. We try to ensure that no child feels lonely or left out, and, to this end we recommend that older brothers, sisters and friends do not monopolise the younger child's play time which may restrict them in forming peer attachments.

Lunches and Snacks: We encourage healthy eating and drinking. Please ensure your child has water, milk, juice or fruit drinks (no fizzy drinks) each day. Also ensure they have healthy food for both breaks. **As we have several children with severe nut allergies we ask that no nuts or foods containing nuts are brought into school.** Please do not send in birthday cakes or treats.



School Information: Please keep an eye on your child's homework folder and school-bag as they may contain notes for parents.

The school website is updated regularly. Reminders to check the website are sent through the schools Text-a-Parent service.

Please check www.kilbeggannationalschool.com

Toys: There is no need for children to bring toys into school. On special occasions the teacher may invite the children to bring in a special toy.

Preparing Your Child for Schoolwork: Good writing is all about muscle and motor control so it will help your child greatly if he or she is practised at **colouring, drawing, painting**, manipulating materials such as plasticene, construction work, scissors work, jigsaws etc. Noting visual differences is essential to reading and this skill is practised and encouraged by use of matching games, construction work, jigsaws etc.





Reading to your child regularly will encourage a love of books and will create an interest in reading. Pay attention to the mechanics of reading i.e. holding the book, turning the page - page by page. Let your finger go under the words as you read from left to right. Your child's main interest will be in pictures - allow time to examine and comment on them. If you are teaching your child to write, please use lower case letters only.



Help prepare your child for learning:

CURIOSITY The natural inquisitiveness of children should be encouraged. It is central to the learning process. Children will be encouraged to ask more questions when they get positive and encouraging responses.

SELF CONFIDENCE If children are confident about their abilities and capabilities then they will be more willing to take on new challenges.

LISTENING Children should be encouraged to develop good listening skills. Instruction and directions are given continually at school so children need to be good listeners if they are to participate fully in school life.

INTERACTING WITH OTHERS Children need to learn how to be sociable, how to share and take turns. They also need to learn respect for others and to be aware of the feelings of others.

INDEPENDENCE In order to take part fully in school life children need to have developed a good level of independence.

POSITIVE ATTITUDE It is important to create a positive attitude towards learning. If children have this positive attitude then they will try to become involved in the learning process.