

Welcome
to
Presentation Primary School



Presentation Primary School

Thurles

Tel: 0504 22331

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STARTING SCHOOL

First Day at school is a milestone in the life of everyone. In Presentation Primary School we aim to make it as happy an occasion as possible for both you and your child.

This booklet has ideas which you may use to help your child prepare for his/her big step in starting school.

Thank you for choosing Presentation Primary School. We look forward to many happy experiences together in the coming years.

THE FIRST YEAR

Starting school marks a big change for children. They are used to being at home with their family. Soon they will spend the day with quite a large group of other children.

The first year is about:

- Settling in
- Making friends
- Forming relationships
- Language development
- Developing independence
- Laying a good foundation for future education



COMING TO SCHOOL

School begins at 8.50a.m.

* The School Yard is supervised by the principal from 8.40am

- Small children don't like to be rushed.
- It's helpful to get everything ready the night before - uniform, shoes, lunch
- Aim to get your child to bed by 8 o'clock.
- A good rest makes sure they are ready for a hard day's learning.
- Try to take your child to school yourself.
- Getting ready takes a while so start early to avoid panic!
- Allow about an hour.
- A calm start to the day means your child gets to school in good form.



GOING HOME

Infants finish at 1.30pm

- For the **first two weeks** Junior Infants will finish at **12.00p.m.**
- At the start children panic if they are left waiting to be collected. Make sure you are there in plenty of time.
- For the first two weeks, children should be collected at the classroom door.
- After that they can be collected at the end door at 1.30pm
- If you change your normal arrangements be sure to let us know.
- In the event of an emergency where you are late, your child will be supervised and we will contact you.

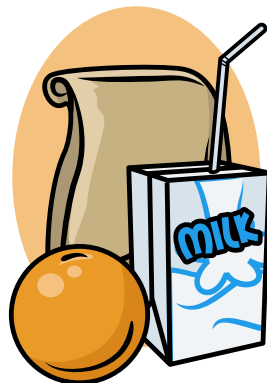
FOOD

Children need a good breakfast to start each day. Hunger can make children sleepy. This makes it hard for them to enjoy school.

There is a short break at 10.45a.m and a further longer break from 12.15 to 12.45p.m. during which children may have fruit/sandwich/drink/yogurt.

The drink can be milk, juice or water.

Crisps, bars, sweets and fizzy drinks are not allowed for lunch.



HYGIENE

Your child will now be a part of a larger group. It is important that a good standard of hygiene is maintained.

Hands: Teach your child to wash and dry his or her hands.

Toilet: Make sure your child is able to say “I need to go to the toilet” and they can manage alone at the toilet to do the following.

- (a) use the toilet roll
- (b) flush the toilet
- (c) wash and dry hands afterwards.

Practice this with your child.



Hair: Make sure long hair is tied up.



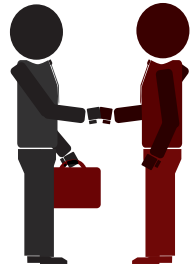
IN THE CLASSROOM

Worried children cannot learn so be sure to tell the teacher about any problems or worries your child may have.

It is important that the teacher knows about:

- Illnesses** such as coughs, colds, sleepless nights, asthma, diabetes, on-going kidney infections etc.
- Physical difficulties** such as problems with speech, hearing, sight or movement.
- Worries** such as moving house, death, new baby, separation, accident, Santa, Hallowee'n etc.

Teachers and parents can work together to make sure the child copes with these and is happy in school.



Handy Hints

- Label everything - books, coats, jumpers, bags, lunchboxes.
- You can buy a Laundry Marker which will not wash off labels or stick on labels.

Schoolbags

Will the biggest workbook fit into it?

Will your child be able to open and close it?

Will the lunchbox fit into it?



Lunch-boxes - CHECK

Will it hold the carton/bottle?

A small mineral bottle with screw top is safer than most of the beakers you buy.

HOMWORK

Homework will begin in October. It will be sent home in a plastic folder.

The reading homework will be discussed at a meeting in September.



How to help.

1. Show an interest and help them with their homework.
2. Homework should never be stressful. Talk to the teacher if this is the case.
3. It is important that you help your child with homework but never do it for them.
4. Encourage their efforts.
5. Children need a quiet place to work. **Please turn off the T.V.**

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND TRACKSUIT

Girls

Blouse: Cream

Pinafore: Wine

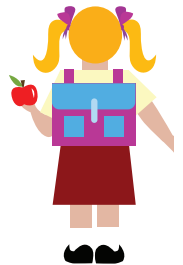
Cardigan/Jumper: Wine

Boys

Trousers: Grey (elasticated if poss)

Shirt: Cream

Jumper: Wine (v-neck with school crest)



Uniforms are available from

Uniform World, Market Cross, Kilkenny. Tel: 056 7752806

Uniform World, Ard na Gaoithe Bus Park, Clonmel. Tel: 052 6128004

Imps & Elfs, Friar Street, Thurles. Tel: 0504 58937

Tracksuits are available from the School office

Trainers and tracksuits must be worn on P.E. days. Full school uniform should be worn on all days except P.E. days. School shorts can be worn in summer time as an alternative to the uniform.

BOOKS

- All children will receive a prepared Booklist which outlines everything that is needed and the total cost of these items.
- Our Parents' Council runs a **“Book Rental”** scheme which provides all the necessary books, workbooks, copies, folders etc.
- By joining the scheme it means you do not have to buy anything else.
- Please cover the workbooks. Write your child's name clearly on the cover as books can easily get mixed up.
- Your bill will cover the cost of everything your child will need including art equipment and photocopying.



GIVING YOUR CHILD A HEAD START!

There's a lot you can do at home.

You are your child's first teacher
and the most important one!

Here's how you can help in the
months before school.



I CAN DO IT.....

- Teach your child to take off/put on coats by him/herself.
- Teach your child to use the bathroom on his/her own.
- Teach them to soap, rinse and dry hands.
- Buy the schoolbag early - let them practice putting things into it and taking things out.
- Teach them to open and close bottles and cartons for lunch.

Being able to do all these things gives a child a sense of independence and confidence. We want our children to feel secure in school.

PLEASE

Don't use school as a threat. "Wait until you go to school. You'll have to.."
"Your teacher will be very cross if...."
" All the children will laugh at you..."

These comments build up a negative picture of school.

PLAY



Pretend to be mothers, fathers, farmers, animals, shopkeepers, princesses. Answer your child as if they really are what they imagine.

Build with blocks, empty boxes, lego, or whatever you can find.

Cut with a child's scissors, cut out magazine or newspaper pictures. Cut along lines drawn on paper

Colour simple pictures with thick Crayons.

Draw with paint, crayon, chalk, pencils.

Fill & Empty cups, bottles, buckets or anything with water.

TALK WITH YOUR CHILD

Name everything.....in your house
.....in your garden
.....in town/on a drive

Spot and name:colours
..... numbers
.....shapes

Count.....mugs, toys, birds, everything!
Use maths tall, short, wide, narrow
Words full, empty, heavy, light
Fast, slow, on more.....

Talk about pictures:

What do you see in the picture?
What are they doing?
Would you like to do the same?
Can you find the.....?
Where is the.....? Tell me about the.....?



BACK AT HOME....



At first your child may seem to get babyish again -
sucking thumbs, being more clingy, having tantrums and getting upset easily.

This is quite normal.

A bit of extra attention and a few early nights will help and things should soon
get back to normal.

CO-ORDINATION

Learning means getting your brain and your body working together.

Things that help...

- Hopping on one foot.
- Throwing a soft ball at a target/into a box.
- Catching a ball.
- Crawling and climbing.
- Skipping
- Cycling.
- Throw a balloon up over your head and catch it.
- Rolling a ball at an empty mineral bottle.

Working on these skills helps to get ready for reading and writing.

ENCOURAGEMENT

All it takes is someone to believe in you.

Look out for any effort your child makes.

Let them know you have noticed their effort.

I like the way you....

It's a great help to me when you...

Thank you for...

I noticed that you.....

I can see that you are doing your best.

I know that it's not easy but we won't give up just yet.

You do this part and I'll do....



KEEPING IN TOUCH

- Check your child's bag every day for notes to parents. They often forget to give them to you.
- We will meet with you and your child in June before he/she starts school.
- We meet again in Sept/October after the school year has started.
- Annual parent/teacher meetings take place in November.
- You can make an appointment to meet your child's teacher in the afternoon by ringing the school or checking with the teacher.
- Use the school telephone number if you need any information or help.
That's 0504 22331

Don't worry about things on your own - talk to us, we're here to help.



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