

Scoil Náisiúnta Chnoc na Graí



Ní neart go cur le chéile
'There is no strength without unity'



Fáilte romhat agus roimh do pháiste.

A very warm welcome to Knocknagree National School.

The following information is intended to support you and your child in the transition from preschool to primary school. It deals briefly with the period before your child comes to school and his/her introductory stage in Junior Infants.

We have included some information from the Department of Education to help you support your child during this exciting and for some anxious time. Be assured we will do our very best to help your child settling into school life and enjoy learning with lots of new friends as quickly as possible. Please arrange an appointment to come and meet with us if you have any questions or concerns at any stage.

There is further information available to help you support your child by doing a Google search for the following resources:

- Let's Get Ready – Ready for School on gov.ie
- NCSE – Preparing Young Children for Primary School
- Guidance for Parents of Children moving from Pre-school to Primary School

GETTING READY FOR LEARNING



Children are natural learners. They have an in-built curiosity and an eagerness to know more about everything – about themselves, about others and about the world around them.

Our first year in school is mainly about settling in, relating to others, making friends, feeling happy and gradually getting used to the routine of school. Academically the emphasis is on getting children ready for learning by:

- Developing their **oral language** and expression
- **Improving their senses**, especially seeing, hearing and touching.
- Developing **physical co-ordination** especially of hand 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 children.
- Performing **tasks by themselves**.
- **Working with others** and sharing with them.
- Getting the child to **understand and follow classroom and school** rules.

BEFORE YOUR CHILD STARTS SCHOOL

You should ensure that your child is **as independent as possible** – physically, emotionally and socially.

It would help greatly if your child is able to:

- Button and unbutton his / her coat and hang it up.
- Use the toilet without help.
- **Encourage personal hygiene** and cleanliness. Your child should know to flush the toilet and wash their hands, without having to be told.
- Use a tissue when necessary.
- **Share** toys and playthings with others and “take turns”.
- **Tidy up** and put away playthings.



PREPARING FOR THE FIRST DAY

Your child's first day at school is a day to remember for the rest of their life. **You can help to make it a really happy one.**

- **Talk with your child about school, recalling your visit to see your classroom and teachers** and talk about it as a happy place.
- It will be helpful to **practice opening / closing your child's school bag and lunch box** at home a week or two before school starts.
- Your child's books will be taken from him/her, the first day of school and the teacher will put them away safely until such time as they are needed. This minimises books getting lost. We will explain this to the children but it might be worthwhile to mention it at home firstly. **All books / copies must be marked clearly with your child's name on the outside front cover.**
- **Please label all items of clothing.**

THE FIRST DAY



Coming in

We will be following up to date public health advice from the HSE and will update you via email in late August about the procedure and time for bringing your child into school on the first morning. Both teachers will be present on the first morning to meet and greet the children and parents.

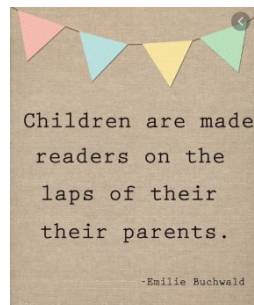
Going home

- Children must be collected outside the infant door at 1:55pm.
- There is a one-way system in place whereby parents come in the 'Infant Gate' (closest to Knocknagree village), wait on the path which is marked to facilitate social distancing, collect your child and leave via the main school gate.
- If there is someone different collecting your child, please ensure you tell the child and the teacher by sending in a note or email.

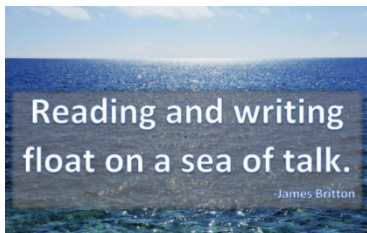
Points to note

- School begins at 9:15am. The bell will ring at 9:05am and the school doors are open from this time. Children are not insured to be on school property before 9:05am.
- To ease the child into the school routine we have a policy where Junior Infants go home for the first two weeks at 12:00 noon (so no lunch - snack only). After that they go home at 1:55pm.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT EARLY LEARNING



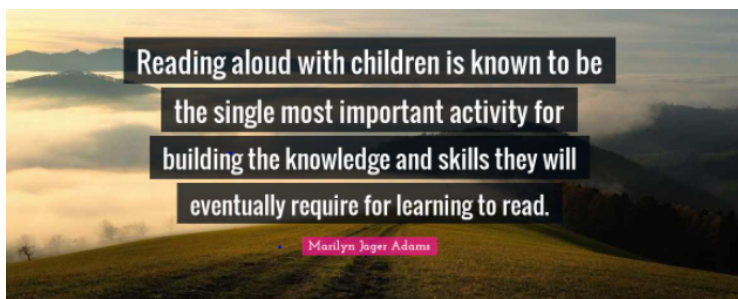
Oral language development



Talk is the foundation of all learning. Make time for lots of chats, conversations, questions, discussions about topics of interest to you and your child. Build connections. Sing songs, say poems and nursery rhymes and repetition is key!

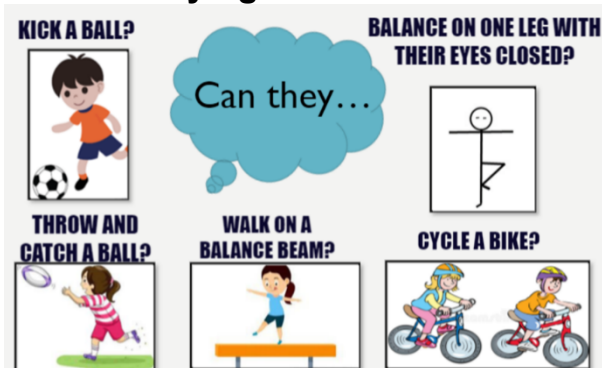
First Steps in Reading

- Read aloud to your child every day. Let your child choose the book. Some children choose the same book every day... they will notice something new every time!
- Look at the pictures and talk about what's happening, their favourite part etc.
- Read, sing and say lots of nursery rhymes, action songs and the alphabet together.



Pre writing skills

Have fun trying out these ...



Playing with these items will help to build up hand and finger muscles.

- Jigsaws, lego, beads to thread, playdough / plasticine, popping bubble wrap, tying buttons etc.
- Colouring books and thick crayons
- Sheets of paper or card that your child can cut up with a safe scissors.

Early Maths

- Talk about colours and make patterns using colours
- Bake together – measure, pour, stir, more, less, full, empty
- Count for your child when out and about – two eyes, five fingers, one car etc.
- Spot the odd one out – developing your child's curiosity

We are really excited to be welcoming your child to Knocknagree NS in September.