



JUNIOR INFANTS 2023

OFF TO SCHOOL

Welcome all children and parents to Saint Michael's National School community in a new stage of your child's life. During their school life, your child will make new friends, enjoy new experiences and learn many new things. The teachers in Saint Michael's N.S. are looking forward to working with you as partners to help and support your child to reach their potential both socially and academically.

Important Times

School starts at 8.40

Hometime: 1.20

Inform teacher in writing via Aladdin Connect/ email if there are changes to the person collecting your child



Break / Play time:

There are two breaks each day. Children have free play time on the yard and Astro supervised by school staff.

Lunch tips:

- Your child should be able to open and close lunch box/ any containers/packaging themselves.
- Saint Michael's N.S. has a **healthy eating policy**.
- Milk or Water for drinks.
- **Healthy Foods** such as fruit, bread, low sugar yogurts.
- Healthy Eating Policy available on the **school website** for more guidance about this.

First Day

- Thursday August 31st 2023
- Bring your child to the classroom
- Hang their coat
- Find your child's name tag at their seat
- Please leave promptly.
- Teachers will help your child if they are upset.

Clothes

- Saint Michael's N.S. has no uniform.
- **Velcro shoes and trousers/skirts with elasticated waistbands** are suggested for a Junior Infants busy day.

Please put a **name tag** on the following items of clothes:

- Jumpers, cardigans, coats, gloves, scarves, hats.



Book Lists:

- The school will purchase **all books and copies** using the School Book Grant.
- Stationery such as pencils, erasers, colours will be supplied by the school.
- Parents will be asked to contribute a fee towards the purchase of some school supplies.
- If at any time, your family is experiencing financial difficulty please speak to the class teacher or the principal in confidence.

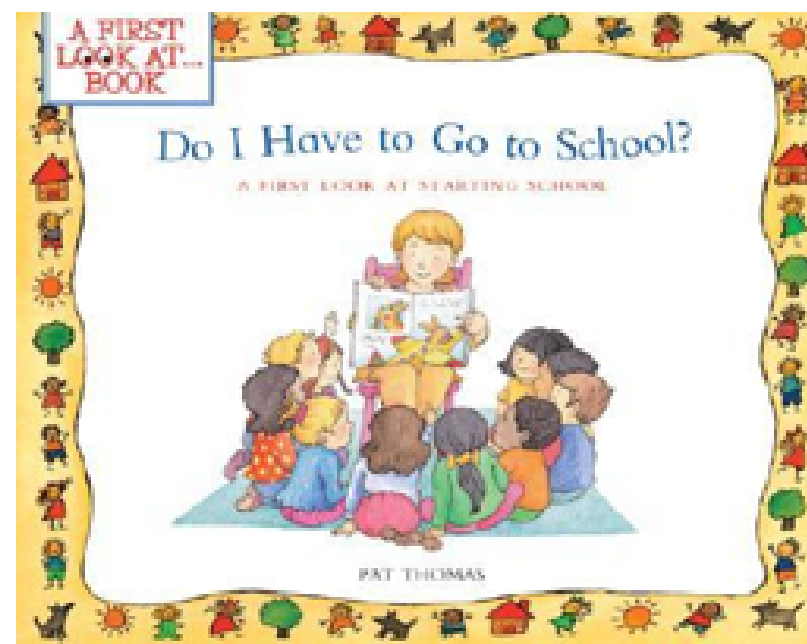
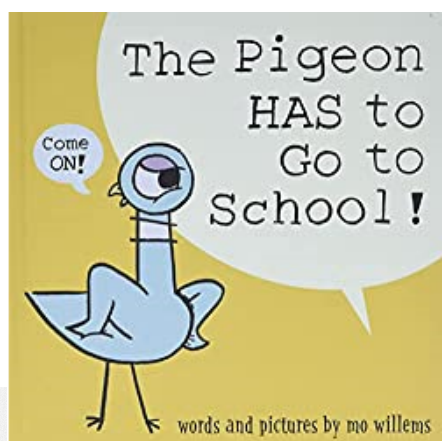


Assembly:

- Assembly takes place every Wednesday at 9am.
- All students and teachers come together to celebrate their achievements and successes.
- Assembly creates a sense of belonging.
- We celebrate the ethos of the school through themes such as kindness, being safe and showing respect.
- Assembly takes place in the church as it is a large space where each child can sit comfortably.

Toys:

- Toys should be kept at home.
- 'Toy Days' will be organised during the year when children can bring in toys or objects from home.



Preparing for School

Reading

- Children will begin their reading journey in Junior Infants.
- We use a variety of approaches such as letter sounds, phonological awareness and story-time.
- Little books and sight words will be sent home as the year progresses.

Activities to try at home:

- reading aloud with your child.
- talking about the pictures in a book
- jigsaws and matching games

Writing

- Good writing is all about muscle and motor control.
- Saint Michael's N.S. uses cursive script.
- Lower case letters are taught first.
- Fine motor skills are developed throughout the year.

Activities to try at home:

- drawing and colouring.
- cutting or tearing paper
- construction work: lego, bricks
- manipulating material such as play dough

Health and Safety

At Saint Michael's N.S., we want to keep your child safe and well. Germs and viruses spread quickly in a classroom environment. In school, we encourage regular handwashing before and after using the toilet and before eating.

Ways to help:

Please show and help your child:

- how and when to wash their hands correctly.
- how to use a tissue to blow their nose correctly.
- to turn away and cough into their elbow.

Please contact the school if your child develops any contagious illness such as chicken pox.

- Keep your child at home until the contagious period is over.
- Please follow the latest COVID 19 guidelines.
- Keep your child out of school for 48 hours following vomiting or diarrhoea.
- Check regularly for head lice, treat immediately, and inform the class teacher.
- All information regarding your child and their health is kept in the strictest confidence.