

Home/School Contact:

Formal: There will be formal Parent/Teacher meetings during the school year. This will provide an opportunity for you to come and discuss how your child is settling in and progressing in school.

Should you wish, at any time to discuss your child's progress please make an appointment with the class teacher and a suitable time will be arranged.

Letters: Occasionally notes are sent out with your child, we also send text's to parents. So please ensure that you have given your correct mobile number so that you can be contacted on that number.

Principal: Martin Ryan

Deputy Principal: Breda Conroy

Tel 067-38269

School Mobile: 087-6497529

School website: www.ardcroneyschool.com

Ardcroney National School

Information for Parents of Infants Starting School.



Ardcroney N.S. is a Catholic Primary School which seeks to ensure that all its pupils are educated and nurtured in an environment which is caring, considerate and tolerant.

Mission Statement:

Ardcroney N.S. aims to nurture responsible, capable, resourceful and caring people who live lives in a Christian way, respecting and valuing difference. The whole school experience will foster both a love of learning and an awareness of our culture and traditions thus enabling all who learn and work here to live good and wholesome lives.

As a staff we endeavour to help our children to develop morally, socially, spiritually and cognitively so that they may reach their potential in all areas.

Parents and teachers are partners in the children's education. Co-Operation and communication between home and school are vital links in the education process.

You have been the prime educators of your child for the past five years and your role as educator is even more important now as your child begins formal education.

We know from experience that parents are eager to help their children in every way possible. With this in mind we have put together, in this booklet, some ideas which will help you to prepare your child for school. Also included is some information concerning our school rules and routines.

Together we can achieve our aim-the happiness and well-being of all the children in our care.

Facilities:

The School consists of five mainstream classes and one learning support teacher and one Resource teacher and two full time Classroom Assistants. Junior Infants are in a single class of less than 20, and Senior Infants are in a single class of less than 20. First and Second combined. Third and Fourth Combined. Fifth and Sixth combined.

There are 3 separate yards, with Junior and Senior Infants being kept separate in yard of their own. All yards are supervised during breaks.

Sacramental Programmes:

The Sacramental Programmes offered by the school are: First Confession and First Communion in 2nd class and Confirmation which takes place in 6th class.

School Activities:

The school offers a lot of activities at a reduced rate:

- Irish dancing commences in Junior Infants and continues up to fourth class.
- Music begins in 1st class and continues up to 6th class. It starts with the tin whistle and some advance onto accordion, flute and fiddle.
- Hurling and Camogie are offered from 3rd class on.
- Handball, art classes, drama classes are just a few of the activities children will get a chance to experience in our school.
- Tennis coaching during First and Third term in Nenagh Lawn Tennis Club.
- French Class for Fifth and Sixth classes
- Athletics
- Tennis Club.

What you can do:

You can help to prepare your child for formal learning by:

- Reading stories together and encourage your child to sit and listen attentively to a story/to chat about the picture etc.
- Talking to and listening to your child and encourage attentive listening, turn taking and appropriate eye contact.
- Repeat Nursery Rhymes and sing songs together.
- Encourage your child to colour pictures, use large crayons initially and help your child to hold crayon pencil correctly.
- Do simple jigsaws together 6/8/12 pieces.
- Allow your child to help you with simple housework tasks e.g. lay the table, tidy the toys etc.
- Play games which involve turn taking e.g Snakes & Ladders, throwing and catching a ball etc.
- Encourage your child to play with Play Dough, Lego and bricks.
- Gaeilge will also be part of your child's curriculum. A positive attitude by parents to this subject is crucial.
- Use the "cupla focail" on a regular basis at home.

Getting Ready For Learning:

Children are natural learners and are eager to know more about everything about—about themselves, about others and about the world around them. In Junior Infants the foundations will be laid for your child's future learning.

Tús maith leath na hoibre"



Health & Hygiene:

Headlice; Occasionally there will be a case of headlice in the classroom. In this case you will be notified immediately so that the problem can be eliminated. Please check your child's hair regularly. If you discover headlice treat immediately and inform the teacher. Remember getting headlice is not a reflection on the standard of cleanliness in the home.

Illness: If your child had a contagious illness (e.g. tummybug, chicken pox etc.) please do not bring him/her to school. Inform the teacher of the reason for the absence.

During the Summer:

- Talk to your child casually about school - refer to it as a happy place where he/she will meet new friends.
- Label all items of clothing, especially the school jumper and coat.
- Buy school bag. Purchase a bag which is large enough to hold an A4 size folder. Ensure that your child can open/close the bag. Label the school bag.

No "wheelie bags" please for safety reasons.

- Label lunch box. Make sure your child can open and close the box easily.

September - The Big Day:

When you arrive in the classroom be as casual and as calm as you can. Your child will be met by the teacher and will be given a toy or an activity. As soon as your child is settled please leave without delay.

Be sure to collect your child on time. Children can become very upset if they feel that they have been forgotten.

If you are delayed please phone the school so that we can reassure your child that you are on the way.

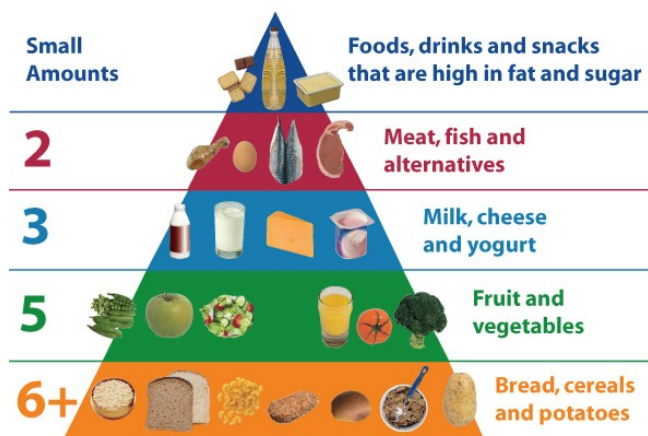


Absences from School:

In the event of your child being absent for any reason, the class teacher must be informed by note of the reason for the absence. The Education Welfare Officer calls to the school regularly to monitor the attendance of the pupils.

Lunches:

Parents are encouraged to provide nutritional lunches e.g. sandwiches, cheese and crackers, fruit, dried fruit, cereal bar etc. Milk, fruit juice, or water to drink, and one small treat.



Uniform:

The official supplier of our school uniform and tracksuit is Michael Larkin, Main Street, Borrisokane.

All children are expected to wear the full school uniform every day. The uniform consists of :

- White shirt,
- Green Tie with red stripes.
- Grey Pants/skirt/pinafore,
- Green jumper.
- School tracksuit.

Before Your Child Starts:

The first year in school is mainly about settling in, relating to others and making friends, about getting used to the routines of school. The more confident and independent your child is the easier it will be for him/her to settle in and feel secure.

What can you do:

Encourage/teach your child to:

- Button/unbutton, zip/unzip his/her coat and hand it up properly.
- Use the toilet and wash hands without having to be reminded.
- Share toys and games—"take turns".
- Tidy up and put away toys when asked to do so.
- Make his/her needs known i.e. ask for help/for a drink etc.
- Use tissues when necessary.
- Open/close school bag/lunch box.
- Remain contentedly for a few hours in the home of a relation, friend or neighbour. If your child has had this experience, then separation from you when starting school will not cause any great anxiety.