

Newsletter

September 2022

Welcome: This year, the staff and I are delighted to welcome eleven children to Junior Infants. The children have settled in very well indeed. From Monday 19th September, they will be completing the full school day. Ms Rice and Ms O'Donoghue have been in touch with Infant parents about the collection arrangements at 1:50 pm.

School opening and closing times: Following a survey of parents in May, it was decided to continue with our current arrangements for this ie opening at 9:10 am and closing at 1:50 pm (Infant classes) or 2:50 pm (1st to 6th classes). Children who travel to school by car can be dropped any time from 9:10 am onwards. Based on the first week of school, it seems the buses arrive sometime between 9:10 am and 9:25 am. The first twenty minutes of the day is assembly time and no formal teaching instruction takes place during this time so children travelling by bus are not missing out on any teaching time. Formal instruction starts at 9:30 am.

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please make sure to notify the school via the Connect App before 9:30 am. As per the Attendance Policy, please give a reason for the absence.

If you need to collect your child during the school day, please make sure to schedule the collection either at **first break** (10:50 am to 11:10 am), **second break** (12:50pm to 1:10 pm) or at **1:50pm**. The class teacher should be notified on the App no later than 9:30 am on the day of the early collection. When you arrive at school gate your child will be sent to you. Teachers are not be in a position to read messages sent in during the school day so it's always best to send in notices before 9:30 am.

Pupil Personal insurance: the premium has been paid for the coming school year and covers your child 24/7 for the next 12 months. The link here will be added to the website with detailed information about the policy, coverage, how to make a claim etc.

<https://www.allianz.ie/products/schools/pupil-personal-accident.html>

Homework: For the first two weeks of school the teachers have been doing a homework audit with their classes. They have been assigning homework and allowing the children to complete it in the classroom to ascertain if the amount/type of homework is suitable for and within the children's capability to complete independently and in a timely manner. From Monday Sept 19th homework will be assigned to be done after school. From 3rd class upwards, the children write their homework in the journal while 1st and 2nd class homework will be assigned on the Connect App. Homework affords your child a chance to practice and consolidate skills developed in school. It also lets you know what they are learning in school. Literacy skills homework may not always involve writing but could be reading/oral work. If the homework assigned is causing your child difficulty or they are not able to complete it independently, it is essential you make contact with their teacher (note in journal/on App) to discuss your concerns. As to how long your child should spend doing homework, the following times are a guide:

5th and 6th : no more than 45 minutes

3rd and 4th : no more than 35 minutes

2nd and 1st: no more than 20 minutes

Junior and Senior Infants: between 10 and 15 minutes

If homework is taking any longer, please put it away and have a chat with your child's teacher/note time taken and put note in journal or email.

Reading practice: Children in 1st and 2nd classes have had their reading fluency checked over the past two weeks. From next Monday onwards, they will all have reading homework each evening. It is very important to listen to your child read each evening and sign their reading log. If you have any questions about any aspect of this reading homework, please contact the class teacher to discuss further.

Accelerated reading programme: This will recommence for classes 2nd – 6th from next week, the 19th of September. If your child has not previously used the programme, this is a software package which we use in this school to achieve many of the reading and oral language outcomes as outlined in the Primary Language Curriculum. Vocabulary, comprehension and fluency skills are monitored and developed at an individual level.

Using information on your child's specific level of achievement, their teachers can help them select books which are difficult enough to keep them challenged but not too difficult to cause frustration.

The procedure for AR is as follows:

1. Star test at the beginning of each period– children do a short online reading test to determine their reading/book level. Individual targets are then set for the children based on their specific needs.
2. Children then **read daily** at their individualized book level. For the coming school year, as life has returned to normal and children have all sorts of afterschool activities to do, we ask parents to ensure their child reads for **15 minutes** of sustained independent reading per day **at home**. If child would like to read more than this time, that's fantastic and to be encouraged but all we require is 15 minutes sustained reading daily.
3. When your child has finished reading a book, they then complete an online comprehension/vocabulary quiz on the book.

The following link on our website addresses many of the questions you might have about the system

<https://www.renaissance.com/2016/09/09/parents-guide-renaissance-accelerated-reader-360/>

Please make sure to ask your child to log on at home each week to show you their progress and the types of books they are reading etc. If you have any concerns about their reading progress, please get in touch with their teacher who will be monitoring them in school.

Swimming lessons: Swimming lessons have started for the children in 3rd to 6th classes. A payment request will be issued towards the end of this term.

Board of Management Following a recent meeting of the Board of Management the following report is being made available to you:

- Policies ratified: RSE policy, Code of Behaviour, Visitors policy, Child Safeguarding Statement.

(These policies will be made available on the school website at www.moynens.com)

- It has been agreed to seek advice from Longford Co. Co. about the possibility of applying for funding for a car park close to the school.
- The Board also plans to seek funding from the DES for the replacement of floor covering in two classrooms.