

St. Cuana's N.S.

Kilcoona, Headford, Co. Galway.

www.kilcoonans.ie

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PARENTS/GUARDIANS INFORMATION SHEET



School Times

- Your child must be in class at 8:40a.m. ready for formal instruction which begins at 8:50a.m.
- Children have two breaks. A small break from 10:45 – 11:00 a.m. and a lunch break from 12:30 p.m. – 1:00p.m.
- Children in Junior & Senior Infants finish at 1:30 p.m.
- Children from 1st – 6th Classes finish at 2:30 p.m.
- **It is imperative that your child is on time for school each day.**

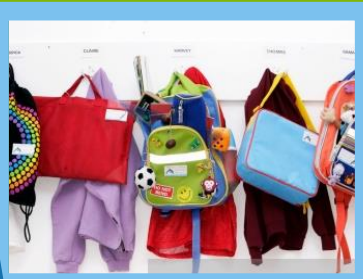
Céad Míle Fáilte

Ba mhaith linn fáilte mhór a chur roimh chuide pháiste nua, roimh chuide thuismitheoir nua agus roimh chuide thuismitheoir a raibh páiste sa scoil chana féin. Tá súil againn go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh agus tairbhe as an am a chaithfidh sibh i Scoil Naomh Cuana.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to every child who is coming to school for the first time, to their parents and also to parents of new pupils who already have children in the school. We hope that their time in Kilcoona School will be both happy and enriching.



We provide a range of learning experiences for the children including opportunities in Football, Hurling, Swimming, Art and Music.



School Readiness

How can you help your child cope? Remember that she/he may never have seen as many children being organised in one place. Most of our suggestions are of a practical nature. They can help your child adapt quickly to the new environment at school. How many of these tasks can your child accomplish? We suggest that your son/daughter should attempt the following:

- **Use a toilet outside their own home comfortably and independently.**
- **Boys should be able to fasten their own trousers and belt.**
- **Put on/fasten and take off a coat.**
- **Hang up her/his own coat.**
- **Tie their own shoes/shoelaces.**
- **Wash and dry his/her own hands.**
- **Tidy up her/his toys and possessions.**
- **Wait for his/her own turn.**
- **Use a Chubby Crayon and Chalk.**

Why not keep an eye out and give your child opportunities to experience these skills before he/she begins school. Crayons and a sheet of paper at home not only keep your son/daughter quiet and happy, they are also valuable activities in child development. Scribbling in this manner is very important for

Promote your Child's Independence

the pre-school child. Children cannot be independent if they cannot manage the equipment you provide. Please give some thought to the items your child needs to get through the school day.

If your child cannot tie laces; shoes with Velcro fasteners will enable him/her to fix his/her own shoes.

Choose a lunch box and drink that your child can open easily and does not require assistance.

Choose lunches that will ensure she/he is independent of the teacher. For example peel his/her orange before school and open any packed food if your son/daughter cannot manage it him/herself.

Label all your children's

clothes (including jackets) and belongings clearly.

Check these labels regularly to ensure that they are still legible.



Communication with Parents

Helpful Tips

Please keep an eye on your child's school bag as it might contain notes for parents. The school also uses 'Text-a-Parent' to remind parents of events or to inform them of emergency closures etc. Please ensure that the school has one current mobile phone contact at all times and that if your number changes to inform the school secretary. Please do not hesitate to approach the class teacher if you are anxious about some issue relating to your child. **However, if you require a detailed discussion, please arrange a convenient time in advance e.g. telephone the secretary or send in a note.**

Health & Safety

As part of our school health programme we encourage regular washing of hands especially around eating time and after toilet use. It is also very important to explain to the child that he/she must flush the toilet after use. It is not possible to oversee this so please remind your child of its importance.

Other hygienic practices that need to be encouraged are using tissues for coughing and sneezing. If your child develops any contagious illness such as chickenpox please keep him/her away from school until the period of contagion is over and inform the teacher immediately.

We highly recommend that you check your child regularly for headlice, which are contagious, treat immediately if they occur and inform the teacher so that notification of possible risk may be sent out to other parents.

All information regarding your child's health is treated in the strictest confidence.

Absences

If your child is absent due to sickness, family reasons etc. please fill out the absence notes supplied to you and send it into the class teacher. If a child misses 20 days or more, the school principal has a duty to report these absences to TUSLA, Child and Family Agency. TUSLA may follow up such reports and contact the parents. However, under no circumstances should a sick child be sent to school. It is unfair on the child, the other children in the class and the teacher.

Communicate

Please inform the school if your child is attending/has attended Speech & Language Therapy or any agency with regard to their development. All information regarding your child's development is treated in the strictest confidence.



An anxious/unwell child will not learn, please notify the teacher if they are upset or have a health issue.

Coming to School

Children need to be seated and ready in their classroom at 8:50 a.m. There is a bus service in operation – details of which are available from school transport section on www.buseireann.ie

Initially, you may feel it necessary to accompany your child into the classroom, but from early September, children are encouraged to be independent and to take responsibility for their belongings i.e. coat, bag etc.

Due to the volume of traffic at the school gate in the morning and evening, parents are asked to be especially vigilant with regard to the safety of **all** children. A one-way system is in operation for all traffic. Please follow the flow of traffic and don't block the entrance or exit.

Uniform

Boys

Navy blue jumper
Navy Pants
Pale blue shirt or polo shirt

Girls

Navy blue jumper/cardigan
Navy pinafore/skirt or pants
Pale blue blouse or polo shirt.

Cardigans and jumpers with the school crest can be purchased from the National Schoolwear Centre, Tuam or Galway.



Food

Children need a good breakfast before starting their school day. This helps them to concentrate and participate fully in the learning process.

There are two breaks in the day. First break is from 10:45-11:00 a.m. A piece of fruit, a light sandwich or perhaps a small drink make a healthy mid morning snack for your child. The next break is 12:30-1:00 p.m. a sandwich, drink and yoghurt may be suitable.

Fizzy drinks, crisps, sweets and chocolate are not encouraged. The school promotes a healthy eating policy and welcomes parental support.

School Bag

Buy a bag large enough to carry your child's lunch bag and books. Please check that your child can open/close this bag him/herself. It is a good idea to have your child's bag packed and ready the night before as it saves rushing in the morning.

Toys

There is no need for children to bring toys into school. We do not encourage this practice because of breakage, competition and peer pressure.

**School Uniform
Crests can be
purchased from
the school for €7
each.**

Book Rental

Kilcoona NS offers a book rental service for certain books on the booklist. These will be highlighted on the booklist which will be posted to you before the summer holidays.



Our Rainbow Classrooms

A recent addition to our school is the Rainbow Classrooms, which caters for children with ASD. Both classes aim to offer an Autism specific learning environment within a mainstream school. This type of educational setting facilitates optimum inclusion as part of the school community with access to mainstream activities as appropriate.

The classrooms are physically structured in accordance with the TEACCH Model, with specific areas for individual learning, group work, play and lunch.

Multisensory Room

The classroom also has a sensory integration room which consists of a variety of equipment to develop fine and gross motor skills, aid sensory processing and provide exercises for both stimulation and preparation for learning.



Quiet Room

We are fortunate to have this purpose built extension which has a quiet room where the children can relax with fibre-optic lights, a bubble tube, a dark den and mood music. This room can be used to stimulate a child or help a child self-regulate.





Glossary of Terms

A **Learning Support Teacher** is a teacher that caters for children with learning delays or with a high-incidence disability such as mild general learning disability and dyslexia.

A **Resource Teacher** is a teacher that supports children with low- incidence special needs arising from a disability.

RSE – Relationships and Sexuality Education aims to provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way.

SENO – Special Education Needs Organiser (SENOs) are appointed by the NCSE to provide a direct local service to the parents of children with special educational needs and to schools within geographical areas. This involves identifying the needs of children and deciding on the level of resources schools required.

School Staff Members

Mrs. S. Melvin, Principal

Mrs. T. Donoghue, Deputy Principal

Mrs. C. Naughton, In School Management

Ms. S. McDonnell

Mr. K. McGough

Ms. L. Martyn

Mrs. T. Langan

Mrs. M. Ryder

Mr. R. Whitmarsh

Ms. A. Walsh

Mr. É. Glynn

Ms. B. Duddy

Ms. F. Kenny

Mrs. J. Skelly, Mrs. N. Burke, Mrs. C. Heneghan,

Mrs. B. Hannon, Mrs. N. Reilly, Mrs. M. Hession,

Ms. M. Murphy, Mrs. S. Steed

Mrs. C. Duggan

Mr. J. Flaherty

Mrs. P. Murphy & Mrs. B. Kelly

Ms. D. Shaughnessy

Senior Infants

Learning Support Teacher

Rainbow Room Teacher

1st Class

Resource Teacher

5th / 6th Class

Rainbow Room Teacher

Resource Teacher

3rd Class

Junior Infants

4th / 5th Class

2nd Class

S.N.A.s

Secretary

Caretaker

Bus Escorts

Cleaner