SCOIL AONGHUSA COMMUNITY NATIONAL SCHOOL

*Kingsfort Avenue, Castlepark Village, Mallow, County Cork*



**Preparation for school**

Parents can do much to help their child prepare for school and this preparation should begin some months before the child starts school and should be carried out gradually.

The following may help your child to prepare:

It would help greatly if your child is able to:

* Button and unbutton a coat and hang it up.
* Fasten/tie their own shoes—Velcro fasteners are very handy!
* Use the toilet without help and manage pants buttons.
* Share toys and playthings with others and ‘take turns’.
* Tidy up and put away playthings.
* Also encourage personal hygiene and cleanliness. Your child should know how to flush the toilet and wash hands without having to be told.
* Use a hanky when necessary.

**The Big Day**

* The new Junior Infants will arrive for school which starts at 9.00 a.m. and their day will finish at 1:40 p.m. It is very important that your child is both on time for school and collected on time after school every day.
* **Your child will go home at 12.30pm for the first two weeks until the 10th of September 2018.**
* In the morning time children line up in the school hall where the teacher will collect them each morning and bring them to the classroom. **For the first day children can go straight to their classroom when they arrive at school.**
* Tell your children about school beforehand, casually and talk about it as a happy place where there will be a big welcome and they will meet lots of new friends.
* It helps to have the uniform and schoolbag ready for the first day. Please remember to have **a name label** on everything that your child owns.
* When you arrive in the classroom be as casual as you can. Your child will meet their teacher, will be shown to their place and given an activity to do. Assure your child that you will be back shortly, say goodbye and leave without delay. Your child will go home at 12.30pm for the first two weeks to get them settled in. The teacher will bring the children out to their parents during home time.
* Your child’s books will be taken from him/her, the first day of school and the teacher will hold on to them until such time as they are needed. All books and copies must be covered and marked with the child’s name.

**Lunch**

* Children will have a small break at 10.50 to 11.00am and lunch from 12.30 -1.00pm
* As a health promoting school we will ask you to promote a healthy lunch right from the start. Please do not give your child sticky bars, lollipops, fizzy drinks or crisps for lunch. Children can bring a small treat on a Friday only. Water or milk is advisable as a drink. Also, chewing gum is not allowed at school. Please only give your child something you feel that they can manage to easily eat and a lunch box that your child can open and close themselves.

**Going Home**

Please be sure to collect your children on time. Children can become very upset if they see other children being collected and feel they are being left behind. Please inform the school if you are delayed in traffic, or because of an emergency so that we can inform your child that you are on your way.

**Early collection**: When it is necessary for your child to leave school early, the early collection book must be signed at the secretary’s office. This is in the interest of the health and safety of your child.

**Absent Note**: In the event of your child being absent for illness or any other reason, the class teacher should be informed by filling out the absence note at the back of your child’s school journal on return to school. These notes are retained on file for inspection by the Education Welfare Board if required.

**Home-school communication**

For schools to do what is best for your child it is very important to have good home-school communication. It is important that you check your child’s schoolbag regularly for notes. Parent-teacher meetings are held once a year and it is important that you attend these to keep in touch with your child’s progress in school. If you feel you wish to speak to your child’s teacher at any other stage during the year, please feel free to make an appointment with the teacher or through the school secretary Christine.

***Remember, all children are different. Some children will settle in a few minutes and more children may take slightly longer. All children are different and will settle in their own time.***

Here at Scoil Aonghusa CNS, we seek to ensure that all our pupils are educated in an environment that is welcoming, caring, considerate and tolerant. We hope that this booklet will help to prepare you and your child by offering some useful tips and information. We look forward to working closely with you in our role as partners in your child’s education.