

Scoil Bhríde N.S. Portlaoise

Mol an Óige

Telephone: 057 8620287

Fax: 057 8680008

E-mail: mail@scoil-bhríde.com

Web-site: www.scoil-bhríde.com



**INFORMATION BOOKLET
FOR PARENTS OF INFANTS
STARTING SCHOOL**



Welcome to Scoil Bhríde

At Scoil Bhríde, we seek to ensure that all our pupils are educated in an environment that is welcoming, caring, considerate and tolerant. The staff at Scoil Bhríde is committed to making sure that your children are happy at school and we aim to do this through working in close partnership with you.

Getting Ready for Learning

There are many ways in which you can help prepare your child for learning:

Talking and Listening

- Talk to your children and encourage them to talk (Don't use baby talk).
- Listen to them and what they have to say.

Stories, reading and books

- Read to your child regularly. Read and tell them stories, say nursery rhymes and poems, and encourage them to talk about what they hear (for example they could retell their favourite part of the story).

Play and Activities

Children learn through play and should be given lots of opportunities to:

- Act out roles i.e-pretending to be someone else. Children love to pretend that they are nurses, doctors, shopkeepers etc. and such play activities enable them to use language.
- Play with objects such as sand, water, jigsaws, boxes and bricks and other toys.

Language

Language is essential for developing reading and writing skills. Listen to your children. Talk to them and encourage them. In developing your child's language skills you should encourage them to:

Listen 😊

Explain 😊

Tell 😊

Talk 😊

Question 😊

Retell 😊

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 8.55 a.m. and their day will finish at 1:35 p.m. It is very important that your child is both on time for school and collected on time after school every day.
- 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. **Note: no markers allowed.** Please remember to have a name label on **everything** that your child owns. **This is really important.**

Every Day Counts



What does the Education Welfare Act mean for us?

Parents

- You must ensure your child attends school regularly.
- If your child is absent you must tell the school the reason for the absence.

Schools

Must inform the Educational Welfare Officer

- If your child is not attending school regularly.
- If your child has missed 20 days or more.

Effects of Poor Attendance

- ◆ Poor attendance at Infant level means your child will miss out on the foundations for all subjects and may lead to problems later.
- ◆ Child misses work particularly if the teacher begins something new.
- ◆ Children miss time with friends. This may lead to feelings of isolation and loss of self-confidence.



- ◆ Poor attendance leads to Early School Leaving.



Helpful Hints

Be organised

- School bags
- Lunches
- Uniforms



**Ready
the night before**

Make sure

homework is done



If there is a problem with homework

- Send a note into the class teacher or
- Talk to the class teacher

Early to bed Early to rise

But if you get up late....

Send them in with a note



Medical/Dental/ Speech therapy Appointments

- Collect your child from school.
- Return your child to school if medically fit.
- Sign early collection slip available from the Secretary's office.

Notes

- Check bags for notes re days off, early closings etc.
- Text-a-Parent - Give your mobile number to the school Secretary.
- If your mobile number or address changes, please ensure that you inform the school Secretary.

Be firm with your child regarding their attendance

Especially on....

- Half days
- Fridays / Mondays
- Days when other children may have no school
- Birthdays

s for Parents

Be Positive



- * Encourage and praise your child.
- * When possible, get involved in activities at the school.
- * Talk to your child about the value of school.
- * Explain to your child that the longer they stay in school the better the choice of career they will have.

If your child is sick or in hospital

- Inform the school. 
- Give a written note to the teacher when your child returns.

How do I ensure my child does not fall behind?

- Read the monthly Junior Infant Newsletter to keep up to date with what your child is learning in school.
- Check your child's homework folder.

Family Problems

- Reassure your child.
- Send your child to school even if they are late or couldn't do their homework.
- Send a note to the teacher.



If you suspect he/she may be pretending

- Check if there is anything worrying your child.
- Send child in.
- Reassure your child that the school will contact you if he/she is sick in school.

Encouraging good attendance.

What does Scoil Bhríde do?

- ◆ Good attendance is rewarded. Every fortnight there is a lucky dip for students who have been in attendance for the fortnight. Also, Attendance Certificates are handed out each month to those pupils who have been in attendance for the whole month.
- ◆ Good communication between home and school is encouraged.
- ◆ Children are encouraged to voice their concerns eg. Bullying at Circle time, SPHE class.
- ◆ Children with poor attendance are identified, supported and encouraged.
- ◆ At Parent Teacher meetings or through Home School Liaison, parents attention is drawn to attendance.
- ◆ Regular contact is kept with the Education Welfare Officer.
- ◆ Parents are given as much notice as possible of days off.
- ◆ Enjoyable activities are planned on days which frequently have low attendance.



Acceptable Absences

General Guidelines

- * Sickness, accidents, medical procedures.
- * Death of a close relative.
- * Religious ceremony involving a close relative.



What to do if your child has been absent

Inform the school of reason for absence

- Parents of Infants can fill in a note from their school absence slip booklet.

Coming in

When you arrive in the classroom be as casual as you can. Your child will meet the teacher, will be shown to a table and chair and given an activity to do. Assure your child that you will be back shortly, say goodbye and **leave without delay**.

Lunch



We will ask you to promote a healthy lunch right from the start. Please do not give your child sticky bars, lollipops, peanuts, fizzy drinks or crisps for lunch. Also, chewing gum is not allowed in this 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. Please ensure that you clean out your child's lunch box everyday.

Parking

Parents are asked not to park in the staff car park. Also, please do not double park outside the school or in the area designated for buses. In the interest of the safety of the children, please use only designated parking areas. Also, parents and children are not permitted to walk through the staff car park in the interest of their safety.



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, an early collection slip must be collected from the secretary's office. It must be filled in and given to the class teacher. 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 note** on return to school.

These notes are retained on file for inspection by the Education Welfare Board if required.

Health, Hygiene & Safety

Your child is now sharing a room daily with a large number of children. Close contact with other children is unavoidable, so particular attention should be paid to health and hygiene. If your child has a **particular health problem** such as allergies, asthma, diabetes etc. you should advise the school. The school should be made aware of the name and address of your family doctor. If your child needs medication on a regular basis you may need to make special arrangements for this.

Scoil Bhríde operates a Code of Behaviour and anti-bullying policy which are available from the office. The school fully endorses 'Children First' the designated guidelines for the protection and well-being of children.

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.



Home-school Community Liaison

Deirdre Wall is the H.S.C.L. Co-ordinator in Scoil Bhríde N.S. Deirdre's role is to support parents in the education of their children and to advise parents on related issues. During the school year parents may be invited into the school to work with teachers and pupils on literacy, numeracy and science initiatives. A variety of classes and courses are also organised for parents to attend. Home visitations are a big part of Deirdre's role and she spends three mornings/afternoons a week visiting parents in their homes. Deirdre may call to your home for a chat prior to your child starting school and if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact her. Deirdre can be contacted by phone at 086 7901799, email dwallhscl@gmail.com or by calling into the school. Deirdre's office is situated in the Fifth Class prefab (between Ms. Hayes and Mr. Monaghan).

Uniform:

Boys

Wine v-necked jumper

White shirt

Wine tie

Grey Trousers

Black/wine socks

Flat black shoes/boots

Girls

Wine v-necked jumper

White shirt

Wine tie

Tartan kilt/grey trousers

Black or wine socks/tights

Flat black shoes/boots

P.E. Uniform:

School Tracksuit

[available from Colgan Sports Main St].

- White Polo shirt.
- Runners.
- The school tracksuit may be worn on P.E. days only.

Parents' Association

Scoil Bhríde has a very active and supportive Parents' Association whose role is to enrich the education of the children through working with the Principal, Teachers and the Board of Management.

From all the staff at Scoil Bhríde

We are all looking forward to meeting you and your children and we hope that you will all feel very welcome here at Scoil Bhríde. Slán go fóill.

