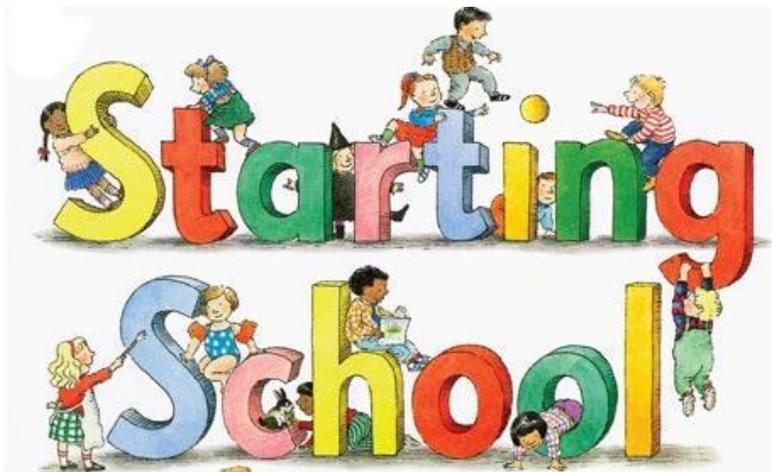


**STARTING SCHOOL
AT
SCOIL MUIRE NAOFA,
KILTALE NS**





Welcome
to a new and exciting stage
in your child's life.

During this year your child will make new friends, enjoy new experiences, discover and develop their creativity, explore new language and learn new skills including the vital skill of reading.

We, teachers and parents, have the chance to work as partners to ensure that at the end of the school year, your child will have had a happy year and will have developed a positive attitude towards learning taking their first steps on the road of life long learning.

First Day - A Happy One!

Please be positive with your child in preparing him/her for school and explain what will happen regarding

- Teacher,
- other children,
- breaks,
- sitting down,
- tidying-up,
- home time.



After meeting the teacher and some other children and finding a place for your child to sit please leave promptly.

Most children, even if initially upset, soon become distracted by their surroundings and settle down.

School Opens: 9.00 a.m.
School Closes: 1.40 p.m. for the Infant Class
2.40 p.m. for the rest of the school



Children should enter the school by the church car park.

Please collect your Children from the exit of the school in the church car park.

Please use the left hand side of the car park for this purpose, as it will mean that the children don't have to cross the car park.



Uniform:

As of September 2025 we have introduced a new uniform consisting of the following:

- Children in Junior Infants to 2nd Class will only wear the School Tracksuit consisting of -
 - New school tracksuit top and black bottoms
 - Blue polo t-shirt,
 - Runners.
- Please note that **only Junior Infants starting in 2025/26 will be expected to purchase the new school tracksuit.** All existing school tracksuits that have been purchased by parents will still be permitted as part of the school uniform. In the future, the new school tracksuit should be purchased and will be available in Ted Murtagh's from July 2025. By making these proposed changes we hope to improve the quality of the uniform and make life easier for parents in terms of their daily routines.
- Children in 3rd to 6th Class will wear the current School Uniform, ie. their uniform remains unchanged. This decision was made to mark the pupils' transition to the senior end of the school. Moreover, it will assist pupils as they prepare for their transfer to post-primary school where the traditional and more formal uniform styles are commonplace and mandatory. Pupils from 3rd to 6th Class will wear the old/new tracksuit on P.E. days ONLY.
- The student council made the final call by holding a Whole School Vote, giving every pupil a voice on their future school uniform.

School tracksuit to be worn everyday consisting of

- New school tracksuit top
- Blue polo t-shirt.
- Black tracksuit bottoms.
- Runners.
- The complete school tracksuit, including the crest on the sweatshirt and black bottoms, is available from Ted Murtagh's in Trim.



Seating:



Children choose their own seat when they come to school first.
After a number of days they are assigned a seat.
Every few weeks children are assigned a new seat.
This encourages children to make new friends and develop socially.



Clothes:



The children wear the New School Tracksuit.
Please ensure that all clothes likely to be removed i.e., coats, hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers, etc., are clearly **labelled** with your child's name, as many children possess similar items.
It is advised to send in a spare set of clothes in case of emergencies, e.g., pants, tracksuit bottoms, socks and footwear.
Shoes with Velcro fastenings are ideal if your child is unable to tie his/her laces.

Food:



We strongly urge you to follow our "Healthy Lunch Box" recommendations.

- Sweets, biscuits and other unhealthy foods are not encouraged.
- Popcorn & crisps are **NOT** allowed.
- On starting school many children are too keyed up and distracted to eat a large lunch so we recommend a small nutritious snack, for example
 - two sandwiches,
 - milk or water,
 - a piece of cheese,
 - yogurt,
 - fruit (oranges, apples, etc., should be prepared so that your child can easily manage them).
- We try to ensure that the children eat a good portion of their lunch, particularly the sandwiches.
- We do not encourage swapping of lunch items. Please ensure that your child's lunch box and drinks bottle (a reusable drinks bottle please) is clearly labelled with your child's name and also that it is easily opened and closed.
- Kiltale NS is a **NUT FREE SCHOOL** NO CHILD SHOULD HAVE NUTS OR NUT BASED PRODUCTS (check the ingredients) IN SCHOOL e.g, Nutella, Peanut butter, etc.



NO NUTS!



Breaks:



There are two breaks during the day,

- a short outdoor break 10:50 to 11:05
- a longer outdoor break from 12:35 to 13:00.

It is important that children wear appropriate outdoor clothing for each break, i.e., a warm coat, rain jacket, hat, etc.

There are designated play areas in the yard for children in each class.

We recommend that older brothers, sisters and friends do not monopolise the younger children's playtime which may restrict them forming peer attachments. The teacher on duty will keep a close eye on the Juniors at play.

Health and Safety:



As part of our school health programme we encourage regular washing of hands, use of hand sanitisers, particularly around eating time and especially after toilet use. Please teach your child the importance of good hand hygiene.

Unfortunately germs and viruses spread very quickly in a classroom environment so it is vital that the children are encouraged to use a tissue when blowing their nose and to cover their mouth and turn away when coughing. Also to dispose of the tissue & wash their hands.

If your child develops a contagious illness such as chickenpox or has COVID-19 symptoms, please inform the teacher immediately.

We recommend that you check your child regularly for head lice and treat if necessary. Please inform the teacher, so that notification of possible risk may be sent out to parents.

All information regarding your child's health is treated in the strictest confidence. Occasionally your permission will be required for dental, eye or other health examinations.

P.E.



Your class teacher will inform you of PE days.

Information Bulletins:

Please keep an eye on your child's reading bag as it may contain notes for parents. We mainly send **Texts** and **emails** to keep you informed so please make sure we have your current **mobile number** and **email address**.

Absent Notes:

We use **Aladdin Connect** in the school. Once you receive the link in September, you can use the app to put in the reason why your child was absent, late or leaving school early.



Toys:



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

Invitations:



To avoid people feeling left out or upset we do not allow the distribution of invitations, e.g. for birthday parties, etc., in the school.



Reading:

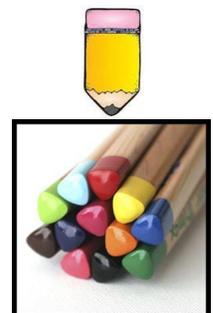


Your child will be taught to read using the 'JOLLY PHONICS' reading programme. This programme uses a number of different approaches including visual, phonetic, aural and oral. The class teacher will keep in contact with parents over the first year in order to explain the parent's role in teaching the "Jolly Phonics" reading programme.

Writing:



Your child will be learning to write lowercase letters initially. It would be helpful if your child practiced colouring using triangular chunky colouring pencils in order to improve pencil control. Make sure your child uses a pinch grip hold.



Assessment:



Informal assessment will be continually made by your child's teacher. More formal assessments will be administered in the 2nd term of the child's first year at school according to your child's age and ability.

During the second term of Senior Infants our Learning Support Teacher will oversee a specific standardized reading test after which learning support will be available if necessary.

Each year, you will have an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teacher at your child's parent Teacher Meeting.

However, do not hesitate to email or phone the school at any time if there is a point upon which you feel anxious.

If you wish a more detailed discussion, please arrange a convenient time in advance with your Infant teacher.



Preparing your child for schoolwork:

Good writing is all about muscle and fine motor control so it will help your child greatly if he/she practices:-

- cutting
- colouring,
- drawing,
- painting,
- lego,
- blocks,
- manipulating materials such as plasticine,
- construction work,
- jigsaws, etc.



Reading aloud to your child will cultivate an interest and love of reading and is of vital importance.

Looking forward to working
with you over the coming years

Colin McElroy,
Principal.