

FÁILTE



Welcome To Our School

2023-2024



St John the Baptist Boys National School, Old Road, Cashel, County
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

First day in school is surely one of those never to be forgotten days in your life and that of your son and we aim to make it as happy an occasion as is possible for you all.

This booklet has ideas and suggestions you may use to help your boy get ready for his big step in starting primary school.

Thank you for choosing our school. We are very proud of what we do here and we look forward to sharing many happy experiences together in the coming years.

With best wishes,

Will Ryan and all the staff (June 2023) ❤️



Some of our Junior Infants (2022/23) with Sixth Class boys (June 2023)

Our Vision

The school community 'ag obair le chéile' to be the best that we can be.

Our Ethos

St John the Baptist Boys NS is a Catholic school, under the patronage of the Archbishop of Cashel and Emlly. A Catholic ethos prevails throughout the school. However, as we live in a multicultural society, we cater for all denominations. Sound basic moral values acceptable to all democratic societies and creeds are cherished and promoted. Diversity of culture and beliefs are respected and celebrated.

Our Mission

- To provide a safe, friendly, effective and stimulating educational environment
- To promote the principles of respect, truth and equality
- To help our boys learn consideration and respect for each individual and for others

- To promote confidence, self-esteem and communication skills
- To affirm in faith and celebrate difference
- To assist our pupils attain their goals, and to help each boy develop his own potential and talents for future life

School Personnel

Permanent teaching staff 2023/24

Will Ryan	Admin Principal
Brid Callanan	Teaching Deputy Principal
Sharon Perdue	Teacher/Assistant Principal I
Sharon Sheahan	On Leave
Sinéad Smyth	On Leave
Catherine Kelly	Teacher & Reading Recovery teacher
Helen Butler	Teacher (Job Share)
Kathrine Carroll	Teacher (Job Share)
Caitríona Crosse	Teacher/Assistant Principal II
Jennie O'Farrell	Teacher/Assistant Principal II
Sarah Russell	On Leave
Pat Molloy	Teacher
Conor Taaffe	Teacher & Reading Recovery teacher
Jennifer O'Dwyer	Teacher
Katie Cowan	Teacher & Assistant Principal II (HSCL for part of 2023/24)
Laurence Coskeran	Teacher
Alison Laffan	Teacher
Sinéad Kelly	On Leave
Rebecca Curry	Teacher
Miriam Quinn	Teacher
Rachel Hayes	Home School Community Liaison (shared with girls' school)
Sinéad Lawless	On Leave
James Doran	Teacher
Cathal Barrett	Teacher
Laura Stapleton	Teacher

Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) & Support staff

Monica Slattery	SNA
Karen Butler	SNA
Julianne Ryan	SNA
Úna Kinnane	SNA
Lauren Maguire	SNA
Paddy Kenneally	SNA
Patricia Fitzgerald	SNA
Geraldine Laffey	Office
Edilene Rodrigues	Office
William Hally	Caretaker
Shelly Farmer	Cleaning Staff/Lunch Bag Operative
Imelda Ramsey	Cleaning Staff
Majella Mullany	Cleaning Staff

Board of Management 2019-23

The Board has legal responsibility for the running of the school. The current Board of Management was elected in Term 1 of 2019 and will serve until November 2023. A new Board will be constituted in December 2023.

		Roles within BoM
Chairperson	Monica Shannon	Chair
Bishop's Nominee	Fr Enda Brady	Pastoral Care/Chaplain
Principal	Will Ryan	Principal/Secretary to BOM
Community Nominee 1	Paddy Purtill	Treasurer
Community Nominee 2	Julia Adamczak	Safety Officer
Teachers' Nominee	Caitriona Crosse	Assistant Principal II/School Premises Officer
Parent Nominee 1	Julia Adamczak	Parent Association Liaison Officer
Parent Nominee 2	Seán O'Donoghue	Capital Projects & Maintenance Officer

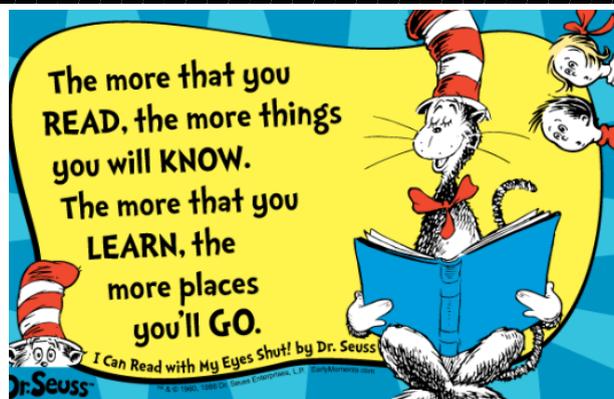
Parent Association 2022/23

Meets monthly. New members are always welcome.

Chairperson	Rebecca Lenehan (pa@cashelbns.ie)
Secretary	Sinéad Breen
Treasurer	Dave Heffernan

“We want more for our children than healthy bodies. We want our children to have lives filled with friendship, love and high deeds. We want them to be eager and willing to confront challenges... We want them to grow up with confidence in the future, a love of adventure, a sense of justice and enough courage to act on that justice. We want them to be resilient in the face of the setbacks and failures that growing up always brings.”

(Seligman et al, 2007)



The First Year

Starting school marks a big change for children. They are used to being at home with their family and/or in smaller pre-school groups. Soon they will spend the day with a large group of other children.

The first year is about:

- ◇ Settling in
- ◇ Making friends
- ◇ Forming relationships
- ◇ Laying a good foundation for future education
- ◇ Beginning formal learning

Before the First Day

- Talk to your son about your own school days.
- Introduce your son to another Junior Infant as it is important that your child sees some familiar face(s) on his first day.
- Talk about the routine of school, what to do when he wants something or wants to go to the toilet, etc.
- Have everything ready the night before.
- Small children don't like to be rushed.
- The school day is long and tiring and they need a good night's rest.
- Plan to take your son to school yourself. You can decide on the safest route.

The School Day

First two weeks of school (School re-opens on Friday 1 September 2023)

1. The Junior Infants are to be dropped at the external classroom door (Room 1) by a parent/guardian for the first week. They are to be dropped at the gate from week two onwards.

2. For the first two weeks, Junior Infants will finish at 12:00pm. This will be up to and including Friday 15 September 2023. Parents will line up outside the external front door on pavement dots. The teacher will send your son to you when you are at the front of the line. Please do not call your son to come to you.

3. From Monday 18 September onwards, Junior Infants finish at 2:00pm and will be collected at the external classroom door as per week one and two.

4. Please make sure your son is collected on time.

5. If you are upset, try not to show it. Leave your child with the teacher and tell him that you will be back to collect him at 12pm/2pm. If your child is upset, trust the teacher.

9:00am -	School opens. Children go straight to their own classroom.
9.00am - 9.20am	Gathering/assembly time. (Don't drop your son off too early, especially in Infants)
9:20am -	School officially begins
10:50am - 11:10am	Break 1
11:20am - 12:30pm	Classes resume
12:30pm - 12:50pm	Break 2
12.50pm - 2.00pm	Classes resume
2.00pm -	Junior and Senior Infants finish at 2:00pm

Handy Hints

- Try put your son's name clearly on all his stationery.



Stationery/Extras:

- **2 large tubes of Pritt Stick (Keep one at home until school one needs replacing)**
 - **2 Faber Castell Junior triangular pencils (red in colour)**
 - **1 Small Eraser**
 - **2 narrow whiteboard markers**
 - **1 packet of crayola 24 thin crayons**
 - **1 pencil case to hold colours and writing stationary.**
 - **1 tub of playdough (labelled)**
- **School Bag:** Buy a bag big enough to carry all the books, copies, pencil case. Remember that most of the workbooks are quite large, A4 size. Please do not buy your son a bag with wheels on it. Clean your son's school bag every week.
 - **Lost Property:** To prevent loss of property, label all your boy's belongings, e.g. coat, jumper, bag, lunchbox, tracksuit etc.
 - Drive past the school before term starts. Park and walk outside the school if you can to familiarise your boy with his new surroundings.
 - When buying such items as a coat, lunch box or school bag, make sure your son can open and close them with ease. Footwear with velcro is preferable.
 - You know your son best. If you have any concerns or questions, talk to the teacher not only on the first day but through the first year and right throughout your son's time in school.

School Uniform

A school uniform is worn, as is a school tracksuit.

Grey school crested jumper, grey trousers, blue shirt, navy tie will be worn two days out of five.
Brown or black shoes/runners to be worn with uniform.

Crested grey jumper available in Uniform World, Clonmel. Eircode is E91 P2N2

Navy sweatshirt with school crest over sky blue polo t-shirt. Plain navy tracksuit pants are fine although we understand a crested one is available. You don't have to get the crested tracksuit pants. White or coloured runners can be worn only on PE days.

Crested tracksuit top available in Uniform World, Clonmel.

The tracksuit is to be worn on PE days only and on other specified days during the year.

Tracksuit will be worn three days a week. Days to be confirmed in September.

Please send a private message on Aladdin Connect to the class teacher if your son is not in the correct uniform or if he is having any issues/problems with the uniform/tracksuit.

To save loss of property, label all your child's belongings, e.g. coat, jumper, bag, lunchbox, tracksuit, etc.



Tracksuit and uniform

Going Home

- Many children quickly get anxious if they are left waiting.
- The boys will be brought out to the outside door of the school for collection by the parents/minders. Please do not enter the school or knock on your son's classroom before 2.00pm.
- If there is any change in arrangements, please let his class teacher know in person or in writing as this avoids confusion.
- Names of people authorised to collect your child should be made known to the class teacher.
- Junior Infants will line up at the front door. The teacher will send your son to you when you are at the front of the line. **Please do not call your son to come to you.**

Aladdin Connect

Aladdin Connect is used by our school to securely communicate and share information with parents/guardians. As well as messages from the school, you can view details that the school shares about your child's attendance, test results, report cards, homework etc.



Home/School Communication

Please check Aladdin Connect on a daily basis (recommend you allow notifications) as the class teacher will post messages on this platform.

Should your child be absent for any reason, **please use Aladdin Connect to explain absences or lateness/early collection.** Tell the teacher about any problems your family may have with any matters. Teachers and parents can work together to overcome any problems that may arise.

Illness: e.g. cough, cold, sleepless nights, asthma, diabetes.

Physical: e.g. speech, eye, hearing defects or physical disability.

Emotional: e.g. moving house, death, separation, accident, new baby etc.

Other: e.g. kidney problems etc.

Health & Hygiene

Your child will now be one of a large number in the class. It is important that a good standard of hygiene is maintained. This is now more important than ever.

Hair: Check your boy's hair regularly (at least once a week).

Hands: Teach your child to wash his hands.

Toilet: Children should be fully toilet trained and be able to:

* use toilet roll

* flush the toilet

* wash and dry hands afterwards

Children who are very sick should not be sent to school. You must consider the other children in the class.

Food

Children need a good breakfast to start each day. Hunger can make children sleepy and irritable. This makes it difficult for them to enjoy school and concentrate on their learning.

There are two breaks during the day, one between 10.50 and 11.20 and another from 12.30 to 12.50pm. **Hot lunches are served to all children (for free) at the second break.** The boys will, however, need a snack for their first lunch and will need a water bottle.

A healthy lunch snack for first break (or for both breaks if you opt out of hot lunches) can contain the following items:

- A portion of starchy food, e.g. wholegrain bap, wraps, thick-sliced wholemeal bread, bagels, rolls, pitta pocket, pasta or rice.

- Fruit and vegetables, e.g. an apple, grapes, a mandarin orange, a banana, a pear, carrot sticks, pepper sticks, a small box of raisins or a fruit salad.
- A portion of milk or dairy food, e.g. individual cheese portion, yoghurt or a drinking yoghurt.
- A portion of lean meat, fish (no bones) or alternative, e.g. ham, chicken, tuna, egg or hummus.
- A drink, milk or water ONLY.
- Two plain biscuits or one plain homemade bun
- Hot tea and soup in a flask are permitted (usually winter only) but please employ caution and consider your son's ability to manage a hot drink during the school day

However, the following items are **NOT** allowed in school lunches as per our healthy food policy.

- Packets containing crisps, breadsticks, nachos, crackers etc.
- Fizzy Drinks, water with cordial/diluted juice, sports and other "energy" drinks. PLAIN WATER ONLY PLEASE!
- Sweets
- Chocolate biscuits and bars*
- *Cakes and Buns**
- Cereal Bars
- Popcorn
- 'Dunkers', 'Lunchables' and processed 'hot' foods in packaging e.g. 'Ranchers' burgers etc.
- Chewing Gum

The following items ARE allowed on *FRIDAY ONLY as a reward for the pupils' efforts during the week:

One of the following:

- (i) A treat-size chocolate bar or
- (ii) A small piece of cake/bun or
- (iii) *Two chocolate biscuits*

Teachers may want to give a child a treat if they are having an end of term party and during other special occasions, and this is deemed acceptable.



Some pictures of our Junior Infant Class 2022/23



The First Day of School

I gave a reassuring smile
As you entered my room today.
For I know how hard it is to leave
When know your children must stay.
You've been with them for five years now
And have been a loving guide,
But now, alas, the time has come
To leave them at my side.
Just know that as you drive away
And tears down your cheeks may flow
I'll guide them as I would my own
And help them to learn and grow.
So please put your mind at ease
And cry those tears no more
For I will protect and nurture them
When you leave them at my door.



An adaptation of a poem by Jamie Solley

St John the Baptist BNS

Calendar 2023/24

Return to school: Friday 1 September 2023

Closed Halloween Break:

Closed: Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November

Reopening: Monday 6 November

Closed: Friday 8 December 2023

Christmas Break:

Closing on Friday 22 December 2023 (half-day)

Re-opening: Monday 8 January 2024

Closed: Monday 5 February – (Public Holiday)

Closed Mid-Term: Thursday 15 and Friday 16 February 2024

Closed: Monday 18 March 2024 (Public Holiday)

Closed Easter:

Closing on Friday 22 March (half-day)

Re-opening: Monday 8 April

Public Holiday: Closed Monday 6 May 2024

Public Holiday: Closed Monday 3 June 2024

Closed for Summer Holidays: Closing on Wednesday 26 June
2024



See you soon! - Slán tamall!

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