

Junior Infant Curriculum Information Meeting

12 October 2023

Mr Will Ryan (Principal)

Mrs Bríd Callanan (Deputy Principal)

Ms Laura Stapleton (Class Teacher)

Ms Rebecca Delahunty (Class Teacher)

Ms Rachel Hayes (HSCL)

Agenda:

- Principal's Address
- Junior Infant Curriculum
- Homework
- Helpful Tips
- Questions

What is the role of the parent?

Ireland's Constitution states that parents are the child's primary educators. Support from home is vital for your child's success in school. To support your son, you can:

- Show interest in what your son is doing in school
- Consult with the school on your son's progress
- Attend parent/teacher meetings
- Talk with the class teacher about any concerns you may have
- Read to and talk with your son everyday
- Praise your son's efforts at every opportunity. Your encouragement means a lot and will motivate your child to continue trying.
- Get your son to school every day that he's not sick

“The support of parents who are engaged in their child’s learning has a **significant positive impact** on a child’s educational achievement, especially in literacy and numeracy.”

(Literacy & Numeracy for Life National Strategy 2011-2020)

Factors that can determine educational success



As a newly designated DEIS school, the following themes need to be addressed in the form of 3 year action plans...



WHAT IS DEIS?
(Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools)

The DEIS programme is the Department's main policy initiative to respond to educational disadvantage. The DEIS programme focuses on targeting additional resources to those schools included in the programme to ensure every child has an equal opportunity to achieve their potential.

In a
nutshell...

Parental
Involvement



School
Involvement



Student
Success

The Curriculum

The Primary School Curriculum was developed by the National Council for Curriculum & Assessment (NCCA) and launched in 1999. It is presented in six areas which comprise of 11 subjects. We are, however, going through a period of curriculum change with schools now engaging with the new Primary Curriculum Framework.

Language
Gaeilge
English

(new curriculum introduced in
2019)

Mathematics
(new curriculum being
introduced from Sept 2023)

Physical Education

The Arts –
Visual Arts,
Music
Drama

Social, Environmental
& Scientific Education
(SESE) – History,
Geography, Science

Social, Personal, Health
Education (SPHE)

**Religious Education
(RE)**

Aistear

[Click above ↑ for more information\)](#)

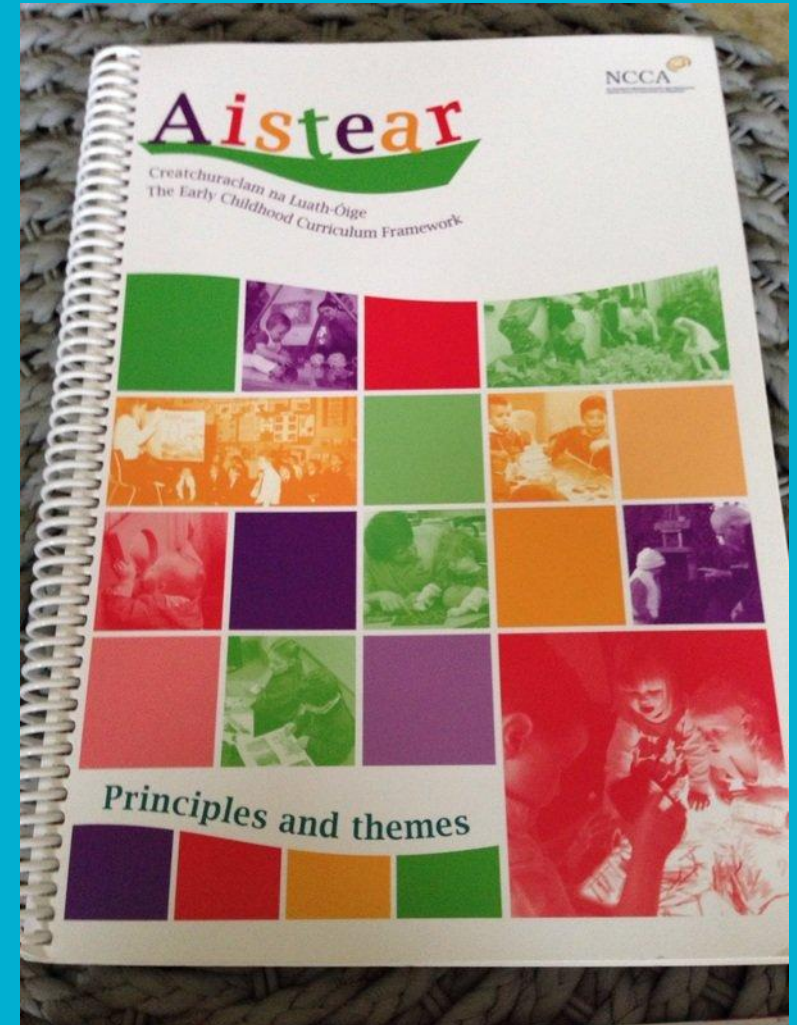
Aistear is the curriculum framework for children from birth up to the age of six.

Aistear in essence is LEARNING THROUGH PLAY.

We focus on the following themes in Junior Infants:

- Myself
- Autumn
- Halloween
- School
- Santa's Workshop
- The Weather Station
- The Doctor's Surgery
- The Farm
- The Restaurant
- The Supermarket
- The Seaside

See website for regular photo updates



Play



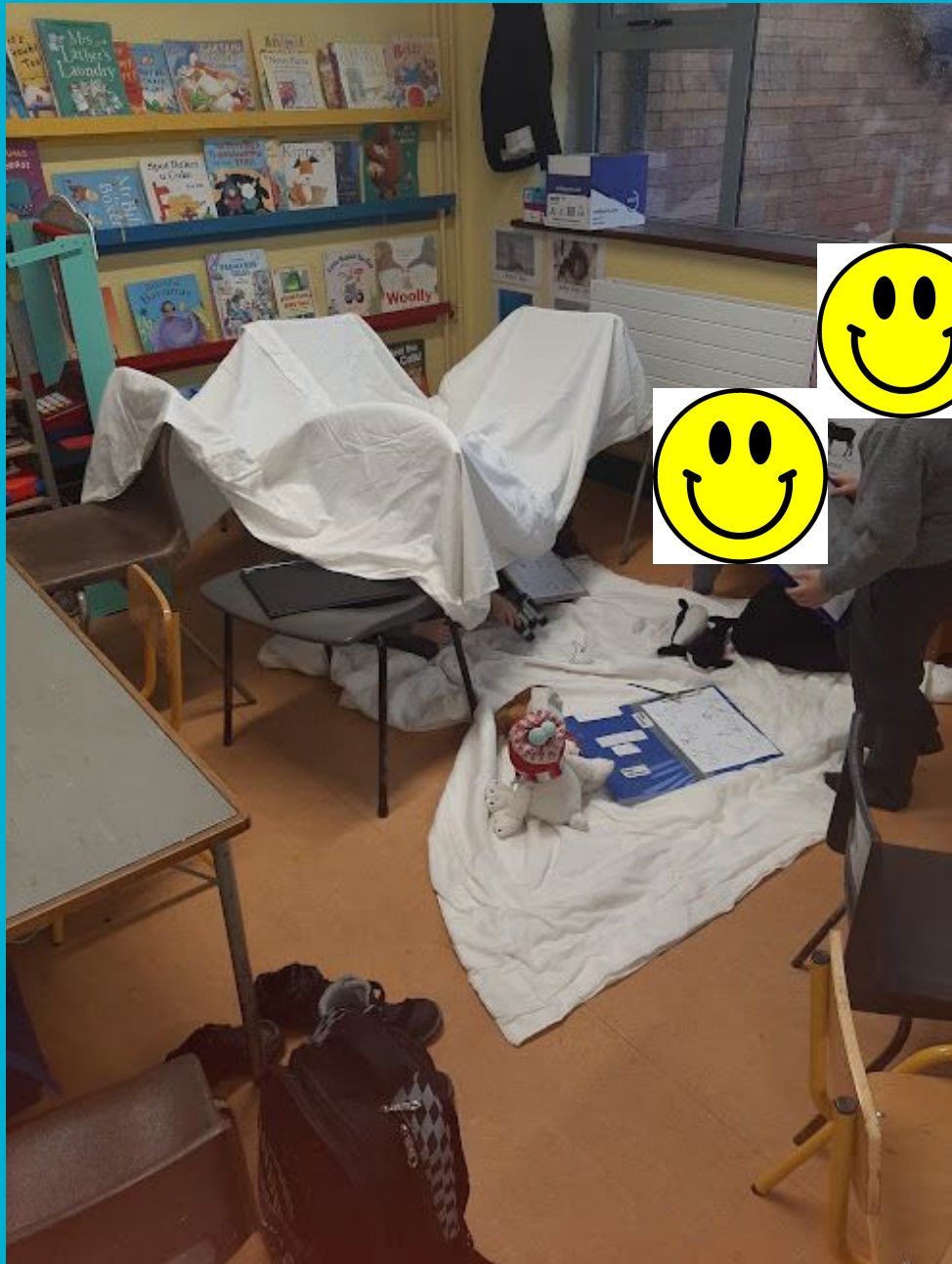
- Children love to play! Children learn through play
- We use Aistear to support our thematic teaching
- Outside of Aistear, all our learning activities usually involve play of some kind; games, drama, songs, rhymes



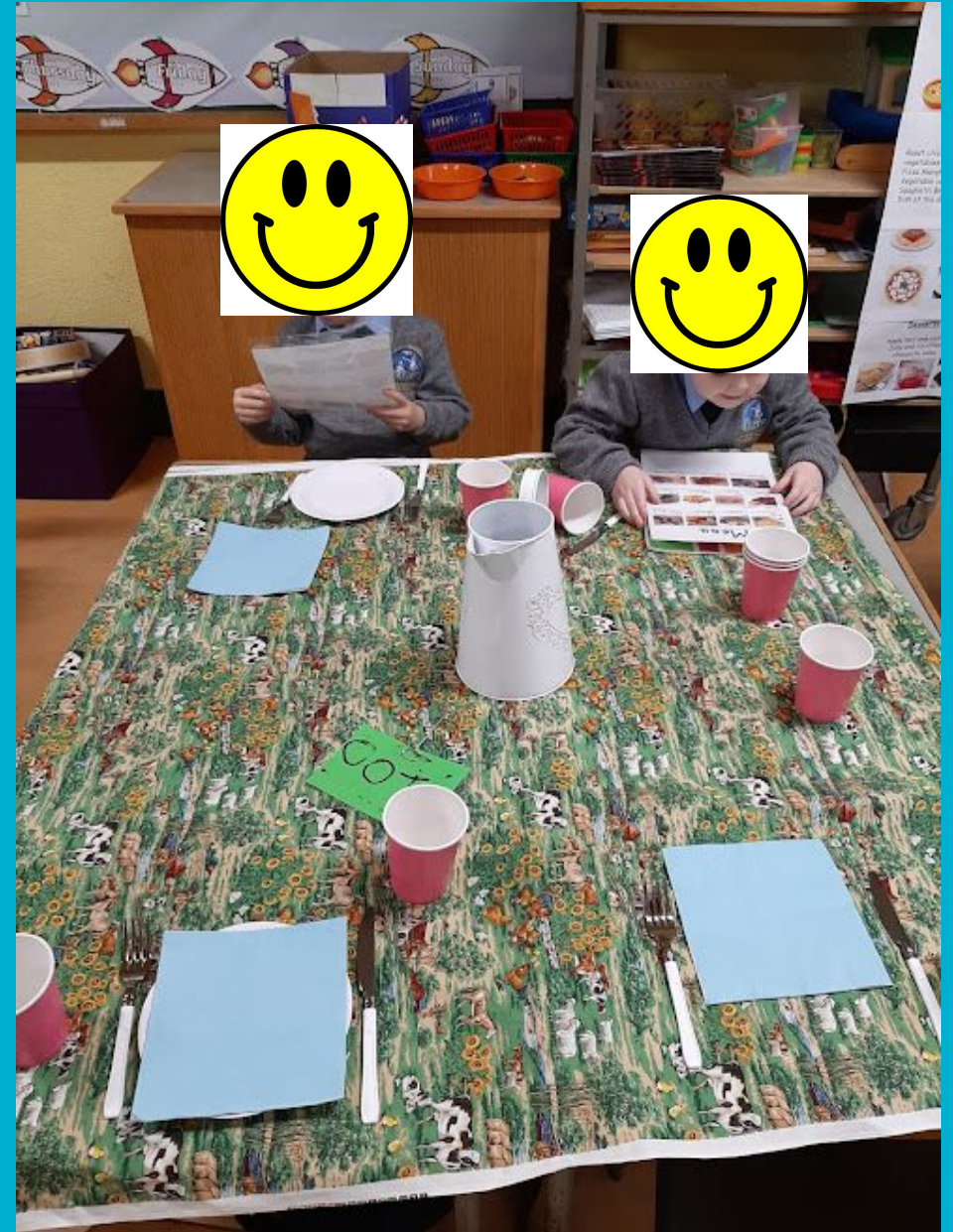
Creative Play



Small World Play



Role Play





Construction Play



Oral Language

Literacy in the Infant Years

1. Oral Language and vocabulary
2. Literacy/Reading Programme
3. Fine motor skills & letter formation

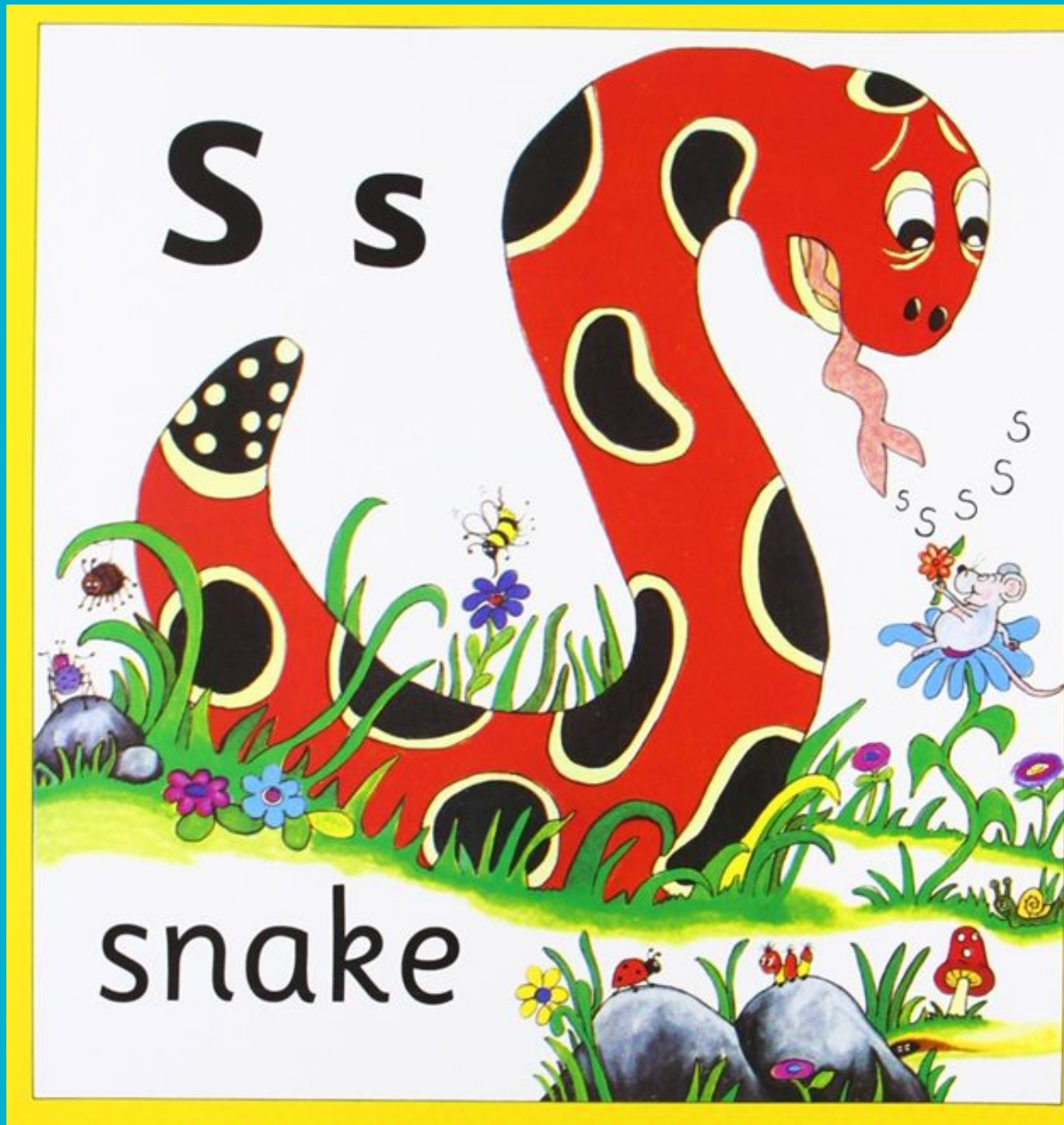




A Balanced Approach to Literacy Development in the Early Years ([← click for link](#))

Oral Language

1. Rhymes, Songs, Chants
2. Eye contact and speaking clearly
3. Recounting personal news
4. Days of the week, months of the year, seasons, weather
5. Oral language themes; Autumn, The Restaurant, The Doctor etc



When learning Phonics we use the Jolly Phonics programme

Please use the video links on Aladdin Connect if you are new to the sounds

Each sound has a song and actions

[Jolly Phonics Presentation](#)

Jolly Phonics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fScUJd9wSd0>

1. s, a, t, i, p, n
2. c k, e, h, r, m, d
3. g, o, u, l, f, b
4. ai, j, oa, ie, ee, or
5. z, w, ng, v, oo, oo
6. y, x, ch, sh, th, th
7. qu, ou, oi, ue, er, ar

Phonics:

- We learn the single sounds in Juniors
- Digraphs in Seniors
- Sounds Booklet

Dolch Words (220 High Frequency Sight Words)

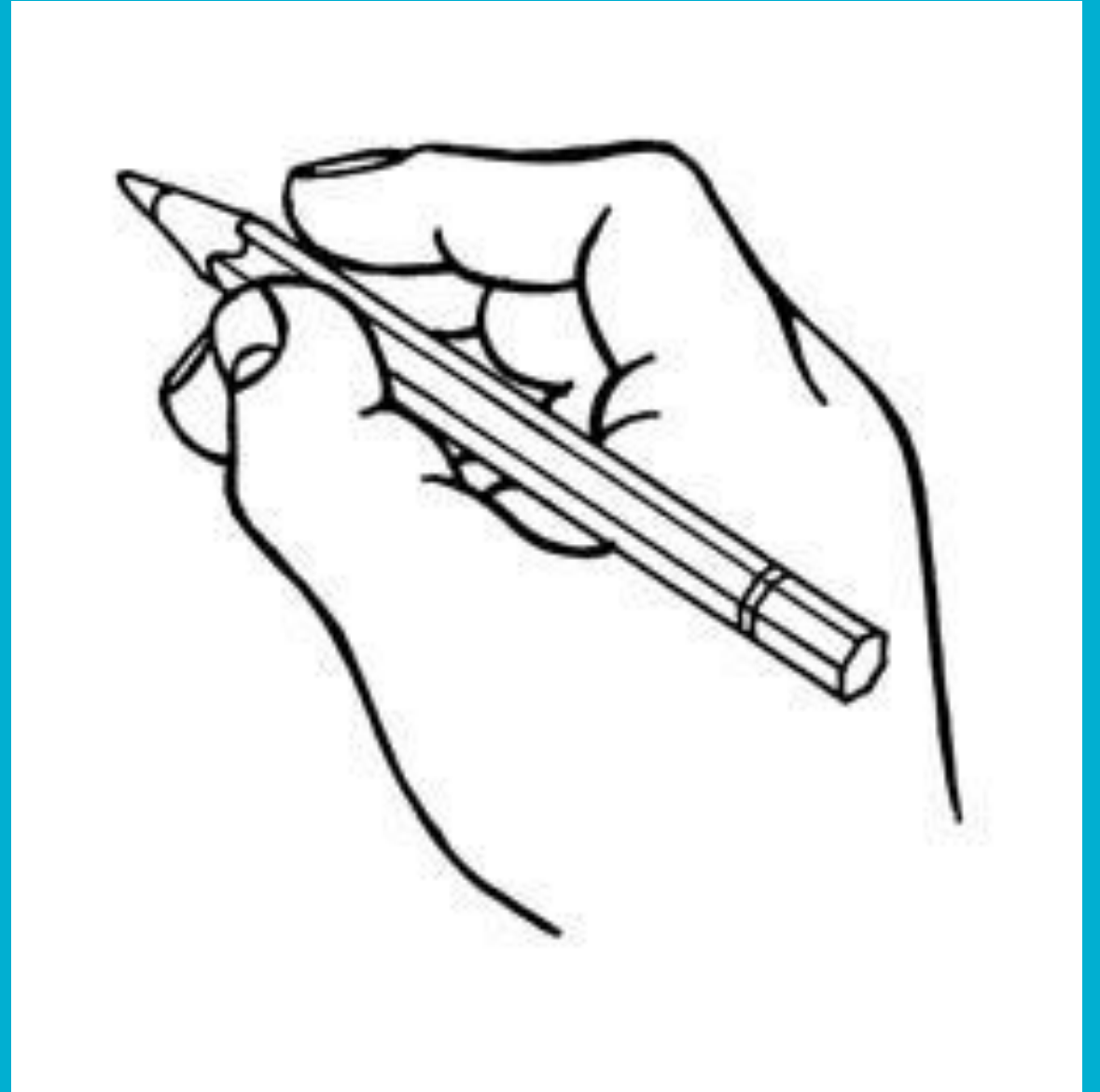
The list makes up from 50 to 75 percent of all ordinary reading matter, excluding proper names.

- Starting later in the year
- Words which must be identified by sight (also referred to in places as heart words. YOu may be able to figure out part of the word but the rest we need to learn by heart e.g said. They know s and d and they learn by heart the sound in the middle.
- Home practise essential for quick recognition
- Key part of reading fluency

Fine Motor Skills

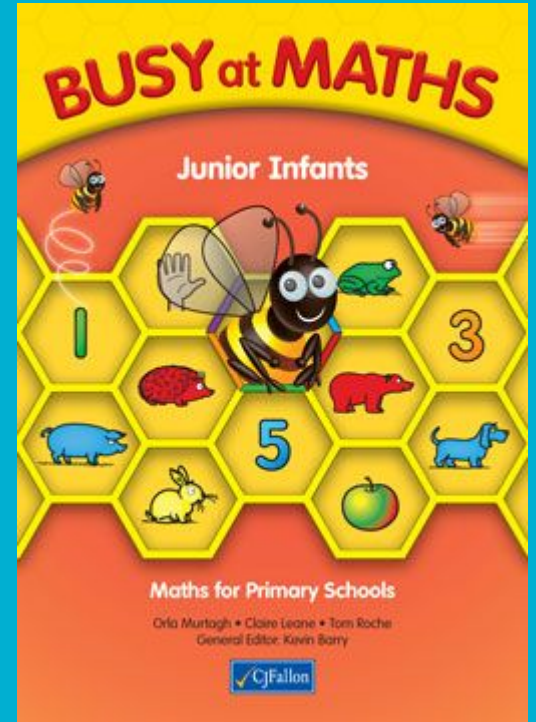
- Stations every morning
- Froggy Legs
- Left to right, top to bottom
- Finger space between words
- Pencil position, page position, table position
- Free writing
- Letter formation - rhymes
- Handwriting & Presentation Policy in place

Letter formation rhymes



Numeracy

- Early Mathematical hands on activities (book)
- Oral Counting
- Number Formation coming soon
- Language element of maths



Number Formation Rhymes

Gaeilge

- Irish is lots of fun in Infants
- Songs, games, drama & story
- Focus on oral language
- Encourage song singing at home
- Try using Irish words as part of everyday conversation
- Folens provide resources for parents which can be found on their website or also by clicking here [Primary | Abair Liom Parent Resources | JI](#)



Homework

Homework folders distributed on a Monday

Folders to be returned on Friday

Please tick homework each night (encourage your son to do this)

Sign homework sheet every Thursday evening

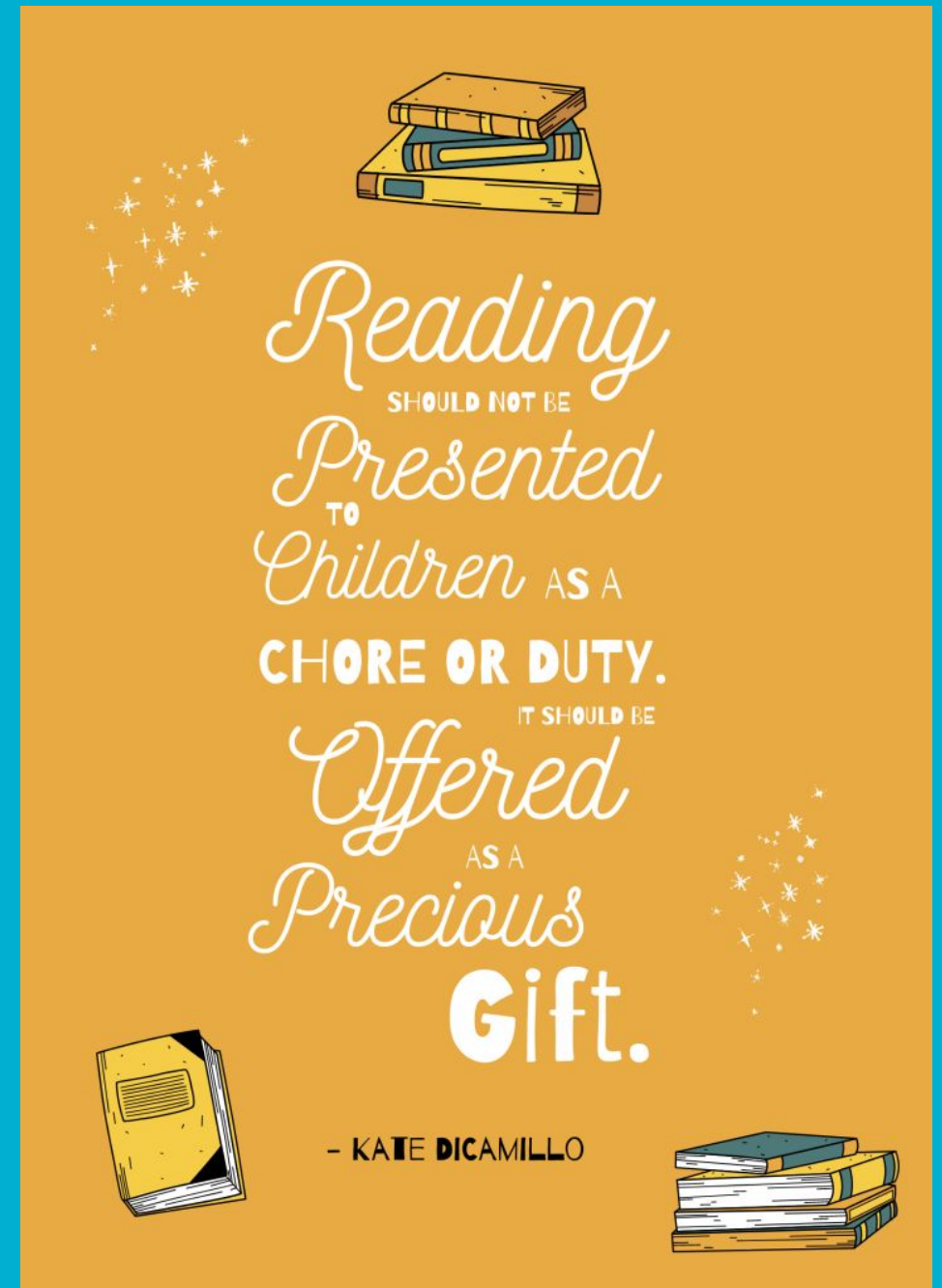
- o Mon –My Sounds Booklet
- o Tues – Busy At Maths (Please check page number)
- o Wed – Ready, Steady, Write (Please check page number)
- o Thurs – Busy At Maths (Please check page number)
- o Every night: Revise sounds in sound book and **CAPER**

****Subject to change****

Dolch words will go home later in the year.

CAPER

- **C**hildren **A**nd **P**arent(s) **E**njoy **R**eadin**G**
- Part of assigned homework
- Shared Process between child and adult
- Main focus is on enjoyment
- **Talk to them about the book** –cover, author, illustrator, pages, left to right orientation, pictures etc. A few questions to check for understanding is no harm, but not to overdo questions
- Sample **CAPER Record Sheet**
- Children independently swap books



Sleep



- Important for brain and body health
- Vital to help sustain concentration in school
- Can help children cope better emotionally with situations
- Break from blue light and screens
- 10 -13 hours a night recommended for Junior Infants



- Healthy lunch policy
 - One small treat on Friday
 - Water - No juice
 - Hot lunches (contact teacher if any issues)
-
- Jackets
 - Labelling uniform
 - Nice play on yard (**Kind hands, kind feet, kind words**)
 - Message if your child is absent



- Parent Teacher Meetings
- Thank you very much for attending this evening
- Questions
- We look forward to working with you throughout the year