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## Welcome To Our School

2025-2026



**St John the Baptist Boys National School, Old Road, Cashel,  
County Tipperary  
E25 R259**

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**Parent Association Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CashelBNSParentAssociation>



**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 2025) **



**Some of our Junior Infants (2024/25)**

### **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 Emly. 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

Will Ryan	Admin Principal
Bríd Callanan	Deputy Principal & Autism Class Teacher
Sharon Perdue	Teacher/Assistant Principal I
Sharon Sheahan	<i>On Leave</i>
Catherine Kelly	Teacher & Reading Recovery Teacher
Helen Butler	Teacher (Job Share)
Kathrine Carroll	Teacher (Job Share)
Caitríona O'Donoghue	Teacher/Assistant Principal II
Jennie O'Farrell	Teacher/Assistant Principal II
Pat Molloy	Teacher
Conor Taaffe	Teacher & Reading Recovery Teacher
Jennifer O'Dwyer	Teacher/Assistant Principal I
Katie Cowan	Teacher & Assistant Principal II
Laurence Coskeran	Teacher
Alison Laffan	Autism Class Teacher
Sinéad Kelly	<i>On Leave</i>
Rebecca Curry	Teacher
Miriam Quinn	Teacher
Rachel Hayes	<b>Home School Community Liaison</b> (shared with girls' school)
Sinéad Lawless	<i>On Leave</i>
James Doran	Teacher
Clíodhna Treacy	Teacher & Maths Recovery Teacher
Cathal Barrett	Teacher
Laura Stapleton	Teacher
Sinéad White	Teacher
Maryese Noonan	Teacher
Padraig O'Carroll	Teacher
Rebecca Delahunty	Teacher
Eimear Irwin	Teacher

### ***Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) & Support Staff***

Monica Slattery	SNA (Job Share)
Lorraine Downey	SNA (Job Share)
Karen Butler	SNA
Julianne Ryan	SNA
Lauren Maguire	SNA
Paddy Kenneally	SNA
Patricia Fitzgerald	SNA
Jean Fitzell	SNA
Gráinne Burke	SNA
Deanna Phelan	SNA
Geraldine Laffey	Office
Siobhán Quirke	Office
Con Hayes	Caretaker
Shellie Farmer	Cleaning Staff/Lunch Bag Operative
Majella Mullany	Cleaning Staff
Jessica Barry	Cleaning Staff

### **Board of Management 2023-2027**

The Board has legal responsibility for the running of the school. The current Board of Management was elected in Term 1 of 2023 and will serve until November 2027.

		<b>Roles within BoM</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	Monica Shannon	Chair
<b>Bishop's Nominee</b>	Fr Enda Brady	Pastoral Care/Chaplain
<b>Principal</b>	Will Ryan	Principal/Secretary to BOM
<b>Community Nominee 1</b>	Paddy Purtill	Treasurer
<b>Community Nominee 2</b>	Julia Adamczak	EAL Liaison
<b>Teachers' Nominee</b>	Jennie O'Farrell	Assistant Principal II/School Premises Officer
<b>Parent Nominee 1</b>	Odharnaith Ní Allúin	Parent Association Liaison Officer
<b>Parent Nominee 2</b>	Brendan Guckian	Safety Officer

### **Parent Association 2024/25 (New Committee to be elected in September 2025)**

Meets monthly. New members are always welcome.

Chairperson	Sinéad O'Connell (pa@cashelbns.ie)
Secretary	Rebecca Lenehan
Treasurer	Catriona Pliszka
PRO	Sinéad Breen (pro@cashelbns.ie)

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***“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)***

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### **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 larger 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 reopens on Monday 1 September 2025)**

- 1. The Junior Infants are to be dropped at the designated door 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 12 September 2025. You can come inside the school gates to collect your son. The teacher will send your son to you when they spot you. Please do not call your son to come to you.**
- 3. From Monday 15 September onwards, Junior Infants finish at 2:00pm and will be collected at the designated spot 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.**

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



### **Handy Hints**

- Try to put your son's name clearly on **all** his stationery.
- Stationery/Extras:
  - **2 large tubes of Pritt Stick**
  - **3 Faber Castell Junior triangular pencils (red in colour)**
  - **2 Small Erasers**
  - **6 narrow whiteboard markers (black)**
  - **1 packet of 12 twistable crayons**
  - **1 pencil case to hold colours and writing stationary (clear in colour if possible)**
  - **1 tub of playdough**
  - **2 A4 Mesh Plastic Folders (Texet A4 mesh bag)** - mesh folder with a zip on top
- School Bag: Buy a bag big enough to carry all the books, copies, pencil case. Remember that most of the workbooks are quite large. *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**

There is only one 'uniform' for the new Junior Infants.

The uniform for Junior Infants will be half-zip/tracksuit only every day.

The 'uniform' will consist of: **School half-zip, non-crested**

**plain navy tracksuit bottoms, non-crested plain navy**

**shorts** (can be worn in September and in Term 3 after school holidays) and **sky blue polo-shirt**.

Any type of runners can be worn with the tracksuit.

**Half-zips can only be ordered from B&T Sports, the supplier.**

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



### **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 through Aladdin as this avoids confusion.
- Names of people authorised to collect your child should be made known to the class teacher.
- You can come inside the school gates to collect your son. The teacher will send your son to you when they spot you. 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 number of boys in his 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 11.10 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.

- No Nuts or products containing nuts e.g. Nutella. **We are a NUT-FREE CAMPUS.**
- 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.*



*Our Junior Infants 2024/25*



## 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 2025/26

Return to school: Monday 1 September 2025

**October Mid-Term Break:**

**Closed: Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October**

**Reopening: Monday 3 November**

**Closed: Friday 5 December**

**Christmas Break:**

**Closing on Friday 19 December 2025 (half-day)**

**Re-opening: Monday 5 January 2026**

**Public Holiday: Closed Monday 2 February**

**February Mid-Term Break:**

**Closed: Thursday 19 and Friday 20 February**

**Public Holiday: Closed Tuesday 17 March**

**Easter Break:**

**Closing on Friday 27 March (half-day)**

**Re-opening: Monday 13 April**

**Public Holiday: Closed Monday 4 May**

**Public Holiday: Closed Monday 1 June**

**Closed: Tuesday 2 June**

**Closed for Summer Holidays:**

**Closing on Friday 26 June 2026 (half-day)**



**SEE YOU SOON! - SLÁN TAMALL!**

**[www.cashelbns.ie](http://www.cashelbns.ie)**