

# FÁILTE



## Welcome To Our School

2026-2027



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,**

***The first day in primary 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 2026)*** ❤️



Some of our Junior Infants (2025/26)

### **Our Vision**

"Ag obair le chéile in nurturing respectful and resilient life-long learners, equipped for an ever-changing digital world, who are confident, responsible, healthy and caring members of society."

### **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
Brid Callanan	Deputy Principal & Autism Class Teacher
Sharon Perdue	Teacher/Assistant Principal I
Sharon Sheahan	<b><i>On Leave</i></b>
Catherine Kelly	Teacher & Reading Recovery Teacher
Helen Butler	Teacher (Job Share)
Kathrine Carroll	Teacher (Job Share)
Caitriona O'Donoghue	Teacher/Assistant Principal II
Jennie O'Farrell	Teacher/Assistant Principal II
Pat Molloy	Teacher/Assistant Principal II
Conor Taaffe	Teacher & Reading Recovery Teacher
Jennifer O'Dwyer	Teacher/Assistant Principal I
Katie Cowan	Teacher & Assistant Principal II
Laurence Coskeran	Teacher & Assistant Principal II
Alison Laffan	Autism Class Teacher
Sinéad Kelly	Teacher
Rebecca Curry	Teacher
Miriam Quinn	Teacher
Rachel Hayes	<b>Home School Community Liaison</b>
Sinéad Lawless	<b><i>On Leave</i></b>
James Doran	Teacher
Clíodhna Treacy	Teacher
Cathal Barrett	<b><i>On Leave</i></b>
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***

Julianne Ryan	SNA
Lauren Maguire	SNA
Paddy Kenneally	SNA
Patricia Fitzgerald	SNA
Jean Fitzell	SNA
Gráinne Burke	SNA
Deanna Phelan	SNA
Lorraine Downey	SNA

Marie Ryan	SNA
Geraldine Laffey	Office
Siobhán Quirke	Office
Michelle Farmer	Office
Con Hayes	Caretaker
Majella Mullany	Cleaning Staff/Lunch Bag Operative
Denise Butler	Cleaning Staff
Maggie Tuohy	Cleaning Staff
Bridget Corbett	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.

		Roles within BoM
<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 2025/26 (New Committee to be elected in September 2026)

Meets monthly. New members are always welcome.

Chairperson	Sinéad O'Connell (pa@cashelbns.ie)
Secretary	Dearbhla Connolly
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)***

## **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 Tuesday 1 September 2026/27)**

**1. Junior Infants are to be dropped to the designated door by a parent/guardian between 9:00 a.m. and 9:20 a.m. each morning.**

**2. For the first two weeks, Junior Infants will finish at 12:00pm. This will be up to and including Friday 11 September 2026. 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 14 September onwards, Junior Infants finish at 2:00pm and will be collected at the designated spot as per week one and two until further notice.**

**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>9:00am</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>9:20am</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



### Stationery

- 2 large tubes of Pritt Stick (not coloured)
- 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 stationery (clear in colour if possible).



- 1 tub of playdough



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- **2 A4 Mesh Plastic Folders (Textet 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**

### **Hot Lunches**

Hot lunches are served for free to all children at the second break. We find these lunches to be of high quality and strongly encourage all children to participate. If a parent wishes to opt their child out, they should discuss this with the class teacher. Please note that only the Principal or the HSCL is permitted to cancel a hot lunch on behalf of a parent.

### **First Break Snacks**

The boys will need a water bottle and a small snack for their first lunch. We ask that you do not send too much food for this break, as we have observed it can cause children to lose their appetite for their hot lunch later in the day.

**A healthy snack for the first break can contain:**

- **Fruit and vegetables:** e.g., apples, grapes (sliced lengthways), mandarin oranges, bananas, pears, carrot/pepper sticks, small boxes of raisins, or fruit salad.
- **Dairy:** e.g., individual cheese portions or yoghurt.
- Breadsticks and hummus.
- Plain pancakes
- Crackers or wraps
- A sandwich or roll

## Drinks

A water fountain is available in school to refill bottles.

- **Allowed:** Water or milk only. Hot tea and soup in a flask are permitted (usually winter only), provided the student can safely manage hot liquids.
- **Not Allowed:** Fizzy drinks, juices, or energy drinks.

### Restricted Items

To ensure fairness and consistency across the school community, please note that **there is no Friday treat**. The following items are **not allowed** at school at any time:

- Sweets and chewing gum
- Juices, fizzy drinks, energy drinks
- Chocolate biscuits, chocolate bars, cakes, chocolate pastries, or chocolate/iced buns.
- Cereal bars
- Popcorn and crisps
- Packaged fruit rolls/fruit winders
- Processed "hot" foods (e.g., 'Dunkers', 'Lunchables', 'Ranchers' burgers)
- **Nut products:** We are a nut-free campus; therefore, no nuts or nut-based products are allowed.

There may be some **relaxation of restrictions** for annual school tours, but this is on a class-by-class basis and at the teacher's discretion.

## Occasions & Birthdays

**Special Occasions:** Teachers may provide treats during end-of-term parties or other special occasions. Staff must check with class teachers regarding allergens before distributing any food.

**Birthdays:** Children may bring a treat to share with classmates for their birthday, though there is no obligation to do so. Please limit this to **one small treat** per child.



*Our Junior Infants 2025/26*





## 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, Cashel

## 2026 - 2027 School Calendar

August '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

May '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July '27						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- School Closed/ Holidays
- Half Day
- School Shows

- Teacher in-Service Day (no school for students)
- First and Last Day of School Year
- Termly Staff Meeting (Closed at 1.30/1.45)