

First Class Parents Information 2020

Sacred Heart JNS

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General information for parents

Dear First Class Parents,

We are happy to say that the children have settled back easily into school life and have adapted well to the new school rules and routines to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We would have loved to have had all the parents in for our usual 'General Parent Teacher meeting' but unfortunately due to the current circumstances, that is not possible. This is a brief outline of what we would usually be talking about at our General Parent Teacher meeting at the start of First Class.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year and more than ever will need your continued support.

The First Class Team- *Ms. Cafferkey, Ms. Loughnane, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Maguire, Ms. McNeilis (Learning Support), Karen and Teresa.*

First Class Times

School begins at 9.00am. Please arrive at your designated time.

Collection time is 2:40pm just inside the school gate.

Please wear a mask at all times when dropping and collecting your child and keep 2m apart as per HSE guidelines.

It is wonderful to see how independent the children have become in the morning walking in by themselves and greeting the teachers with a smile. Well done all!

Keeping us safe

In order to keep our school as safe as possible there have been some additional procedures put in place.

- The children will wash/sanitise their hands first thing when coming to school, before eating, after yard, before/after P.E and before/after going to the outdoor classroom/playground.
- The children are in pods (groups) of 4/5 that are colour coded and each group will have their own equipment/games. These pods will be changed after each holiday.
- Any equipment that is used across groups will be sanitised/quarantined before use in another pod.
- Teachers will wear face coverings in class and on yard.

If your child is unwell

If your child is unwell please keep them at home until they are symptom free.

If they have any symptoms of Covid, such as a cough, temperature, shortness of breath or are a close contact of a Covid-19 case you must keep them off school and contact your doctor.

If your child develops any of these symptoms at school, they will be brought to the isolation room and you will be contacted immediately to collect them. It is extremely important that you contact your doctor at this stage.

More information can be found on the HSE website.

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-yourchild-has-symptoms.html>

General Information

Absences: Please provide a note or ring the school for any absences. (01 4524064) Please try and have your child at school every day unless unwell.

It is a big change for all of us not being able to chat to parents in the mornings and to hear messages or concerns. However, it is important that we have a means of communicating with each other. Send in a note or please ring the office and we will contact you to arrange a meeting or talk on the phone.

Developing independence: Encourage children to put on and zip their own coats. Use shoes with Velcro or teach them to tie their own laces.

Hygiene: Please remind your children to flush the toilet after use and wash their hands.

Head lice are common in schools. A note will be sent home if an outbreak is detected! Please check hair regularly.

Other Points

Contact forms: It is extremely important that the school has an up to date phone number and email for you especially in the current circumstances. If your phone number/email changes throughout the year it is your responsibility to inform the school.

If you need to collect a child early from school then you must ring Sharon in the office beforehand. (01 4524064)

Book money is €40 and needs to be paid as soon as possible.

Due to Covid-19 guidelines, the children will have outdoor yard time each day to air the classroom. It is very important to send your child in with a suitable coat.

Fresh Today provide school lunches for the children. We encourage healthy eating. Please note we have children with nut and egg allergies in the school.

Our School Rules

Our school rules are:

1. Be on time and be prepared.
2. Be fair, be friendly.
3. Talk in the right way at the right time.
4. Sit when working, walk when moving.
5. Always do your best!

On the yard the children are encouraged to use kind hands, kind feet and kind words.

The children are rewarded for keeping the rules e.g. get stamps in their stamp books or table points.

Literacy

We are putting a huge emphasis on the new Oral Language Curriculum again this year and encouraging the children to further develop their speaking and listening skills.

We have revised the first 26 sounds in the Jolly Phonics programme and will be working on digraphs (ai, oa, ee, ie, ay, oy, ou, ow, etc.) and words with magic e going forward.

We put a big emphasis on tricky words (words that cannot be sounded out) as children need to be able to recognise them instantly in order to become fluent readers.

Letter formation is very important. The children are going back over lower case and capital letters. We encourage neat writing, finger spaces, and using capital letters and full stops.

We are encouraging the children to become independent writers by writing their own news and stories.

Literacy

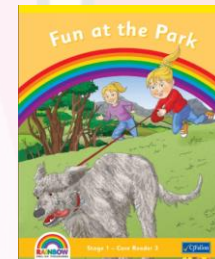
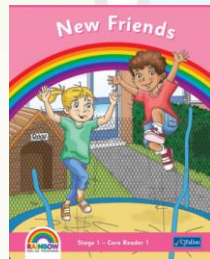
Reading is done every day in class. The children are using graded PM readers and are working their way through these. Unfortunately, children will not be taking readers home at the moment due to current guidelines.

This year the school has purchased class readers from the Rainbow Reading programme. We are starting with the Stage 1 books to introduce the characters. Currently these books are available as ebooks for free at cjjfallon.ie It would be great if you read them at home with your child starting with New Friends.

New Friends

Fun at Home

Fun at the Park



I cannot stress enough the importance of reading at home. This will help the children progress faster and reinforce school work. Tallaght Library has an amazing selection of books for young readers.

Maths

Mental maths: Developing strategies to add two/three numbers in their head. Learning doubles. ($3 + 3 =$) Subtraction.

Counting and writing numbers to 100.

What number comes before/after a number. Counting forwards and backwards from different numbers. Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

Tens and units.

Subtraction.

Topics: Time, Length, Weight, Capacity, Data, Shapes, Fractions (half).

Fun ways to develop maths at home – Board games, pack of cards, dominoes, dice games, draughts, chess, looking at coins and counting money, time on the clock etc

Seesaw

By now, you have probably all heard about Seesaw and have received a unique learning code to access your child's online journal. You will need to download the Seesaw app to access it on your phone/tablet or go to <https://web.seesaw.me> on a pc.

The children are becoming familiar with Seesaw and see it being demonstrated in the classroom. Some simple tasks have been uploaded for the children to try at home.

We plan to use Seesaw to assign homework after the Halloween break or in the event of a sudden school closure, it will be our means of communicating with you and assigning and checking classwork.

Please keep your child's account and password safe.

Support at Home

Essential for the child's progression in school.

Encourage colouring, cutting, writing, reading, counting, jigsaws etc

Read/share a story every night and ask questions about the story.

Ask your child about their day at school. Chat on your journey to/from school.

Monitor screen time. Talk to your child about what they watched/played.

Bedtime – 11 hours sleep a night! Science shows a tired child cannot learn.

We thank you for your continued support and are looking forward to an enjoyable year in First Class.



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