

FÁILTE



Welcome To Our School

2024-2025



**St John the Baptist Boys National School, Old Road, Cashel, County
Tipperary
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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 2024) ❤️



Some of our Junior Infants (2023/24)

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

Permanent teaching staff 2024/25

Will Ryan	Admin Principal
Bríd Callanan	Teaching Deputy Principal
Sharon Perdue	Teacher/Assistant Principal I
Sharon Sheahan	On Leave
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
Sarah Russell	On Leave
Pat Molloy	On Leave
Conor Taaffe	Teacher & Reading Recovery teacher
Jennifer O'Dwyer	Teacher
Katie Cowan	Teacher & Assistant Principal II
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
Clíodhna Treacy	Teacher & Maths Recover teacher
Cathal Barrett	Teacher (Job Share with Shane Ryan)
Laura Stapleton	Teacher
Sinéad White	Teacher
Maryese Noonan	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 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
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	EAL Liaison
Teachers' Nominee	Jennie O'Farrell	Assistant Principal II/School Premises Officer
Parent Nominee 1	Odharnaith Ní Allúin	Parent Association Liaison Officer
Parent Nominee 2	Brendan Guckian	Safety Officer

Parent Association 2023/24

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)

“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 Monday 2 September 2024)

1. The Junior Infants are to be dropped at the external classroom door (Room 2) 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 13 September 2024. Parents will line up outside the external classroom 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 16 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.

9:00	School opens. Children go straight to their own classroom.
9.00 - 9.20am	Gathering/assembly time. (Don't drop your son off too early, especially in Infants)
9:20	School officially begins
10:50 - 11:10am	Break 1
11:10 - 12:30pm	Classes resume
12:30 - 12:50pm	Break 2
12.50 - 2.00pm	Classes resume
2.00pm	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**
 - 3 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**
 - 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 will be 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 or royal 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 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 be collected at the external classroom door (room 2). 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 11.10 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.

- 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 2023/24



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 Soley

St John the Baptist BNS - Calendar 2024/25

Return to school: Monday 2nd September 2024

Closed Halloween Break:

Closed: Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024

Reopening: Monday 4th November

Closed: Friday 6th December 2024

Christmas Break:

Closing on Friday 20th December 2024 (half-day)

Re-opening: Monday 6th January 2025

Closed: Monday 3rd February – Public Holiday

Closed Mid-Term: Thursday 20th and Friday 21st February 2025

Public Holiday: Closed Monday 17th March 2025

Closed Easter:

Closing on Friday 11th April (half-day)

Re-opening: Monday 28th April

Public Holiday: Closed Monday 5th May 2025

Public Holiday: Closed Monday 2nd June 2025

Closed: Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Closed for Summer Holidays:

Closing on Friday 27th June 2025



SEE YOU SOON! - SLÁN TAMALL!

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