

Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Treasa

Information for Parents

&

Family Members

A-Z Guide

2021/2022



This document provides an alphabetical index of common topics of inquiry to help guide new parents and family members.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Treasa

Clontumper
Ballinalee
Co. Longford
N39 EW95
(043) 3323352

School email - office@killoens.ie

Website - killoens.ie

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Welcome and Introduction

Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to St. Teresa's N.S. Killoe.

We are looking forward to sharing this wonderful milestone with you and your child. I would encourage all parents/guardians to read all sections of this booklet so that you are familiar with how our school works.

We believe that children grow and thrive when they are happy. The staff of St. Teresa's N.S. will strive to provide a happy, supportive and secure environment where each child will develop to the best of their potential. Every child has their own unique talents and we will endeavour to allow all children to grow both as scholars and as individuals throughout their educational journey with us here.

I wish to emphasise the importance of communication. We encourage you to establish a positive working relationship and good communication with your child's teacher. Work together with them to help set realistic goals for your child and to work towards them. If you have any concerns, your child's class teacher is always there to listen and support and should always be your first port of call.

I look forward to meeting you all over the coming months and I hope you enjoy your journey with us here.

"Education is a once in a lifetime opportunity to open children's hearts and minds to the unbelievable wonder of the universe."

Sir Anthony Seldon

Go n-éirí an bóthar libh!

Kevin Mollaghan

Introduction

This alphabetical index provides a list of common topics of inquiry. Its purpose is to provide information to the parents of Junior Infants about the day-to-day running of our school.

As our school is a busy, evolving place, some information may be subject to change. Further information will be provided throughout the school year from both the class teacher and the school management.

This guide should answer most of the questions you will have as your child joins us for the first time. Let us guide you to the information most important to you.

Mission Statement

St. Teresa's N.S. is a co-educational, Catholic primary school which strives to provide a well ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, moral, cognitive, emotional, imaginative, aesthetic, social and physical needs of all the children are nurtured. Each child is encouraged to achieve their full potential in a spirit of partnership with parents, community and the environment.

Ní Neart Go Cur Le Chéile.

General Aims:

- To enable each child to live a full life as a child;
- To equip each child to avail of further education;
- To prepare each child to live a full and useful life as an adult in society.

Specific Aims:

- To provide a safe and welcoming atmosphere for all its members and so foster confidence and a sense of self worth;
- To promote justice, equality of opportunity and fair treatment for all our pupils and self-respect which they deserve;
- To provide a curriculum which affords each child the highest level of academic attainment consistent with his/her ability;
- To help each child to think clearly, creatively and critically and to act independently;
- To foster in each child attitudes leading to spiritual fulfilment and sound moral values;
- To help each child acquire knowledge, skills and practical abilities and the desire to use them;
- To develop in each child an awareness of the environment and a respect for it.



Absences

When your child is unavoidably absent from school, we ask that you contact the school office to let us know.

Telephone: 043 3323352

Email: Office@Killoens.ie

On their return to school, please complete a 'Return to School' Form which is available on our school website. Please send in a note outlining why they were absent and the dates on which they were not at school. This note can be sent in the Homework Journal in classes 1st to 6th or on a loose sheet of paper if in Infants. Teachers can also be notified about your child's absence through email.

Please see [Roll Call](#) and [Túsla](#) for more information.

Active Schools

Our school takes part in the Active Schools Programme. This means that there is a steady campaign to keep our pupils moving and exercising.

Events such as the Halloween Disco and the Santa Dash will be organised throughout the year.

Active Schools Week takes place in Term Three.

Please see [Sports Day](#) for more information.

Adverse Weather Conditions

If there is a Red Weather Warning, the school will be closed on grounds of Health and Safety. The school will remain open during all other bad weather, however if you feel as though it is unsafe for you and your family to travel to school, we will support your decision.

Aistear

Aistear is the curriculum framework for children from birth to six years. You may have heard the term used in Pre-School.

Aistear is a method of teaching in the Infant classes and essentially means learning through play. Through our Aistear topics we can focus on the following:

- Well-being
- Identity and belonging
- Communicating
- Exploring and thinking

There will be a monthly theme that work will be centred around. Through Role Play and Drama, the children will immerse themselves in the topic.

The theme is further explored in English, Maths and SESE, whilst relevant vocabulary may be taught in Gaeilge. Identity and belonging is at the core of the SPHE curriculum. Art and Music will be integrated, this integrated approach has proved very effective in the Infant classroom.

For further information please see [Curriculum](#).

Allergies

If there is an allergy in your child's class, we will let you know. This may mean that a certain food type is not allowed in the classroom. If your child is allergic to anything, it is very important that you let us know as early as possible.

Amber Flag

The Pieta Amber Flag Initiative recognises the individual efforts of primary schools to create healthy, inclusive environments that support mental well-being. Here in St. Teresa's N.S, we achieve this by having a Wellbeing week, a Mental Health Awareness Day and numerous other activities that run day to day. We have buddy benches in the yard and our Amber Flag Committee is always formulating fun ideas to promote positive health and foster friendships in our school.

Appointments

From time to time, your child will have a medical appointment during school hours. We would appreciate it if you could let us know before the appointment by emailing your child's teacher or telephoning the office.

When collecting your child, please check in with the secretary at the office where the secretary will contact the class teacher and your child will meet you at the office.

Please see [Collecting from School Early](#) for more information.

Arts & Crafts

Art is a part of the curriculum and children will engage with it for one hour per week. We ask parents to contribute towards the cost of materials for these lessons. This is collected as part of School Expenses for the following year in Term Three.

Please see [School Expenses](#) for further information.

Assemblies

Assemblies take place in our school either as a whole school or on a class rotation basis. This is an opportunity for the principal to speak with the children regarding upcoming events or as an opportunity to recognise individual and whole school achievements.

Assessments

Assessments are administered throughout the school in all classes. They consist of both classroom tests designed by teachers and standardised tests. The standardised tests (literacy & numeracy) are administered from first class to sixth class in the last term of school. Results will be communicated with parents via school reports.

B

Birthday Invitations

We realise the importance of every child's birthday here in our school. However, we ask you to refrain from sending birthday invitations into the class when it is your child's birthday as this can often upset children who are not invited. We aim to promote an inclusive environment for all pupils.

Breakfast Club

Small snacks are provided by the school in what is referred to as the 'Black Box'. Each child will receive two small items at 'Little Break'. This could include water, a piece of fruit, cheese, crackers, yoghurt, pancake, etc.

This is free of charge. For this reason, you do not need to provide a small snack in your child's lunchbox.

Book Lists

Book lists are compiled by the class teacher and are distributed along with the Summer Reports in June.

There will be a list of workbooks, copybooks and stationery that will be used by the children the following year and must be purchased by the parent.

We ask that all items are labelled and sent to school at the beginning of the school year.

They may be collected and stored in the classroom to avoid children carrying heavy school bags.

We endeavour to provide as many books as possible through the Book Rental scheme and try not to rely too heavily on workbooks that can only be used by one child.

Please see [Book Rental](#) for more information.

Book Rental

A number of textbooks are provided for the pupils' use.

These books will be distributed to the children at the discretion of the class teacher. Pupils are asked to use their borrowed books responsibly and respectfully.

There is a charge for Book Rental and this is paid for the following school year in Term Three.

Please see [School Expenses](#) for more information.

Break Times

We have two scheduled breaks in the day. These breaks are divided into different time slots to facilitate covid guidelines.

· 'Little Break':

Juniors - 10.40am – 11:11am

seniors - 11.10am - 11.30am

· 'Big Break':

Juniors - 12:30pm – 12.50pm

Seniors - 1.00pm - 1.20pm

The children have allocated areas to play outside, according to their class level. There will be numerous members of staff on duty in each area during playtime.

On wet days, the children will remain in their classrooms and the staff on duty will patrol the corridors.

Please see [Healthy Lunches](#) for more information.

Buddy Bench

There is a brightly painted bench in the Infant playground. This is known as the Buddy Bench. This is used for children who occasionally find themselves with no-one to play with.

The children are taught the rules of the Buddy Bench early in the year and it is a positive way for the more reserved children to join in with others.

Buddy System

There is a buddy system in place to encourage relationships between the pupils in mainstream classes and pupils in the Sonas classes.

This is organised at the discretion of the class teachers and is designed to allow children to play together during unstructured, supervised playtime.

This supports our school's culture of inclusion which we highly value.

Bring & Buy Sale

The Bring & Buy Sale takes place at the end of Term Two.

The children are invited to 'Spring Clean' their toys, books and games and donate their unwanted items to the Bring and Buy Sale.

On the day of the sale, they are given an opportunity to buy new things. Bake sales, as well as other activities such as face painting, take place on the day.

All money raised on this day is given to a local charity and we have often supported the charitable efforts of past pupils.

Further information will be given closer to the time.



Calendar

A school calendar will be issued at the start of the school year and will outline all days of school closures, holidays, and other key dates such as Parent/Teacher meetings, Christmas Concerts etc.

Please keep this document safe as it will be relevant for the duration of the school year.

The school calendar is available on our school website.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated at the end of January.

This is an opportunity to celebrate the ethos and faith of the school.

There are prayer services to open and close the week and daily reflections read over the intercom.

Grandparents Day takes place during this week. Please see [Grandparents Day](#) for more information.

Child Protection

All members of staff are Garda vetted and have received the latest training in Child Protection.

All information on the Child Protection Policy is available to be viewed at the office.

Christmas Concert

Every class prepares a short performance for the annual Christmas concert. This usually takes place the last week of Term One.

Parents are asked to support this event by providing costumes and assisting their children in learning lines and routines.

There are usually Matinee and Evening performances and families are invited to attend.

Communication

- There will be a school newsletter issued regularly throughout the school year. This will alert you to events in the school as well as advising you on current issues.
- The school uses text messages from time to time. These will be reminders or items that have popped up during the day-to-day running of the school.
- Parent/Teacher communication is at the discretion of the class teacher and a variety of communication can be used including notes, written notes in journal (1st-6th), social media and emails.

Please see [Social Media](#) for more information.

- There are two opportunities for Formal Communication.

Please see [Parent/Teacher Meetings](#) and [Summer Reports](#) for more information.

Collecting/Collecting from School Early

It may happen that your child must leave before the school day is finished. If this is the case, please report to the secretary at the office.

The secretary will contact the class teacher and your child will meet you at the office.

If possible, please let the teacher know in advance, so that homework can be assigned and collected before your child goes home.

Infants go home at 2pm. We ask that all parents/guardians please wait at the front gate, where your child's teacher will bring them out to meet you at 2pm. If someone out of the ordinary is collecting your child, please inform the class teacher/secretary by telephone or email as soon as possible.

Curriculum

In Infants, we begin a programme that takes eight years to complete. This makes up the Primary School Cycle.

- Language
 - English
 - Gaeilge
- Mathematics
- Social, Environment and Scientific Education (SESE)
 - History
 - Geography
 - Science
- Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)
- Arts Education
 - Visual Arts
 - Music
 - Drama
- Physical Education (PE)
- Religious Education

We have a spiral approach to the curriculum. This means that the same topics may be revisited from class to class but with an opportunity to build and expand on previous knowledge.

D

Digital Learning

We plan to integrate Digital Learning into every classroom. Teaching, learning and assessment will be enhanced by new technologies and modern methodologies.

Through the use of digital equipment including iPads and laptops, we want to use Digital Learning as an exciting, engaging and creative medium for expression.

We aim to equip children with lifelong skills to prepare them for the future.

E

Early Days

The first day of the school year can be an exciting but chaotic time. There are lots of noisy children making their way to their new classrooms, often accompanied by their parents. It can be hard on children who are feeling nervous or scared. For that reason, on the first day of Junior Infants, we begin at 10am when the surroundings have settled down and parents are invited to have tea/coffee and meet with other parents when your child has settled in their class.

To facilitate a smooth transition from Pre-School to Junior Infants, we finish at 12.30 for approximately a week. Dates will be confirmed prior to the start of term. During this time, there will be a lot of emphasis on play and getting to know each other and our new classroom. Routines will be introduced slowly. The children will become familiar with their surroundings and rules will become established.

We begin the full timetable once the full day begins. Please see [Curriculum](#) and [Aistear](#) for further information.

Epayments

There are different expenses during the school year such as Book Rental. There is now an option of paying through our online E-payment System.

Ethos

Our school is a Catholic school.

This is acknowledged by prayers at the beginning and the end of each school day. The children take part in Grow in Love; the Catholic Religious programme.

Our school chaplain, Fr. Seán Casey will regularly visit the classrooms and will conduct celebrations of Mass in the GP Hall throughout the school year.

Sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion take place in 2nd class.

Confirmation takes place in 6th class.

The class teachers, along with Fr. Casey, prepare the children for these events. Please see [Mass](#) and [Catholic Schools Week](#) for more information.

F

First Aid

Each classroom is equipped with a First Aid Bag. The teacher on duty will bring this out to the yard each break time to ensure it is always close by when needed.

Most children just need a plaster and a little TLC but on occasion, their injury may be more serious. If this is the case parents will be notified straight away, additionally our policy is that if a child receives any sort of head injury, a parent will be called. If you have any concerns about your child receiving a plaster, etc. please let us know.

All First Aid injuries and treatment will be recorded in the First Aid book by the teacher on duty.

Fundraising

The two main fundraising events are the Christmas Concert in Term One and the School Walk in Term Three.

Parents' support is always welcomed during these events.

More information will be given at the time.

G

Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day takes place at the end of January. Grandparents are celebrated through photographs, stories and memories. They are invited to visit the classroom and engage in activities and conversations with their grandchildren. This is at the discretion of the class teacher and further information will be provided at the time.

Green Schools

Our school has a long tradition of competing for the Green Schools Flags. Because of this, there will be campaigns ongoing to create a school in which the environment is respected and cared for.

Previous campaigns have included decreasing litter, decreasing energy usage, increasing carpooling/walking to school and improving biodiversity around our school grounds.

Please see [Litter](#) for more information.

H

Halloween

Infants enjoy a Day of Fun on the day we break for the October mid-term.

The children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes and we celebrate the festival by playing traditional games.

A Halloween disco takes place in the GP hall (if covid restrictions allow) in the afternoon for all Infants. This is in keeping with our Active Schools campaign.

Health Screening

Health screening takes place on numerous occasions throughout your child's time in school. This will include a visit from the School nurse to assess vision and hearing in Junior Infants.

Immunisations are carried out in Junior Infants and 6th class.

Further information will be provided at the time.

Healthy Lunches

Our school has a strict healthy eating policy.

We encourage children to eat fruit and vegetables and to drink water.

Time will be given to the children to eat their lunches before they leave the classroom for playtime.

Please see [Break Times](#) and [Policies](#) for more information.

Homework

Homework is given to every class from Monday – Thursday. It is planned at the discretion of the class teacher.

Our homework policy advises that children spend approximately the following lengths of time at homework:

- Junior and Senior Infants: 10-20 minutes
- 1st and 2nd class: 25-30 minutes
- 3rd and 4th class: 30-45 minutes
- 5th and 6th class: 45 minutes – 1 hour 15 minutes

Please note that this is a guideline and that all children work at different speeds and levels and may not strictly adhere to the guidelines.

If your child is struggling with homework, please make an appointment to discuss this with the class teacher.

Homework Journal

This will be used by children in 1st – 6th class.

It is designed to allow children to write their homework assignments daily.

Parents are asked to check the Homework journal regularly and sign their name once the homework has been completed.

There is a designated area in the journal for notes to and from the teacher. Absences and appointments may be recorded here.

Please see [Absences](#) and [Appointments](#) for more information.

I

Inclusion

Inclusion is one of our core values. All children are welcomed, accepted and belong in our school community.

In-class Support

In recent years, there has been a transition from removing children with additional needs from the classroom, to the SET teacher coming into the classroom to provide in-class support.

This has many forms and you may hear it referred to as Literacy Lift Off, Early Intervention or Team Teaching. This is where members of the SET team join forces with the class teacher with a specific goal in mind. They will split the class into small groups and each teacher mans a station. The children move from group to group taking part in short, intense lessons with the various teachers.

This may take place for a set number of weeks, or it may continue on a more permanent basis – depending on the needs of the class.

More information will be given at the time.

Please see [SET Team](#) for more information.

Insurance

Allianz Insurance sells a 24-hour insurance policy for all pupils.

This costs €9 per child. We strongly advise everybody to avail of this.

Forms and further information will be given out every September.

Integration

Integration refers to the coming together of the pupils in the mainstream classes and the pupils in the Sonas classes.

Depending on the needs of the child, they will be welcomed into the mainstream classes for a specific subject or activity e.g. PE or Art.

Reverse Integration is when a number of children from mainstream classes join their friends in the Sonas classes for activities such as cooking or a social trip.

Please see [Sonas Class](#) for more information.

J

K

L

Litter

As part of our Green Schools education, we are very strict about litter.

Each classroom is provided with three bins – a waste bin, a recycling bin and a food bin. The children are taught how to sort their litter accordingly and we encourage them to bring home their own litter where possible. Please see [Green Schools](#) for more information.

Lost Property

The children's belongings often go missing in a busy school like ours. For this reason, we ask that all personal items are labelled properly. This may need to be checked as the year progresses as often labels become worn through washing etc.

If your child loses a classroom item such as a pencil case – please ask them to check in the class Lost Property. This is at the discretion of the teacher, but most classrooms have a box where missing items end up.

If your child has lost an item of clothing, please contact the secretary or the caretaker.

At different times during the year, items from the Lost Property are put on display in the GP hall and can be claimed by the owner.

Items that are correctly labelled are generally returned to owners without delay.

M

Mass

Our school chaplain, Fr. Seán Casey, celebrates Mass in the GP hall for all children at a number of occasions during the school year.

These include the Opening of the New School Year, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (8th December), the Feast of the Epiphany (6th January) and Ash Wednesday.

All children, including those who are members of other faiths, are included and welcomed.

Please see [Ethos](#) for more information.

Music

Music is celebrated and enjoyed widely in our school.

Each class is taught music one hour a week as per the curriculum. Children in 4th – 6th are taught hymns to sing as part of the choir on mass days. Music and drama is central to our Christmas concert in December, additionally we have a school band that we are very proud of.

There are extra-curricular opportunities to engage with music further in events such as Scór and Community Games. These are generally for children from 4th – 6th and further information will be provided at the time.

Please see [Christmas Concert](#) and [School Band](#) for more information.

N

O

Open Afternoon

In June, there is an afternoon set aside for the newly enrolled Junior Infants to come in and meet their new teacher and other relevant staff. They will find out which classroom they are in and will have an opportunity to play with their new classmates for an afternoon.

Parents are welcome to join them during this time and can chat to the class teacher and will receive their child's book list.

More information will be given closer to the time.

Opening Hours

All children are asked to be in the school playground from 9.10am. The school day begins officially at 9.20am.

Junior and Senior Infants finish at 2pm. 1st – 6th finish at 3pm.

All children are asked to have left school premises by 3.15pm unless they are attending an after-school activity.

P

Parents' Association

The school has an active Parents' Association who meets regularly to discuss ongoing issues in the school.

There are two parental representatives from each year group. These are nominated at the beginning of Junior Infants.

Parents Information Evening

This is for the parents of children in Junior Infants and takes place one evening at the beginning of the school year.

At this meeting Junior Infants teachers will give a presentation explaining how Junior Infants works. They will explain things such as teaching methods, homework and timetables and answer any questions that may have arisen in the early days of school.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

These formal meetings take place over two afternoons in November.

Teachers will issue appointment slots lasting 10 minutes. If you need to speak with the class teacher outside of these times and at other times of the year, you are asked to make an appointment. This can be done through email.

Parent/Teacher communication is valued highly, and each class teacher will endeavour to keep you updated with your child's progress throughout the year. Teachers are available via email where queries may arise.

Please see [Communication](#) for more information.

Photocopying

To reduce the number of workbooks that each child must provide, handouts are often made, photocopied and distributed, particularly in the Junior classrooms. For this reason, we charge a small fee for the upkeep and maintenance of the photocopier in the office.

Please see [School Expenses](#) for more information.

Photographs

County Photos visit the school on an annual basis; usually in January or February.

On this day, children in Junior Infants and 6th class will get a class photo taken. Each child in the school gets an individual photo and a photo with their siblings.

Proofs are sent to the parents at a later date and orders can be made through the school or online with County Photos and orders will be distributed by the school. Purchasing is not obligatory.

Policies

The school management has prepared a suite of school policies which have been approved by the teaching staff and the Board of Management and ratified by the chairperson.

These are available at the office on request.

Pre - School Sonas

Open Afternoon

The parents will be invited in to talk with the class teacher who will show them around the classroom and the various facilities available for the children in the Sonas classes i.e Occupational Therapy Room, Sensory Room, Relaxation Room and a purposefully designed playground.

The children will be invited on separate days to meet the class teacher, SNA's and their peers and will be given a chance to explore their environment at their leisure.

Opening Hours

The opening hours for the Pre - School are in line with the Junior Infant hours which is 9:20am until 2pm.

Break Times

The break times are also in line with the junior infant break times which currently consists of two 20 minute breaks. The first break is from 10:40 until 11:00am and the second break is from 12:30 until 12:50pm.

Buddy System

There is a Buddy System in place to help foster relationships between the pupils in the mainstream classes and the pupils in the Sonas classes. This is organised between the class teachers. The buddies change regularly to give the pupils a chance to build relationships with a number of different children.

Communication

There will be a school newsletter issued regularly throughout the school year. This will inform you of any upcoming events and will advise you on current issues.

The school uses text messages from time to time to inform you of items that have occurred throughout the day to day running of the school.

The Pre-School uses an app called Seesaw which is used to communicate with parents daily.

An SSPP (School Support Plus Plan) meeting will take place twice yearly to discuss your child's targets.

HSE Services

The class teacher will be in regular contact with both the Speech and Language Therapist, the Occupational Therapist and other multi disciplinaries who will provide individual programmes for each child. These programmes will be implemented daily and the parents are encouraged to reinforce this work at home.

Toileting

A toilet training plan will be devised for all children requiring such to help best support them and their parents through this process. The teacher will be in contact with the Incontinence Nurse who will be on board to further support and assist the children and their parents. Parents are required to provide nappies, wipes and other sanitary items for their children throughout the year. You will be informed through seesaw when supplies for your child are running low. Accidents may occur in school so you are advised to provide a change of clothes for your child.

Play

Play is a vital part of a child's development. Children build their language and communication skills through play, therefore we encourage them to explore the world around them through engaging in exploratory and sensory play using sand, water, play-dough etc.

Q

R

Roll Call

The roll will be called in each classroom at 10am.

If your child is late, please report to the office where late attendance can be recorded.

Please see [Absences](#) and [Túsla](#) for more information.

S

School Band

For many years now, our school has had a School Band. Consisting of musicians from 3rd – 6th, the children play instruments such as the tin whistle, the triangle, the glockenspiel and the drums. They are joined by girls in 2nd class who work the pom poms.

The highlight of the year is the St. Patrick's Day parade in Longford Town, additionally it has been known for the band to make other appearances throughout the year.

Please see [Tin Whistle](#) and [Music](#) for more information.

School Expenses

Book Rental, Arts and Crafts and photocopying money is collected each year. It is envisaged that it will be collected in Term Three for the following year.

Details will be provided closer to the time.

School Walk

This is one of two main fundraising events in the school year. Children are given Sponsorship Cards at the end of Term Two. The walk itself takes place on a Sunday morning in Term Three.

Families are invited to assemble after mass and walk together along a designated route.

Further information will be given at the time.

SET Team

This refers to the Special Education Teaching team. Previously referred to as Learning Support or Resource, these teachers provide additional support to the children who need it.

This additional support may be provided in a one-to-one setting, small groups or in class support. There are a wide range of additional needs within our school ranging from language support to support with Speech and Language and occasionally extra help with reading or maths.

If you feel as though your child is struggling with something, please make an appointment to speak with their class teacher to discuss your concerns.

Please see [In-class Support](#) for more information.

Social Media

In recent years, class teachers have developed online class profiles. This is at the discretion of each class teacher.

Social Media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram are used, while some teachers use online forums such as SeeSaw and Class Dojo to keep the parents updated.

Further information will be provided by the class teacher.

Sonas Classes

We are privileged in our school to have four classrooms that are dedicated to teaching children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

These classrooms are designed with the specific needs of the children in mind. Children learn through many different forms and for this reason the curriculum that is taught in the Sonas Classes will be adapted to ensure each child can reach their full potential.

From early days, all our pupils are taught about inclusion and the importance of interacting with children of all different abilities.

Integration is encouraged between the Sonas classes and mainstream classes and activities are planned to include everyone.

Please see [Integration](#) and [Inclusion](#) for more information.

Sports

Our school has a long-standing tradition of playing competitive sports. Throughout the year, our teams compete in competitions in many different sports.

Our teams are mainly made up of children from 4th to 6th class and training often takes place at lunchtimes and after schools.

In Winter, an in-school G.A.A. league is run for children from 3rd-6th class. 6th class children are paired with a 3rd class child to encourage and teach the skills of G.A.A.

In Summer, 3rd – 6th class are invited to take part in a variety of sporting leagues. Sports include rounders, Gaelic football, basketball and soccer. The children who participate are assigned to teams of mixed ages.

The teams compete against each other at lunchtimes, and occasionally in the afternoons in Term Three. The top two teams will play in the finals on Sports Day.

While we understand that not every child is sporty, we encourage all children to take part in sports/activities as this encourages a healthy lifestyle, additionally we see the benefits of being a member of a team.

Sports Day

Sports Day takes place in June. On this day, there are numerous activities for all children to participate in, both competitive and games for fun.

Parents are invited to attend, and a highlight of the day is always the Parents Races. A small fee is collected from each child in advance of the day to cover the cost of medals etc.

More information will be given closer to the event.

Staff Members

The staff of St. Teresa's N.S. is made up of Principal Teacher, Mainstream Class Teachers, Special Education Teachers (SET), Special Needs Assistants (SNAs), a School Secretary and a Caretaker. We are all here to help and support your child's education and our door is always open.

We ask that if you have any concerns, please come and talk to us. You can make an appointment via the school secretary or directly with the teacher.

Please see [Communication](#) for more information.

Summer Reports

Summer Reports are posted to each home in June, approximately 2 weeks before the end of Term Three.

The children's progress will be outlined in several ways, including ways in which you can support their learning.

If you would like to discuss your child's report, please feel free to make an appointment with their class teacher.

T

Teacher Absences

There will be occasions during the year when the class teacher is unavailable to teach his/her class. Should this occur there are three possible strategies that may occur on these occasions.

- The children will be split and sent in small groups to other classrooms. They will be given pre-prepared tasks that they can work on independently.
- The children will be taught by a member of the SET team. This teacher will continue to teach the work that the class teacher has planned.
- The children will be taught by a substitute teacher. This teacher will continue to teach the work that the class teacher has planned.

Terms

The school year is broken up into three terms.

- Term One: September to Christmas
- Term Two: January to Easter
- Term Three: April to June

Please see [Calendar](#) for more information.

Tin Whistle

Children will be asked to provide a tin whistle from 2nd class onwards. They will be taught simple tunes and asked to practise these at home. The repertoire will be added to each year. Teachers work collaboratively to ensure that each class is taught the same tunes.

Please see [School Band](#) and [Music](#) for more information.

Trips

From time to time, school trips may be organised by the class teacher. These may include trips to the Garda Station, Backstage Theatre, the Library, etc.

This is at the discretion of the class teacher and further information will be provided at the time.

Tours

School tours take place in Term Three. The class teachers organise a tour suitable for the age level of the children. These may include Pet Farms, Adventure Centres, Theme Parks etc.

Further information will be provided at the time.

Túsla

TÚSLA (Child and Family Agency) will automatically be informed through the electronic attendance record if a child has missed a total of 20 days in the school year.

Every absence of a child from school must be accounted for by giving a note to explain his/her absence on his/her return to school.

Please see [Absences](#) for further information.

U

Uniform

Our standard uniform consists of:

- Navy trousers/skirt/pinafore, navy jumper, navy tie, blue shirt, black shoes, navy tights/socks

Children are asked to present in standard uniform every day unless it is PE day. The PE uniform consists of:

- Navy tracksuit bottoms, navy sweatshirt, blue polo shirt and runners.

Class teachers will inform you of PE days. You will be informed of changes to the PE rota as visiting coaches sometimes arrange additional classes.

V

Visiting Speakers

From time to time, we will be visited by Visiting speakers. This could range from the winning Killoe football team to an expert advising us on reducing our waste.

In the interest of promoting Home/School links, sometimes parents may be invited in to speak to a class about a particular topic.

In the past, we have had visits from parents who are farmers, vets and guards. It is a great way to make the work of people in the community come alive for the children.

W

World Book Day

World Book Day is celebrated in March. On this day there will be a variety of activities including a dress-up day for the younger children and a visit by a storyteller.

Children are encouraged to bring in their favourite book and discuss it with their class.

More information will be made available at the time.

X

Y

Yard Leaders

In 5th class, the class undergoes a Yard Leadership programme.

They learn about responsibility, decision making and looking out for younger children in the yard.

These children will take it in turns to help teachers monitor yards at lunchtimes.

Z

