

## Getting Ready for Learning

### Understanding Maths

Maths is really part of the language your child uses in understanding and talking about certain things in his / her daily experience e.g.

- He / she associates certain numbers with particular things – two hands, four wheels, five fingers etc.
- **Counting** – one, two, three, four, etc.
- **Colours** – black, white, red, green, etc.
- **Prepositions** (telling position) and their opposites: over/under, before/after, inside/outside
- **Matching/Sorting** – objects of the same size/ colour/texture/shape etc.
- **Odd One Out** – difference in size/colour etc. You can help by introducing the maths vocabulary referred to above. E.g. How many cakes? The glass is full/empty. He gets to understand maths best by handling / investigating real objects.

### Getting Ready For Writing

Your child's hand and finger muscles are only gradually developing at this stage.

- He/she must develop the ability to get the hand and eye working together. Get your child handling toys like: Jigsaws, Lego, beads to thread etc; Pleistocene (Marla) to make his/her own shapes; A colouring book and thick crayons.
- She/he may be making block letters at home even before she/he comes to school. But when your child starts making lower case letters at school you should try to get him/her to discontinue the blocks and practise his/her new system.
- Don't discourage left-handedness. If that is your child's definite natural inclination, don't attempt to change him / her.
- **Correct pencil grip will be taught during first term.** Please practise this at home by doing activities such as "join the dots" and tracing shapes and patterns.

## First Day at School

During the Covid pandemic our morning and home time arrangements were changed. We await further guidance from the Government and will inform you regarding "first day at school" arrangements in August 2022.

When you arrive at the classroom door, be as casual as you can. Your child will meet the teacher and the other children and will be shown his/ her chair. Hopefully he / she will be absorbed in the new surroundings. Assure your child you will be back to collect her / him, wish your child goodbye and **make your getaway without delay.**

## Healthy Eating

We encourage healthy eating at all times. In conjunction with the HSE we are a "Health Promoting Please note the following;

- **Fizzy drinks and chewing gum are not permitted in the school.**
- **Crisps, bars, sweets or drinks are not allowed in the playground.**
- **A healthy packed lunch should contain bread or an alternative, a savoury filling which provides protein, a suitable drink and some fruit and/or vegetables.**
- **Please send two small drinks with your son every day.**

## Picking Up Your Child

**All infants must be collected from the Junior yard at 2.05pm each day.**

- **Don't be late as it could cause distress.**
- **Keep out of view and wait until your child is taken to the classroom door.**
- **If someone other than a family member is picking up your son you must inform teacher / office in person or by phone.**

## Monastery NS Infant Information Booklet



**Welcome to Monastery National School.** Starting school will be the first big change in the life of your child. Up to this he / she has felt safe and secure with you in the home and family but now your child is facing the wider world of classroom and school. This may seem a big step for someone so small but most children manage it without any great fuss or stress and in fact take to it like ducks to water.

However, it is also a time when parents and teachers should take special care to ensure that the transition from home to school is as smooth as possible.

We know from experience that parents are very anxious to help in any way possible. We have, therefore, included some ideas for the home, which should stimulate the child's interest and nurture his / her desire to know more.

**It will also help you to make your child as independent as possible before starting school.**

## General Information

### New School Uniform for Junior Infants

- New School Uniform to be worn 4 days a week. White shirt, red / navy striped elasticated tie, V-neck jumper with the new school crest, navy trousers or navy pinafore.
- **Plain black runners / shoes with Velcro fasteners** (no logos or stripes please).
- New School Tracksuit to be worn on PE Day only. To be worn with a white polo shirt and any colour of runners.
- Tailored navy shorts for warm weather.

### School Attendance

- If your child is absent notify us via the school Eolas App or telephone / email the school office stating the reason for the absence.
- The school must report absences of 20 days or more to the Education Welfare Service of Túsla.
- If taking holidays during school term request the “*holiday form*” from the office.
- If your son becomes ill at school you will be contacted. Ensure we have contact number(s).
- If you are taking your son out of class during the day **he must be “signed out” and “signed in” at the office.**

### Home - School Communication

- Notices of meetings, school closures, holidays are sent home with the children via Eolas App / SMS and/or by email or note.
- Please supply an email address and two mobile contact numbers to the school. Put the school phone number into your own mobile phone(s).
- In order to discuss your child’s school life make an appointment with the class teacher via the school office. Quick messages can be given in the morning to teacher in person.
- An appointment can be made with the Principal for serious / urgent matters only.
- For lots of information check out the new school website at [www.monasterynsardee.ie](http://www.monasterynsardee.ie)

## Getting Ready for School

You should ensure that your child is **as independent as possible** - physically, emotionally and socially. If he / she can look after himself / herself in these areas your child will feel secure and confident and settle in readily.

### It would help greatly if your child is able to:

- **Use the toilet without help (fully toilet trained)** and manage buttons. Your child should know to flush the toilet and wash his / her hands, without having to be told.
- **Button and unbutton or zip and unzip his / her coat** and hang it up.
- Open / close his / her lunchbox and schoolbag.
- Use hanky / tissues when necessary.
- Take items from and put items back into her / his schoolbag.
- **Share** toys with others and “take turns”.
- **Tidy up** and put away his / her playthings.
- **Listen attentively and follow instructions.**
- **Perform tasks on her / his own.**

### Do’s and Don’ts

- **Do tell your child about school** beforehand and talk about it as a happy place where there will be a big welcome for him / her and where he / she will meet new friends.
- **Do label all your child’s belongings;** jumpers, coats, lunch boxes, books (outside cover), copies etc.
- **Do return** any items put into your child’s schoolbag by accident.
- **Do attend the “Infants’ Open Day”** and introduce your child to his /her teacher and school.
- **Don’t send your child to school with toys, cards, markers, pencils, crayons or paper.** All are supplied in class in school.
- **Don’t send birthday invitations** into school or request a class list of names.
- **Don’t use school or teacher as a threat.**

## Getting Ready for Learning

### Developing your child’s Spoken Language

It is important that the child’s ability to talk is as advanced as possible. You can help by;

- **Talking to your child** naturally and casually about things of interest that you or she / he may be doing-at home, in the shop etc.
- **Trying to make time to listen** when she / he wants to tell you something that is important to her / him.
- **Answering his / her genuine questions** with patience and in an adequate way.
- Introducing your child gently to the ideas of Why? How? When? Where? If? etc.
- **Reading / telling your child** his / her own particular favourite stories that he / she never tires of hearing. Repeat them over and over again and gradually get him / her to tell them to you.

### First Steps in Reading

Ability to read is the foundation for all future progress. However, learning to read is a gradual process and a lot of work must be done before a child gets his first reader.

- Have attractive **books in the home.**
- Read your child stories from time to time.
- Teach him / her to respect books.
- Look at the pictures with your child and talk to him / her about what they say.
- We recommend that you read **nursery rhymes** with your child.
- **Don’t push him / her with early reading.**
- Remember that the teacher is the best judge of what rate of progress is best suited to each child.
- **Sing the alphabet song** with your child, so that she / he at least heard of the letters. If your child knows what each one looks like, all the better.