

# Starting School in Clooney N.S

## Points to remember

- Please make sure all your child's belongings are labelled.
- School starts at 9.20am and finishes for Junior Infants at 2pm.
- Please keep an eye in your child's school-bag as it may contain notes for parents.
- School uses the platform Aladdin for home school communication so please ensure you supply us with mobile numbers and email addresses.
- Please let the school know if your contact details changes during the school year.

## Information for new pupils and parents

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide you the parents with information on school life and tips to make the transition on to primary schooling as seamless as possible.

Most of the material here has been prepared by Mrs. Mary Gleeson our Infant Teacher and sincere thanks to her for the excellent resource she has put together.

While the largest group of new enrolments in any year is the new Junior Infants class, we also welcome new pupils to the older classes, when families move into the area etc, and have kept this in mind in preparing the information.

Please read this information carefully and you should make sure your child is familiar with school rules and policies, as appropriate to the child's age.

Many of your questions will be answered in this leaflet. If you have any further queries please feel free to ask the Class Teacher. I would also ask you to read carefully the copy of our Mission Statement at the back of this information leaflet.- it sets out the ethos which we strive to nurture in the school.

New parents in the past have found it very helpful to make contact with other parents who can provide great help and support.

Marie Minogue

*Marie Minogue*

Principal

## First Day - A Happy One!



Please be positive with your child in preparing him/her for school and explain what will happen re: teacher, other children, breaks, sitting down, tidy-up time and 2.00pm home time. It is only natural to feel some what anxious about your child attending school for the first time. Be conscious not to communicate any such anxiety to your child.

**Motto:**

*'Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid'*

*We depend on each other:  
Nurture and look out for one another realise our actions and words affect others.*

**Stationery**

Please ensure that your child has:

- At least 2 HB pencils.
- A sharpener to suit pencils.
- Colouring pencils and or crayons.
- A sturdy rubber.

**Toys**

There is no need for children to bring toys into school and we do not encourage this practice because of breakages, competition and peer pressure. However an old small toy, clearly labelled may be brought in.

**School Hours**

**For the first week in Sept. Junior infants go home at 12.30pm as children find the day long.**

School starts at 9.20am for all pupils. All Junior and Senior Infants finish school at 2.00pm.

1st Class through to 6th class finish school at 3.00pm. Please collect children promptly as they may fret if they think they are forgotten. If there are any special collection arrangements please let us know by note or email.

**Breaks**

There are two breaks during the day. A short one from 11.00am to 11.10am (Sos) and a longer one from 12.30 to 1.00pm (Lón)

**Health and Safety**

As part of our health programme we encourage regular washing of hands, particularly around eating time and after toilet use. You can help by reminding your child at home of its importance. Germs and viruses can spread very quickly in a classroom environment so it is vital that the children are encouraged to use a tissue when blowing their nose and to cover their mouth and turn away when coughing.

If your child develops any contagious illness such as chicken pox please keep him/her away from school until the period of contagion is over and inform the teacher immediately.

We also recommend that you check your child regularly for head lice and scabies, which are highly contagious, treat immediately if they occur, and inform the teacher so that notification of possible risk may be sent out to other parents.

All information regarding your child's health is treated in the strictest confidence. Be aware also that occasionally your permission will be required for dental, eye or other health examinations.

## Food & Healthy Eating

We strongly urge you to follow our 'Healthy Eating Guidelines'. Our Healthy Eating Policy is available for viewing on our website.

On starting school many children are too keyed up and distracted to eat a large lunch so we recommend a small nutritious snack, for example two sandwiches, milk or fruit juice, a piece of cheese, yogurts or fruit or a piece of home baking. We try to ensure that the children eat a good portion of their lunch, particularly their sandwiches. We do not encourage swapping of lunch. **Sweets, crisps, bars and fizzy drinks are not allowed.** There is plenty of scope with healthy food to have an enjoyable, tasty and nutritious lunch.

## Healthy Eating Guidelines

Clooney National School, through these guidelines, aims to help all those involved in our school community to develop positive and responsible attitudes to eating and an awareness of the contribution that good food makes to health.

A typical lunch box might contain:

A sandwich/roll, piece of fruit (apple, grapes, kiwis) yogurt/cheese string and juice/water. A treat should only be a plain biscuit or piece of home baking.

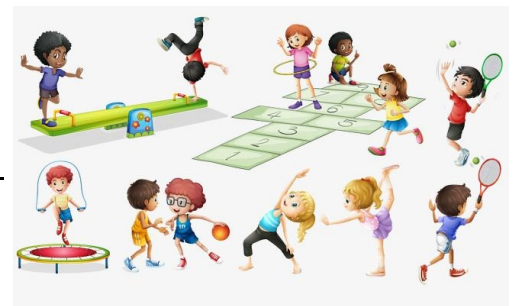
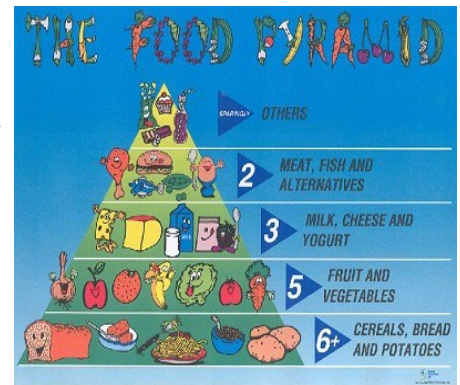
We are also participating in the Green Schools Programme and please bare this in mind when you are preparing your child's lunch. A reusable lunch box and as little wrapping as possible would be best.

## Physical Education

PE takes place on most Fridays. The PE lesson usually takes place in the yard or field outside weather permitting otherwise they take place in the school hall.

**School tracksuit to be worn. Also, please ensure that appropriate footwear is worn on P.E days. Pumps, ballet shoes, boots and sandals are not suitable and must not be worn. Tracksuits available through school.**

Children to travel to Ennis Leisure Centre for swimming classes Centre for a 12 week period. Details will follow in September regarding this.



### **Parking**

**We urge all to be mindful about parking. Please do not park in front of neighbours' entrances. Please try to leave as promptly as possible.**

### **Items to Be sent into school:**

A big old T-shirt labelled for use as an art apron and kept in school. An old shirt with the sleeves shortened is also very good.



## Homework

Your child will have no written homework in Junior Infants. After the first term your child will have shared reading Monday-Thursday nights. This should be enjoyable for your child and not take more than 5-10 minutes. Pick a quiet time and read the book to your child and he/she can retell the story to you. When your child is ready he/

## Reading

We use a combination of two approaches, Look-and-say and phonetic.

## Writing

Your child will be learning to write lower case letters initially so it would be very helpful if you could stick up your child's name written in this way perhaps on his/her bedroom door so that he/she can be familiar with it. If he/she practices writing it, all the better!



## Assessment

Informal assessment will be continually made by your child's teacher.

In Senior Infants our Special Education teacher will oversee a specific standardized test (M.I.S.T), Standardised tests (Micra T/Sigma-T) in English and Maths are given yearly for children in 1st-6th. after which Learning Support teaching will be available if necessary.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings** are usually held at the start of the second term. However, please do not hesitate to approach the teacher at any time if there is an issue which you feel anxious about. If you wish to have a more detailed discussion please arrange a convenient time in advance. Formal written reports are sent out at the end of the summer term.

## School Uniforms/Tracksuit

The uniform for boys/girls consists of grey trousers, grey shirt, and green jumper. Girls may wear grey pinafore and green cardigan if preferred. Uniforms are available at Corbett's Man shop Tulla, Dunnes, Tesco, M&S etc.

Please ensure that all clothes likely to be removed i.e coats, hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers etc. are clearly labelled with your child's name as many children possess similar items. We have some spare clothes and underwear if needed in emergency situations.

However if your child has any toilet problems please let the teacher know and you may wish to send in a spare set of clothes for emergencies. We do not recommend trousers with clasps or belts, which may be difficult to open.



## Track suit for P.E Days

Grey Polo Shirt and Green Sweat shirt (Printed with school name) along with plain navy tracksuit pants .  
Polo shirt and Sweat Shirt available



# Enrolment Policy

## New Entrants

Enrolment of children into Junior Infants, with the exception of students transferring from another school, may only take place prior to 1st October.

Junior Infants, due to start school in September, are invited to spend 1 to 2 days (10.00-12.00) in school at the end of the previous June.

## Pupils Transferring

Applications for enrolment during the school year will be considered subject to school policy, available space and the provision of information concerning attendance and the child's educational progress.

Such applications will only be considered for admission on the first day of each new term unless the applicant is newly resident in the area.

***Full Enrolment Policy available on school website***

## **Clooney National School**

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### **CLOONEY NATIONAL SCHOOL** **Mission Statement**



Clooney National School is a Roman Catholic School.

The school is under the Patronage of Bishop Fintan Monahan, Bishop of the Diocese of Killaloe, and is recognized by the Department of Education and Science.

As a Catholic school our aim is to promote the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupils under our care: intellectual, physical, cultural moral and spiritual.

In our school we strive to be a centre of excellence where:

- High professional standards are maintained.
- A spirit of mutual respect and reverence is promoted.
- Christian values of forgiveness, reconciliation, new beginnings and hope are reflected in our Code of Discipline.

We welcome all cultures and traditions. Concern and compassion for all form a cornerstone at our school.

All our work is underpinned by our values of truth, respect, justice and freedom.