

# Ashbourne CNS



## Information for Parents 2020 / 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At Ashbourne Community National School (CNS) we will endeavor to make your child's time here a very special experience. The year ahead is an exciting opportunity to create a happy learning environment for everyone at Ashbourne CNS. We look forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks and months. There will be an induction meeting, details to follow.

This booklet is designed to help you prepare your child for school by offering some helpful tips and useful information.

Jenny Byrne (Principal, Ashbourne CNS)





Ashbourne Community National School is a multi-denominational school under the patronage of the Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB). We opened September 2019 to our first pupils. Community National Schools (CNS) are child-centered publicly accountable schools which strive to provide a high-quality education for every child.

Everyone in the school community has the right to be happy and to be able to learn. To do this we have a responsibility to work together to support and encourage each other. In order to build the trusting respectful relationships which are the corner stones of our school, we listen to and accept others for who they are. We negotiate our differences using Restorative Practices and learn to become resilient using '7 Connecting Habits' (Glasser) as our school rules.

At Ashbourne CNS we...

1. Listen
2. Support
3. Encourage
4. Negotiate
5. Respect
6. Accept
7. Trust



This helps establish a structured framework and an explicit language to build positive relationships for students, teachers and parents. By working together using these habits we cultivate the sense of community which is vital to promoting wellbeing for all.



## Preparation for School

Starting school is a major milestone in the life of your child. Before your child starts Junior Infants in September, it is important that they are as independent as possible. It would greatly help your child's progression this year if they were able to do the following things by themselves before starting school:

- Put on/take off coat, button/unbutton it and hang it up.
- Fasten/tie their own shoes – Velcro fasteners are handy.
- Use and flush the toilet independently. Open trousers etc.
- Washing their hands with soap and drying their hands without assistance.
- Use a tissue where necessary and understand cough etiquette.
- Open food containers and fruit independently.
- Recognise and look after their own belongings.
- Share toys with others and take turns.
- Tidy up and put toys and lunch away after them.
- Please remember to have a name label on your child's belongings, this helps us keep track.



Other examples of ways in which you could help your child prepare for their learning include conversing with your child, reading to your child and repeating nursery rhymes in their mother tongue. It is also very important to encourage your child to manipulate toys such as jigsaws, Lego, play dough, and provide paper and crayons for colouring and scribbling.

## Pick Up and Drop Off

Teaching starts at 9.20am. The children will gather from 9.10am in the yard and be supervised by staff until collected by their teacher and brought to class for 9.20am. Junior Infants will finish at 12 noon for the first week and will finish at 2pm from Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> onwards.

For the first day of school, Junior Infants can be brought straight to their class line at 9.10am. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 Public Health Guidelines, parents / guardians will not be allowed in the school building. We will confirm procedures closer to the time.

To encourage independence and enable teachers to start lessons parents are encouraged to leave by 9.20am. When you arrive at school be as casual as you can. Your child will meet their teacher outside and then be brought into class and given an activity to do. Assure your child that you will be back shortly, say goodbye and leave without delay. The teacher will bring the children out to parents at home time, specific guidelines will follow.



## The School Day



Our school day commences at 9.20am and all infants go home at 2pm. First class to 6<sup>th</sup> Class finish at 3pm. The children's morning break will be from 11.00-11.10am., while their lunch break will be from 1.00-1.30pm. It is very important that the children are collected from the school on time. If for any reason you are delayed, please call the school to let the teacher know. If your

child must leave the school early, a signed written consent is required. All absences must be accompanied by a written note. Children from 2<sup>nd</sup> class up may walk home with written permission.

For the first 6 school days, Junior Infants will have a shorter school day. They will start at 9.20am and finish at 12pm. After this they will be in school for the full infant day as outlined above.

**To KEEP ALL CHILDREN SAFE on a very busy campus, parking & traffic restrictions will be in place. Please co-operate with signage and personnel. We appreciate your co-operation.**

## School Office

The school office is open from Monday to Friday 9:15 am to 11:15 am for any information or assistance you might require. We can also be contact via email: [ashbournecons@lmetb.ie](mailto:ashbournecons@lmetb.ie). Or phone 0868522068. Please email rather than leave a voice message.

If you need to contact your child's teacher, please email them directly. If you would like to meet with them email them to arrange an appointment outside of school hours as during school time they are devoted to teaching your child.

## School Uniform

There will be a temporary uniform policy in place for the moment. Students, parents and teachers are working together to establish a uniform and crest which suits our needs and reflects the values of our growing community.

For now, the uniform is a....

- navy skirt or pinafore, trouser
- red polo shirt
- navy V neck jumper or cardigan.
- Although there is no specific type of school shoe required, please adhere to the following guidelines:
  1. Junior and Senior Infants must have shoes with Velcro or must be easy fix, **no laces please!**
  2. Shoes must be comfortable and suitable for play and physical education (PE).
  3. Shoes may not have wheels, lights or high heels.

*For PE navy Track suit bottoms and a navy round neck sweat shirt with red polo shirt and runners are required.* Please ensure that your child's name is clearly written on everything they own. These are easily available from Dunnes, Tesco and Marks and Spencer etc.



## Your Child's Learning and Development

The Primary School Curriculum sets out 7 curricular areas. Your child will be learning about...

- Languages: English and Irish (Gaeilge)
- Mathematics
- Social Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE):  
History, Geography and Science
- Arts Education: Drama, Music and Visual Arts
- Physical Education (PE)
- Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)
- Multi-Belief and Values Curriculum: Goodness Me Goodness You! (GMGY)



Aistear, the curriculum for infant classes, stresses the importance of play, communication and engaging children in problem solving, inquiry-based approaches to develop their knowledge, skills and curiosity. Playtime is an essential part of the school day. Structured play can assist your child in developing the necessary skills to build relationships, be creative, think and plan, use language and develop fine and gross motor skills. At ACNS we take a holistic approach to learning aiming to develop a love of learning in children which drives them to maximise their potential academically and socially.



## Parent School Partnership (PSP)

Research has shown that when parents are engaged with their child's education there are improved outcomes for children. At Ashbourne CNS we are working with parents in a variety of ways to establish a positive happy learning culture which supports the holistic development of the child and the professional role of the teacher. If you would like to be involved and become a member of the PSP, please email Joanne: [jodoherty.ans@lmetb.ie](mailto:jodoherty.ans@lmetb.ie).

Please see below on how you can help your child reach their full potential and be an active participant in their education;

- Try to have a regular story time with your child each day, i.e. read with your child at bedtime.
- Encourage your child to value books by handling them with care and putting them away safely after use.
- Pay attention to the pictures in books, discuss these with your children and ask them questions on what they see.
- Read and recite poems and nursery rhymes with your child.
- Show enthusiasm and interest when reading with your child. This can lead to story time becoming a very special and enjoyable time for all.

## Breaks and Healthy Eating Policy

'Little Break' is from 11.00 to 11.10am and 'Big Break' is from 1.00 to 1.30pm. These times are in accordance with curriculum guidelines. Please make sure that all food is prepared for small hands. Manageable portions of fruit, cheese, bread and crackers are advised. Our school has a healthy eating



policy in place. Fizzy drinks and unhealthy foods such as chocolate bars, biscuits, sweets, crisps and chocolate spread are not permitted. Peanuts are not allowed due to allergies. Please ensure that your child's lunch box and bottle can be easily opened and is also labelled clearly with their name. Sharing is caring but your lunch is your own. Children are not allowed to share lunches. If your child has a food allergy, please inform the class teacher.

## Eco-Friendly



At Ashbourne CNS we are conscious of the need to preserve the environment for our children. Staff, students and parents will work together to minimise our waste. With this in mind, we ask parents not to send any packaging into the school as part of your child's lunch. A lunchbox and reusable products are advised. The use of cling film, tin foil and other nonrecyclable plastic products are strongly discouraged (kitchen roll is a good alternative).

## Books and Equipment

Textbooks, Work Books and Copies will be provided by the school and the cost is €100 per year per child. This will be collected at the beginning of the school year via the cashless payment solution [Way2Pay](#).



Parents are asked to provide the following stationery in a simple pencil case:

Junior Inf., Senior Inf., 1 <sup>st</sup> Class	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	4 <sup>th</sup> Class	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Class
5 Triangular Grip Pencils	5 HB Pencils	2 red biros	2 blue or black biros	2 Handwriting Pens
Sharpener	Sharpener & Eraser	Ruler 30cm	2 red biros	2 blue or black biros
Eraser	Ruler 30cm	Sharpener & Eraser	1 green biro	2 red biros 1 green biro
Twistables	Twistables	Colouring Pencils	Ruler 30cm	Colouring Pencils
	2 red biros	5 HB Pencils	Colouring Pencils	Ruler 30cm

Please note:

1. All stationery is to be marked.
2. Markers are not permitted in textbooks.
3. Only stationery, a pencil case and a bag need's to be purchased, the school provides the rest.

## Aladdin Schools Connect

Our school uses the Aladdin Schools Software to give you secure access to messages from the school and to details of your child's attendance, test results, report cards etc. all via a secure login. Please download the APP, further details will be given once children have started school.

## Important Details

- Children need to be independently dressing and toileting for school.
- Supervision before school starts at 9.10 in the yard. Parents must stay with their child until the teacher arrives but are then encouraged to vacate the yard to facilitate clear supervision by teachers.
- Junior Infants will finish at 12 noon for the first week and will finish at 2pm September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- For the first day of school Junior Infants can be brought straight to their line at 9.10am.
- Teaching starts at 9.20am. Infants go home at 2pm. First class to 6<sup>th</sup> Class finish at 3pm.
- **To KEEP ALL CHILDREN SAFE on a very busy campus parking & traffic restrictions will be in place. Please co-operate with signage and personnel.**
- A temporary uniform of a navy skirt, pinafore, trouser or tracksuit bottom with a red polo shirt and a navy jumper or cardigan is in place.
- Your child's name should be clearly written on everything they own, the school is unable to take responsibility for lots items.
- Our school has a healthy eating policy. Please promote this when preparing lunch.
- Peanuts are not allowed due to allergies.
- We ask parents not to send any packaging into the school as part of your child's lunch.
- Textbooks, work books and copies will be provided by the school and the cost is included in the contribution of €100.
- A stationary list for each class is outlined in the above document.
- Please see below for a calendar for the academic year 2020/2021.
- Valuables such as computer games, smart phones and jewelry are not allowed at school as they could be lost or damaged. The school can not take responsibility for such items.
- Low tech mobile phones are permitted but must be switched off during class.