

WELCOME BOOKLET

2024-2025

Cranny National School

www.crannynationalschool.com

crannyns@gmail.com

065-6832345/087-2373358

Introduction

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Cranny National School. We are delighted to share in this wonderful milestone with you and your family and we look forward to introducing your child to the wonderful learning experiences of school life here in Cranny N.S.

Cranny National School is a Catholic School. Our school ethos is visible and present in the day to day running of our school. At Cranny N.S., we strive to provide a happy, supportive and secure environment where each child will develop to the best of his or her potential.

We have put this booklet together as a general guide for parents. We trust you will find it helpful and that your child will be happy and fulfilled in their new school.

I look forward to meeting with you and I hope you enjoy your journey with us here in Cranny N.S.

Kind regards,

Edel McMahon

Board of Management

The Board of Management of Cranny National School is constructed as follows:

Chairperson	Roisin O'Connor
Secretary	Edel McMahon
Treasurer	Sheila Meaney
Teacher, Community & Parent Representative	Patricia Cunningham Noel McMahon Declan Casey Peter Shannon Michelle McInerney

The Board of Management has a statutory obligation to ensure through the Principal and teaching staff that:

- General education provision within the school is of a high quality.
- The needs of the students are identified and responded to by the school.
- Appropriately qualified competent teaching and non-teaching staff are appointed subject to approval of the Patron and Department of Education
- School plans are developed, implemented and regularly evaluated.
- Management and staff development needs are identified and provided within available resources.
- Parents receive information on their child's progress.
- The school complies with all rules and regulations prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills.

School Day

The 2024 school year begins on **Wednesday August 28th** for Junior Infants only **9:20am – 11:30am**.

Junior Infant School Day

Thursday 29/8/2024 to Friday 6/9/2024 9:20am – 12:30pm

From **Monday 9th September** Junior Infants will attend for the full school day from 9:20am to 2:00pm.

Junior/Senior Infants School Day: 9:20am to 2:00pm

1st – 6th Classes: 9:20am to 3:00pm

Children are permitted on the school grounds from **9:10am**. On the first days of school, parents are welcome to bring their children into the classroom. Take a moment and enjoy the milestone of your child starting 'big school'. On the first morning, try not to stay too long. Give your child a hug and let them get playing. We will be sure to call you if there are any concerns.

Attendance

Your child should attend school every day. Schools have an obligation to report absences of twenty days or more to the National Education Welfare Board. If your child is absent, please write a short note to the classroom teacher on their return to school or you can email crannyns@gmail.com. If your child is expected to be absent from school for more than two consecutive days, please call the school and let them know. For safety reasons children will not be released during school hours to anyone except parents/guardians. Children should only be collected early if necessary, please advise the class teacher if your child is going home early. School starts promptly at 9:20am each morning.

Holidays

A school calendar will be provided to you in hardcopy over the coming weeks and is also available to download and print from our website www.crannynationalschool.com

A parent taking a child from school during school time for an extended time e.g. holiday is requested to inform the principal in writing including reason for and dates of absence.

Uniform

The uniform at Cranny N.S. consists of a red jumper/cardigan, white shirt, red tie and grey trousers/pinafore. The school jumper with crest is available from The Family Store, Kilrush. This year, we are introducing a new school tracksuit for PE days and during the fine weather. This will be available to purchase www.ksport.ie. We hope to have samples on the Open Day for you to decide on a suitable size. Children are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear. Please ensure that children's school bags can fit an A4 size pocket folder.

Please label all jackets/coats/jumpers/lunch boxes/flasks etc. Let your child practice putting on and taking off their coat. Velcro fastened runners are ideal for young children and they promote their independence.

Infectious Illnesses

If a child has a serious medical complaint or any infectious illness, the class teacher must be informed immediately.

When a child is unwell or has an infectious illness, he or she should not attend school. If a child feels unwell during the school day parents/guardians will be phoned. If a child has been vomiting, we request that the child does not return to school for at least 24 hours.

Allergies/Administration of Medication

We have a duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils. However, teachers/staff do not personally undertake the administration of medication (e.g. Cough bottles, tablets, applications of cream)

The school requires parents/guardians to inform in writing of any medical condition suffered by their child. This information should be provided at enrolment, the beginning of each school year or at the development of any medical condition at a later date.

Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions or allergies, parents/guardians should outline clearly in writing, what should or should not be done in a particular emergency situation, with particular reference to what may be a risk to the child.

Accidents in school

If an accident happens in school, your child will receive first aid for minor cuts and bruises. If there is anything more serious, you will be contacted by the school.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Teachers will meet with parents/guardians during the first term to discuss each child's progress. Parents/Guardians and teachers will meet on an informal basis throughout the school year also.

If you have any concerns or questions, please make an appointment and we can meet to discuss these at an appropriate time that suits both parties and does not interfere with classroom teaching. We will send home written reports at the end of the school year.

Parental Involvement

We believe that parents/guardians, the school and the community working together enhances the education of our students. Parental involvement in Cranny NS is encouraged, welcomed and appreciated.

Subjects

The Department of Education and Skills is responsible for the education of children in Ireland. Under the curriculum laid down by the Department all students will be taught the following subjects: English, Gaeilge, Maths, Science, Drama, Geography, Music, History, Geography, Science, SPHE, PE, Visual Arts and Religious Education.

Aistear and Learning through play

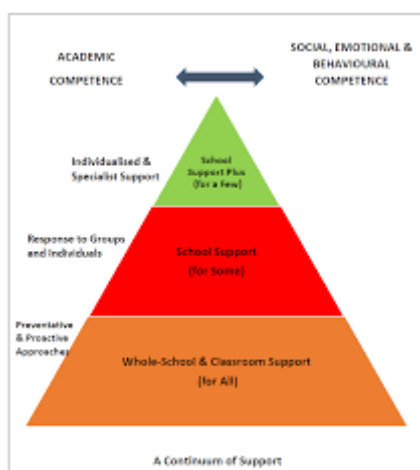
Much of children's early learning and development takes place through play and hands-on experience. Through play, children explore social, physical and imaginary worlds.

These experiences help them manage their feelings, develop as thinkers and develop socially, be creative and imaginative and develop language skill to lay the foundations for becoming effective communicators and learners. Aistear is a programme for early childhood education. It ensures that your child's transition from pre-school to primary school is as seamless as possible.

Special Educational Teaching – The Continuum of Support

We welcome all children into our school. In relation to application for the enrolment of children with Special Needs, we do request a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological or multi-disciplinary team report.

The Department of Education and Skills has set out the Continuum of Support framework to assist schools in identifying and responding to students' needs. This framework recognises that special educational needs occur along a continuum ranging from mild to severe, and from transient to long term and that students require different levels of support depending on their identified educational needs. Using this framework helps to ensure that interventions are incremental, moving from class-based interventions to more intensive and individualized support and that they are informed by careful monitoring of progress.



Pupils who would benefit from extra support can receive support in various ways in class support and some in the form of withdrawal. High achieving children may also receive extra support to ensure that they are being challenged.

Assessment of Need

Any parent/guardian who feels their child may have a disability can apply for an assessment under the Disability Act. The HSE provides a team assessment for free for children of 6 years and under. This may alleviate any concerns you may have and will help us support your child. Please contact your local Health Centre for more information.

Books

Your child's books, copies and folders are kept in school until the end of the year. At times books may be sent home for homework. All books and copies are now funded by the Department of Education. Your child's books will be ready for them for their first day of school. We will cover and label all books.

Homework

Homework given to Junior Infants should take no longer than 30 minutes. Written homework will not be given to Junior Infants until after the October mid-term break. Try and encourage your child to complete their homework as soon as they come home from school, as they are still in school mode. Leaving homework until late means your child will be tired and may learn to resent it. Homework should be a positive experience. If you have any concerns or issues with homework please contact the class teacher.

Mobile Phone Policy

Children should not bring mobile phones to school unless it is absolutely necessary to make contact with parents after school hours.

If parents must make contact with their children during school hours, they may do so on the school's mobile phone 087-2373358.

Behaviour

We believe that all children are equal and deserve to be respected. We expect that all children will follow the code of behaviour. Bullying is not acceptable in our school.

We affirm our students and promote positive behaviour. There are clear class rules in which children have input. Sanctions are imposed for misbehaviour. If there is an ongoing issue regarding misbehaviour, parents will be informed.

The code of behaviour and anti-bullying policy are available on our school website.

Tours

Parents are asked for permission when we are going on school tours. However, for local outings, permission is not sought once parents sign the permission section of the registration form. Children are often engaged in active learning and leave the school to support the curricular objectives.

Ways you can prepare your child for school

1. Talk about school, concentrate on the positive aspects of school such as meeting friends and the activities they will do such as painting, jigsaws and going on trips. Ask them about their day. Don't be surprised if they say they did nothing in school as often they don't realise that they are learning. Early oral language development has a strong impact on a child's reading ability.
2. Give your child input into their school life such as buying a school bag or new pencil case.
3. Practice nursery rhymes at home and read stories and fairy tales. Familiarity reassures children and gives them greater confidence. Reading readiness is the key skill to introduce your child to the mechanics of reading, reading direction, the conventions of writing, awareness of text and most importantly nurturing a motivation to read and develop a love for books
4. Play helps a child develop motor skills, visual discrimination skills and vocabulary. Play also encourages children's social skills in order to establish friendships. Games such as snap, matching, jigsaws etc. have high educational value.
5. Show you child how to open bananas, yoghurts and put a straw into a drink.
6. Make sure your child has plenty of sleep. Starting school can be daunting, exciting and tiring.
7. On the first few mornings try not to stay too long in the classroom. Remember it is a valuable part of your parenting skills that you have developed your child to be independent enough to go to school. Give your child a hug and let them go into class. If there are any concerns, we will contact you.
8. Encourage independence where your child hangs up their own jacket, carries their own bag and takes down their own chair. Practice opening and closing their lunch box and drink container they intend using for school.
9. Limit television viewing, especially before your child comes to school and before they go to bed.
10. Encourage your child to colour, write, scribble, paint, manipulate play dough, cut safely as this strengthens the child's hand muscles to enrich gross and fine motor skills.
11. Become involved in school life.
12. It is essential that your child eats breakfast every day. If you are late getting up and you do not have time to prepare/eat breakfast tell your child's teacher and send some fruit/bread for the child to eat when they get to school.

13. Bring your child on trips to the library to encourage a love of books.
14. Please refrain from carrying your child into school. We want to foster independence from the very beginning.
15. Toilet-training: All parents and teachers know that accidents do happen. We would encourage parents over the summer months to practice full independence in the use of the toilet e.g. being comfortable with the door closed, wiping themselves clean and even practice how to manage as independently as possible if they have a wetting accident in school. It is advised to leave a change of underwear and bottoms to the class teacher at the beginning of the year in the case of a wetting accident.

Contact Details

Cranny National School

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