



Information for parents of new Junior Infant Pupils 2021

Welcome: The teachers and staff of San Carlo J.N.S. would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child to our school community. San Carlo J.N.S. is a Catholic school but we are happy to welcome children of all religions and none.

School Motto: Step To Success With Confidence

School Team: Board of Management, Administrative Principal (Mrs, Diggins), 11 mainstream class teachers, 1 ASD Special Class teacher, 5 Special Education Teachers, 9 Special Needs Assistants (some are part-time), 2 part-time secretaries, 4 part-time cleaners, one part-time caretaker and a very active Parents' Association.

General information

- **Junior Infant Class size:** for the school year 2021-2022 we will have three Junior Infant classes and your child will be in a class size of 20 pupils (approx.).
- **Junior Infant teachers 2021-2022:** There will be three Junior Infant teachers, Ms. Pyne, Ms. Bourke and a new teacher yet to be appointed as we have been granted an extra teacher for 2021-22.
- **Visiting your child's classroom:** we are arranging a time and date for when you can bring your child to visit his/her classroom. Each group of 5 children will receive a 15 minute time slot to visit and meet with teacher (a separate explanatory sheet will be sent). Due to Covid 19 restrictions the children will not be able to sit and play with toys on this occasion. However, a small activity will be arranged for them to do while teacher has a quick word with each of them. This is really just a meet and greet session and a time for the children to see their new classroom.
- **Uniform;** bright blue jumper/cardigan, navy trousers or pinafore or skirt and a light blue shirt. The uniform is generic so it can be purchased at most chain stores including Marks and Spencers, Dunnes Stores and Tesco.



- **Ties and Crests** are available from the school at a cost of €7.00 for the ties and €4 for the crests. **Crests** are just needed for the school tracksuit and need not be put onto jumpers/cardigans. While the crests are iron-on it would probably be advisable to sew them on. Ties and crests can be purchased from the office on the day of the visit. The school will also be open from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon during the last week of August to facilitate the purchase of ties and crests. It will not be a problem if



your child does not have one for the first week of school and please be assured that there are enough ties and crest available for all.

- **Tracksuit:** our school tracksuit is plain navy with a round/crew neck and a light blue polo shirt. It needs an iron-on/sew-on school **crest** which is available from the school at a cost of €4. (No crests needed on the school uniform, just the tracksuit).
- **P.E Day:** You will be notified by your child's teacher as to when his/her P.E. day will be once your child starts school in September.
- **Book lists:** a copy of your child's book list and resource list has been emailed to you today. The books are available from Maynooth book shop or from any suppliers. The money for your child's school resources will need to be paid directly to the school. You will be emailed a link for online payment by the end of the week. If you need to pay for resources with cash then we will facilitate you in June or September. If you have difficulty with paying for the resources please contact me directly and **absolute privacy will be guaranteed.**
- **If your child is absent for any reason during the school year you must notify the school.**
- The **Education Welfare Board** must be notified by the school if your child is absent for 20 days or more over the whole school year. You will receive a letter from the school if your child's absentee rate nears 20 days.
- **Homework** – will be given later in the year and teacher will give clear instructions.
- If you need to speak with teacher you must make **an appointment**. Please give teacher a note if you need to give her a simple message e.g. child didn't sleep well and is tired etc.
- Check your child's hair frequently with a fine comb for **head lice**.
- **Please label all your child's clothes and belongings** to ensure that lost items can be returned to your child. This is especially true in the case of school jumpers and tracksuit tops.
- **Please remove your child's books from any plastic coverings and put your child's name on the front cover of all books before sending them into school. Please do not put the name on the inside of the book. Check that your child's school bag is big enough to facilitate books, homework folder and lunchbox.**
- **Lunch boxes:** please get a lunchbox that your child can open and close independently. Allow him/her to practice opening and closing it themselves as this can be a very difficult job for little fingers. We are a Health Promoting school so parents are reminded to send in healthy lunches.
- Children are asked not to wear earrings or jewellery to school on P.E days.

Preparation for the big day/ helping to make your child independent

- Talk about school with your child
- Ensure your child knows how to wash his/her hands properly
- Encourage your child to dress themselves, do up buttons/zips
- Help your child to use the toilet properly and wash hands



- Encourage your child to tidy up by themselves
- Practise opening/closing lunch box and drinks bottle with your child

On the day

- Starting time will be 9.45 am and finishing time will be 12.00 noon every day for the first two weeks of school (30.08.2021 until 10.09.2021). We are aware that children will have been used to attending play school but the routines of big school life means that our new little pupils feel extremely tired during this period and we want to help them to settle in as happily as possible. After this initial period, the school day will be from 9.20 am until 2.00 pm.
- Bring your child to the **designated entrance** at the dedicated time each morning. A support staff member will be there to guide your child to his/her classroom where teacher will be waiting. Teacher will have to sanitise your child's hands before he/she enters the room. You will collect your child from this dedicated entrance also.
- **Lunch** – we are a Health Promoting School so healthy food only please. No chocolate, crisps, sweets or fizzy drinks please. No nuts or spreads like Nutella because of nut allergies. No Frubes. If giving a yogurt you must give a spoon.
- **Timekeeping** – you or an appropriate adult known to your child must **collect on time**. If you are going to be late for any reason you must notify the school at (01)6243155.

Helping your child to settle in, make friends, get used to school routines

- Talk to your child – develop language, ask questions, please don't use teacher or Principal as a threat.
- Develop your child's attention span – jigsaws, Lego, colouring
- Children learn through play – dress up, small world, group games, limit iPads/tablets
- Listen to your child, read to them, help them practice Nursery Rhymes
- Play games such as ball/catch to develop hand eye co-ordination skills
- Use of playdough helps to develop strength in their fingers
- **No birthday invitations can be given out on school grounds.** A list of emails of parents who wish to be contacted re birthday invitations will be compiled for each class.
- Help build resilience in your child i.e. if another pupil is bothering your child encourage him/her to say "Stop it, I don't like it when you do/say that. If you do that again I will tell teacher"

Discipline

- We promote positive behaviour in the school. The school has "Golden Rules" for the general school area and classroom rules as well. Our "Code of Behaviour" is up on our website; www.sancarlojunior.org.
- Teacher deals with discipline issues within her class. Teachers may ask for advice from the Principal if a situation is ongoing. Teacher will speak to parents to see if



light can be shone on why poor behaviour is happening. Teacher will follow San JNS behaviour management procedures as outlined in the diagram below.

San Carlo J.N.S- Behaviour Management Procedures



Once again you are very welcome to San Carlo Junior School.

You can contact me at any time at sancarlojns@gmail.com or at (01) 6243155 during term time.

Kind Regards,

C. Diggins,

Principal.