



Starting School



at

Killean Primary School



Killean Primary School

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The dedicated teaching staff and I take this opportunity to welcome your children and yourselves to Killean Primary School. We earnestly strive to ensure that your child's years at Killean P.S. are happy, safe and fulfilling. Our aim is to assist every child in reaching his / her full potential.

This booklet has been designed to give you the basic information you may need to ensure that your child will settle in well and enjoy his / her time at our school.

If you find that you need any further information about any aspect of school life, please feel welcome to contact myself or your child's teacher.

We hope that you enjoy your visit to the school. This has proven to be very successful in introducing children to life in the school and we look forward to meeting you again.

Kindest regards

Mrs. L. Campbell *Mrs M. Lambe*

Principal

Primary One Teacher

Basic Information Sheet.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">The School Day</h2>
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Morning Supervision Begins	8:45am
Lessons start	9:00am
Break Time	10:30 - 10:50am
Lunch Time	12:00 - 12:50pm
Home Time:	
Reception	12:00 / 12:50pm
P1 & P2	1:40pm
P3 Mon, Tues. & Wed.	1:40pm
P3 Thurs. & Fri.	3:00pm
P4 - P7	3:00pm

Reception children attend school for the morning session only and should be collected after they have had their lunch break at 12:50pm.

In order to make starting school a pleasant experience for parents and children, we operate a staggered intake for P1 and reception children. This allows the children to become familiar with the school setting in small groups.

Reception children can start school from their fourth birthday. To facilitate children who turn four throughout the year reception children may begin school at any of the following intake dates: November; January; April.

We ask that you collect your child from the classroom punctually. Young children can very easily become distressed if they have to wait for collection. Also KS1 teachers are timetabled to take other classes in the afternoon when their own pupils go home.

Our School Uniform

We would expect the wearing of the school uniform throughout the year.

Formal	
Trousers / Pinafore	Navy Blue
Shirt / Blouse	Light Blue
Jumper / Cardigan	Royal Blue
Tie	Navy & Light Blue
Summer	
Girls Gingham Dress	Navy & White
Boys: Shorts	Navy Blue
Polo Shirt	Light Blue
P.E. Uniform: Tracksuit	Navy Blue
Polo Shirt	Light Blue
P.E. Jersey	Blue with orange trim

The school sweatshirt may be worn with navy blue tracksuit bottoms.

Please label all belongings clearly with your child's name as it is difficult to identify them otherwise.

You can purchase school uniforms from **Mc Evoy's Drapery**, Newry.

Break time

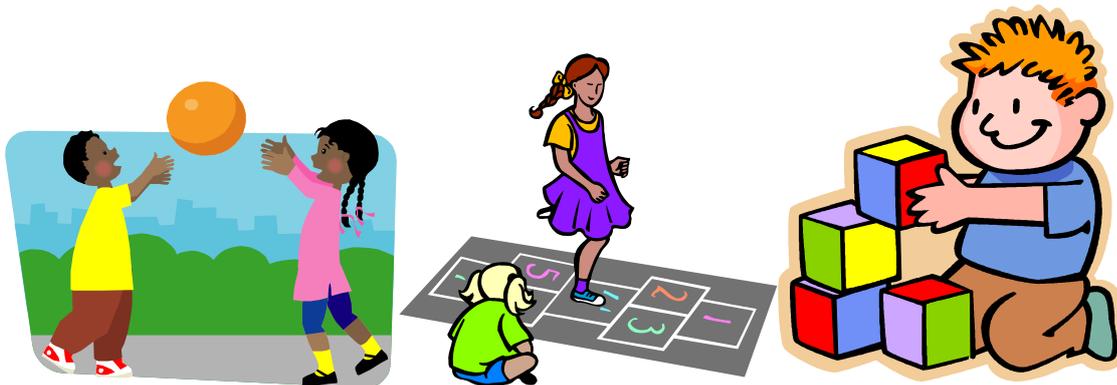
There is a 20 minute break each morning for the children. The children go out to the playground where members of staff will be on supervisory duty. When the weather is poor the children stay in their own classrooms under supervision.

The children may bring something to eat at break time. As a result of dental surveys, which clearly indicated an abnormally high number of children who were suffering from tooth decay, the school operates a healthy break routine. We would ask that you support this campaign by sending a piece of fruit, veg. or water only for morning break. Milk is available daily at a cost of £1.25 per week, £20 per term or £50 per year.

Filtered water is available to refill children's bottles if desired. *
Research has indicated that children who are hydrated are more alert and active.

We are a nut free school and would ask that you ensure that any food taken into school by your child / children is nut free.

On Friday each week Mrs. Lambe and Mrs. Gollogly's classes have "Snack Time" during Play. The children are encouraged to be independent in managing their own snack and enjoy interacting with their peers during this time. We would ask each child to bring in £5 at the beginning of each term to help fund this activity.



Lunch-time

School dinners are available to all children. Dinners cost £2.20 per day, £11 per week.

Children taking dinners are asked to bring their dinner money every Monday morning. It helps greatly if you could send the correct amount.

If you think that your child is eligible for free meals, please fill in a free meals application form, which is available from the office.

Alternatively, your child may bring a healthy packed lunch. Bars, fizzy drinks and sticky sweets are strongly discouraged as part of our healthy living policy.

All lunches and dinners will be eaten in the school dining hall, where supervisors will be on duty.

After lunch has ended the children will go to the playground where they are supervised by the lunchtime assistants.

When the weather is poor, the children will be supervised in their classrooms for the remainder of the lunchtime period. They will be given games and activities on these occasions.



School Rules.

The rules in the school are designed to keep the children safe and create a good learning environment in the classroom. You, as parents, can support us in this task.

If there is a change in the normal routine - for example you wish your child to go home early, or if you feel that he / she needs to stay in at break times due to illness then please write a note and let us know.

At all times a letter must be sent to the school to explain any absences. The E.W.O. (Education Welfare Officer) asks to see these.

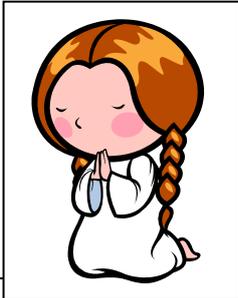
Where possible, appointments such as doctors or dentists should be kept outside school hours. This is to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum.

We cannot allow young children to make their own way to cars or to walk home. If your child travels by car or on foot, please collect him / her at the P.I door at 1.40pm.

At the beginning of the school year we ask parents to let us know who will normally be collecting your child, but please contact the school at any time if there is a change to the normal transport arrangements.

Experience has taught us that children become more independent and settle into school life much more quickly if they are left at the classroom door. Please consider this after the first week of starting school.

In Killean P.S., we place great importance on creating a strong Catholic Ethos. The following prayers are said daily in Primary 1 and throughout the school and we would also encourage you to use these with your child at home.

<p><u>The Sign of the Cross</u> In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p>	
<p><u>Morning Prayer</u> Father in Heaven you love me. You're with me night and day I want to love you always In all I do and say I'll try to please you, Father Bless me through the day. Amen.</p>	<p><u>Night Prayer</u> God our Father, I come to say Thank you for your love today Thank you for my family And all the friends you give to me. Guard me in the dark of night And in the morning send your light. Amen</p>
<p><u>Grace before Meals</u> Bless us, O God, as we sit together. Bless the food we eat today. Bless the hands that made the food. Bless us, O God. Amen.</p>	<p><u>Grace after Meals</u> Thank you God, for the food we've eaten. Thank you God for all our friends. Thank you God for everything. Thank you God. Amen.</p>

Literacy

Talking and Listening

Talking and listening is a vital aspect of the curriculum. In school your child will be encouraged to express himself / herself clearly, using full sentences. This will ultimately develop their ability to produce independent writing. We place importance on language and encourage correct grammar.

Listening skills need to be established and developed. Your child's teacher will initially spend valuable time focusing on establishing this skill individually, in groups and as a whole class. This will be ongoing throughout the year.

Reading stories to your child will help him/her to learn to listen, concentrate and talk to you about the story, the characters and what might happen next. Discuss words, punctuation and illustrations - stop for full stop and pause for comma.

Research and studies show that children are decidedly advantaged when formal reading begins if: -

- Stories have been told to them,
- Rhymes have been practised with them,
- Responses to stories are encouraged and expressed.





Reading

Don't expect your child to be given a reading book straight away. It takes time to learn to read and some children learn faster than others.

You can help by reading stories to your child and by talking about the pictures in his / her books. If it's possible let him / her join the library, so that they have an ever-changing supply of books. Teach him / her nursery rhymes and how to recognise his / her name.

Books should be fun for children, a source of enjoyment. Helping to develop a love of books is one of the most important things that you, as a parent, can do in helping your child to learn to read.

We use Linguistic Phonics as part of our Literacy programme. Children are taught to identify letter sounds and are encouraged to be independent in reading and writing.

Writing

Don't feel that you have to teach your child how to write before he / she comes to school. Rather give him / her lots of opportunities to paint, draw, cut, use plasticine, use jigsaws etc.

Numeracy

The children, through practical activities, will learn how to recognise, form and know the value of numbers from 0-10. You can help your child by showing him/her numbers used in everyday situations. Help your child to count sets of objects around the house during the year, to reinforce the numbers being taught in class.

In school they will sort sets using different criteria such as shape, size & colour and be introduced to addition, shape and measurement.

You can help your child by showing him/her how to recognise the basic shapes: circle, square, triangle and rectangle, and use mathematical language such as long, short, thick, edge, corner, side, face, thin, before, after, between and more.





Play

Play is a vital element for children in the whole process of learning. Play, in the Primary School, is structured to give the children a variety of fundamental experiences. We introduce areas of Play and children are encouraged to be independent and to make choices.

Areas of Play include:

Role play
Art and Design
Construction
Small World play
Water/sand
Computer
Writing
Reading and Listening

There are a variety of toys available at school and we would ask children not to bring their own. If some of the schools equipment or toys are brought home by mistake, please ensure that they are returned to the school.



Colours

Does your child know the basic colours?

If not, try to familiarise him / her with the colours below.



Radical changes have been introduced over the past few years in our Education System. A strong emphasis will be placed on language and I strongly encourage you to talk to your child / children about the world around us. Try to question, inform and seek fluent answers from your child / children. When they begin to write, they can only write that which they are able to speak. Therefore, the richer the language spoken - the richer the language written.

Never hesitate to try to develop vocabulary - when shopping, playing, reading to your child / children, working etc.



Lastly

Before starting school, please help and encourage your child to become more independent. By the time he / she starts school, your child should be attempting to do things for him / herself. Such as:

Undo buttons

Zip up zips

Hang up coats

Place books in schoolbags

Change shoes

Use a tissue / handkerchief

Toilet and wash hands Tidy up after play

We would be grateful if you would inform the class teacher of any specific difficulties or problems in relation to your child which you feel may affect their school life. You may wish to make an appointment or speak to the class teacher informally at the end of the day.



Finally, may I thank you for reading this booklet and encourage you to take advice from it - remembering that a child's start in school, sets the tone for attitudes to school and ultimately the working world.

We again wish you and your child happy and fulfilling years in Killean P.S.

More information on life at Killean PS is available on our website: www.killeanps.com. Here you will also find lots of activities to support your child's learning at each stage of their school career.

Kindest regards

Mrs L. Campbell

Mrs M. Lambe

Principal

Primary One Teacher

Please note:

Class arrangements may be changed at the discretion of the Board of Governors and the Principal.

