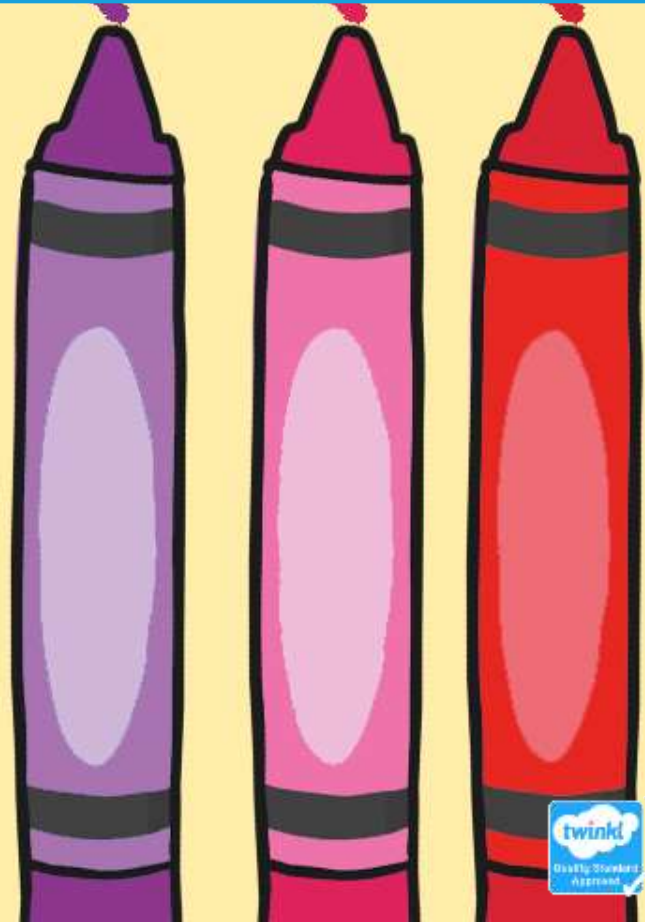


Junior Infants

2019/2020

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Christ the Saviour N.S.



Welcome!

- Welcome to all parents and guardians.
- Your has finally began their exciting journey into formal education.
- Today's presentation is here to inform you about what your child will learn in school, what kind of homework to expect, and practical advice to help you support your child as best as you can through their first year of school.



Reading

- In the past, reading was taught using essentially a visual, whole-word approach.
- Some children had difficulties remembering words and could not cope with reading satisfactorily.



Phonics

- Children are now taught to read using phonics.
- The children are taught the letter sounds – we use the Jolly Phonics programme in this school. Does not follow alphabetical order.
- Letter names become more of a focus at a later time.
- Reading is taught using a ‘blending’ technique, where children are taught to ‘blend’ sounds together. For example, c-a-t, b-a-g.
- Words that cannot be sounded out (also known as ‘tricky words’, such as ‘the’, ‘our’, ‘he’ and ‘she’), are given to the children to learn by sight. It is important to practise tricky words with your child each night.



The Benefits of Phonics

1. Children learn to read much faster when they know their letter sounds and can work out words for themselves.
2. Children can pick up any book and read it using their blending skills.
3. Independent writing starts much earlier. Don't be alarmed if the teacher isn't correcting wrong spellings. Encouraging the children to 'write', and enjoy writing is the most important thing.
4. Accurate spelling develops gradually as they learn to read.



Gaeilge

- We are using Bua na Cainte Programme in the Junior Infant classroom.
- The focus is on oral Irish in Junior Infants.
- Children will listen to Irish, speak Irish, sing songs and learn poems.
- Your child will not begin any formal written Irish until they reach 1st class.
- Encourage your child to sing their Irish songs. The lessons are fun and interactive and the children really enjoy them.
- Irish can get a bad rep from parents who had bad experiences themselves, please try not to let your children hear this negativity.

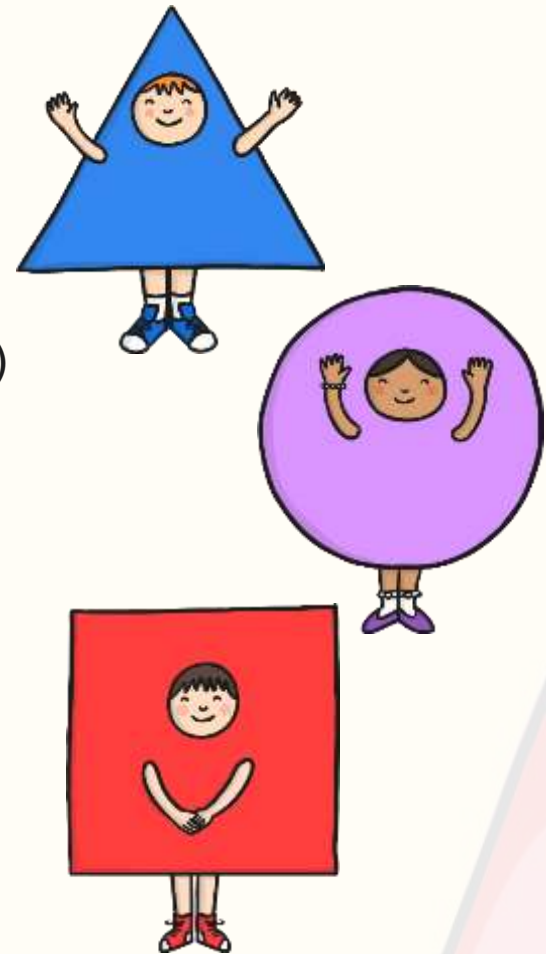


Maths

In Junior Infants, the children will learn to read, write and add with the numbers 0-5.

Other strands on the curriculum include:

- Shape and Space
- Measures (such as capacity, length and weight)
- Patterns
- Sorting Objects
- Numeracy Games (on interactive whiteboard)



Other Subjects

The other subjects in the curriculum include:

- SESE: History, Geography and Science
- Visual Art
- Music
- Drama
- PE
- SPHE
- Religion
- Aistear



Aistear

- Aistear is a curriculum framework for children from birth to 6 years old. Aistear is the Irish word for a journey.
- As a framework, Aistear makes connections in children's learning throughout early childhood, as they move from one setting to another, for example from playschool to primary school.
- It is not a separate subject but a way of teaching every subject. It places an important emphasis on learning through play.
- This play is structured play, designed carefully by the teacher. It consists of various stations such as role play, small world play, puzzles, construction, junk art etc.
- New vocabulary will be taught before beginning each new theme. The children are encouraged to use this language in context during Aistear time.
- A new theme will be explored every few weeks: travel, the supermarket, the restaurant etc.
- It strives to make children's learning relevant to their own lives and experiences.
- The adult guides the children in their learning. You, as a parent, also play a hugely important role in this.

The Importance of Play

- Play is a very important part of a child's development.
- It is how they make sense of the world around them and discover new things for themselves.
- Play is to be encouraged and supported!



- Unfortunately, play can be seen as a break from learning, but in fact it is the opposite.
- As Albert Einstein is supposed to have said, "Play is the highest form of research."

Homework

As you have seen:

- A folder has been given to each child. Notes to home will be put in the folder.
- If you wish to send in a note, put it in the folder and make it visible to the teacher.
- Homework sheets will be given out each Monday. They will explain what has to be done. Only do that night's homework.
- Homework should take 5-10 minutes.
- Phonics exercises/maths will always relate to topic being covered in class that week.
- Word list – One per week
- Tricky Words – 2 per week (After Mid term)
- Reading Books - After Christmas



Settling In

- School starts at 9:00 and finishes at 1:40
- Home time- Parents asked to stand by the gate opposite the classroom to make it easy and separate from Senior Infant collection at the main gate.
- Please let the school know if someone different is collecting your child (a note in their folder if possible). If it's a last minute change, please call the office.
- Seating places will be changed every few weeks to ensure the children get a chance to know everybody in the class.
- Responsibilities - table monitors/messengers/line leaders.



Please Remember



- Label all belongings (especially jumpers and track suit tops).
- Healthy lunches are encouraged, try to include a good variety, piece of fruit, some vegetables, a sandwich, a piece of cheese etc. This school has a 'nut free' policy due to some severe allergies, this includes chocolate spread – Nutella.
- Be mindful of yogurts, we have had several spillages on uniforms and some children find them difficult to manage.

How to prepare your child:

- Bring a resealable lunchbox and bottle. (Practise opening lunch things - bananas, oranges, packets, bottles etc.)
- Show your child how to put on/take off their coat (buttons/zip).
- Teach your child to recognise their own name.

Please don't hesitate to make an appointment to come in and see me at any time during the year by contacting the school secretary. Formal parent/teacher meetings will be arranged before Christmas.



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