ST. JOHN'S
Primary School
COLERAINE

Welcome Booklet

Work hard!

Give everything a try!

Enjoy the rewards!

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School Details

St John's Primary School

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Coleraine

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Principal: Mr Kieran P. O'Neill BA Hons

Chair Of Governors: Mr Liam McQuillan

Principal's Introduction

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our school. I hope this information will firstly help explain how the school operates and secondly foster a positive and fruitful relationship between yourselves and us as we work in partnership in educating your child.

Everyone in school is committed to doing their best, as educational and pastoral professionals, for each and every child. To do this we try to ensure that our school is colourful, exciting and welcoming to all who enter it - a place where children and adults feel secure and confident enough to explore and develop their talents, whilst always striving for high standards in all aspects of school life. We know that each of our children comes to school with different experiences, knowledge and skills and that each has different learning needs and preferred ways of learning. We therefore aim to match our provision to the needs of each child.

We seek to not only provide an environment which promotes achievement in learning but also one of warmth, security and care, valuing each member of the school community and working to encourage the realisation of each individual's potential. We celebrate all achievement whether big or small and challenge our children (and ourselves) to improve even more. We encourage a 'can do' culture, a thirst for life-long learning and a pride in each other's skills and attributes.

We take seriously our responsibility to develop children's academic knowledge, skills and understanding, but also their spiritual, moral, social and cultural attitudes. We provide over an academic year opportunities to explore these four key elements of a rounded education, and encourage an interest in local, national and global life-styles and issues.

The school building provides excellent accommodation for the education of the children. There are 7 classrooms, a special needs room, a library/music room, a P1/P2 Play/Activity Area and a well-equipped gymnasium with a stage for school productions. The school has recently been upgraded to complete disable friendly status with the introduction of 2 new lifts and various ramps.

Outside, the school site is spacious, comprising a large field for sports activities; two play grounds and an enclosed outdoor play area. The playground has been developed and extended further. The perimeter fencing and security at the front of the school has been upgraded to make the school more secure.

We have an active PTA , who throughout the school year organise fund raising and social events for the school community. They also provide a voice for ideas for school improvement from the parent body. They have monthly meetings and would always be pleased to welcome new members. Through them, we have been able to raise money for a new school library, the ICT suite, school notice boards, the development of an new outdoor play/learning area and the installation of interactive whiteboards in every classroom.

If having read the following information you have any further questions or would like an appointment to visit, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran P O'Neill (Principal)

Staff

Principal:	Mr. K. P. O'Neill
Vice Principal:	Mrs. D. Graffin
Assistant Teachers:	Mrs. M. Cunning Mrs. A. Mc Cullough Miss M. O'Neill
Temporary Teachers:	Mr. C. Burns Miss C. Mc Aleese Mrs. E. Scullion
Senior Clerical Officer:	Mrs. J. Scott
Building Supervisor:	Mr. A. McDonald
Classroom Assistants:	Mrs. K. Fillis Ms. M. Mc Laughlin Mrs. C. Rodgers Miss L.J. Lundy Mrs. S Mc Corriston Mrs A. Kneeland Ms. K. White
Cleaning Staff:	Mrs. L. Cook
Kitchen Supervisor:	Mrs. R. Dillon
Supervisory Assistants:	Mrs. M. Mc Daid Mrs. S. Reid Mrs. C. Twaddle Mrs. L. Cook
After School's Club:	Mrs. S. McCorriston Ms. K. White Mrs. A. Kneeland
School Crossing Patrol	Mrs. C. Twaddle
Parents' Association: Chairperson:	Mrs. D. Ahmed
School Chaplain:	Rev. Fr. C. Keaney P.P.

Board of Governors

Chairperson:	Mr Liam McQuillan
Vice-Chairperson:	Rev. Fr. Charles Keaney PP
Trustees' Nominees:	Mrs. E. Mc Williams Mr. A. McAuley Mrs. C. O'Kane
D.E.N.I. Representative:	Mr. H. Mc Gill
NEELB Nominees:	Mr. L. McQuillan Mrs. N. Mc Grath
Parents' Representative:	Mrs. M. Loughrey
Teachers' Representative:	Mrs. D. Graffin
Principal & Secretary:	Mr. K. O'Neill

St John's Mission Statement

The mission of St John's Primary School is to build a teaching and learning community where we show due regard for the development and understanding of the uniqueness and dignity of each person, based on the Gospel values of love, justice, mutual respect, tolerance, acceptance and forgiveness.

We will provide a broad and balanced curriculum for each child and we will strive to meet the needs of each pupil at each stage in his/her development thus providing the children with opportunity to achieve in a variety of contexts and experiences.

We will endeavour to create a caring and stimulating environment in which effort and personal success are rewarded, special gifts and talents are catered for and needs are met.

We will aim to achieve good working relationships within the school and beyond and we hope that through open communication the children and adults will feel supported, respected and valued.

School History

- The first St. John's Primary School in Coleraine was built in the Church grounds at Kyle's Brae by Rev. Charles Flanagan, who was parish priest of St. John's from 1842-1863.

- In 1903 Fr. M. Connery became parish priest and in 1906 he brought the Ursuline Nuns of Chevanges, France to start a Secondary School in the house on Castlerock Road, then known as Tiev Tara, now Loreto Convent, and to take charge of St. John's School. In 1909 a school was built on the present site.

- In 1930, the Ursuline nuns were withdrawn from Coleraine and the Loreto nuns were asked to take over. They arrived in August of that year.

- The "new" two-roomed school soon became too small and in 1933 another two-roomed building was built on the same site; in 1952 two huts were erected. By 1959, the old school in Kyles Brae had an additional room added on these were again used. In 1967, the present school was begun. The first two-storey block was completed in March, 1969, and the whole school by September, 1970.

- There are twelve classrooms and a library (including 1933 building which was incorporated into the design), an assembly hall and school meals kitchen.

General Information

- School begins at **9.00 am** and all children are expected to be in school by **8.55am**.
- Children should not be in school too early because of supervision difficulties. Teachers cannot accept responsibility for the safety of children who arrive before **8.50 am.**
- The main doors will open each morning at **8.50 am.**
- In the event of it being a wet morning the doors will open to let the children in out of the rain.

School Day Times

School Day Begins		9.00 am
Morning Break		10.30 am-10.45 am
Lunch Break	P1-P3	11.50 am-12.30 pm
Lunch Break	P4-P7	12.30 pm-1.10 pm
School Day Ends	P1-P2	1.50 pm
School Day Ends	P3 (Mon-Wed)	3.00 pm
School Day Ends	P3 (Thurs & Fri)	1.50 pm
School Day Ends	P4 (Mon- Thurs)	3.00 pm
School Day Ends	P4 (Friday)	1.50 pm
School Day Ends	P5-P7	3.00 pm

Absence from school

- If your child is absent please inform the school by note or telephone call at your earliest convenience as this will ensure that absence is genuine rather than a possible case of truancy.

Absence from school during day:

- When your child has an appointment or has to leave school early please send a note to class teacher.
- **Children will not be permitted to leave school during the day unless collected by a parent/guardian or if child has written permission from parent/ guardian.**

SCHOOL OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The school office is open from:

® 9.00 -12.30 pm
® 1.10 -4.00 pm

Telephone enquiries can be made to the school between 8.30-4.00 pm Monday to Friday.

The Secretary Mrs Scott will be available during office opening hours.

The Principal will normally answer calls outside office hours.

SECURITY

All visitors should enter the school buildings via the main door and report to the school office.
All visitors must sign in to the school and wear a badge to show that they have been formally allowed on the school premises.

Gates will be closed and in the interests of security they should be closed upon entry and upon leaving the school.

Parents should not enter or leave the school via the car park gate.

SAFETY AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

Please consider the following safety points to improve safety around our school.

- ALWAYS use the Crossing Patrol Person to cross the road
- PLEASE wait on the kerb until the Crossing Patrol is in position
- Cross in front of the Crossing Patrol - NEVER behind
- DO NOT park in the restricted area outside the school
- DO NOT cross between or from behind parked vehicles
- Children should try to walk home in groups
- If you are going to be LATE let us know
- **Children from Yr1 & Yr2 should be collected from the classroom**
- **If someone different is collecting the children let us know**
- If you need to collect a child from school or get something to a child please do so through the Secretary's office.

School Meals

Lunch:

- The school has its own canteen and the meals are prepared on site.
- The canteen in the school operates a traditional set dinners menu for Yr1-Yr3 and a mixture of set meals and cash cafeteria options from Yr4-Yr7
- Menus and price list are available from the school secretary.

Free School Meals:

- Anyone who feels that they may be entitled to free school meals should fill in a form for free school meals.
- Forms to apply for free school meals are available from the school secretary.

Healthy Lunches:

- Children may bring packed lunches to school.
- Glass bottles are not permitted in school (for obvious safety reasons)
- We try to encourage healthy options in the lunch boxes

Lunch at Home:

- Children whose parents wish them to go home for lunch must have a written note from parents and must be picked up and brought back to school.
- **Please note that the School Crossing Patrol is not on duty at lunch time**

Healthy Breaks:

- Milk may be bought in school (through E.E.C. subsidised scheme).
- Money to be collected termly (See School Office for details)
- Crisps/Sweets/Chocolate/Fizzy Drinks are not allowed at break.
- We encourage parents to send a healthy break with the children e.g. a piece of fruit, water, milk, vegetables or breads based foods (with no sugary spreads)

NUT ALLERGY

As we have children at school
with a serious **NUT ALLERGY**
all nuts and foods containing nuts
are **NOT** permitted in school at any time.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

At St John's we have a school uniform as we feel it is much more economical for parents. It is school policy that all children wear the school uniform.

BOYS	GIRLS
Grey Trousers	Green Pinafore
Grey Shirt	White Blouse
Grey Socks	Grey/Green Socks/Tights
Green V-neck Sweatshirt with the school logo	Green V-neck Sweatshirt/ Cardigan with the school logo
Grey & Green Tie	Grey & Green Tie

P.E. UNIFORM

Boys and Girls need:

Yr1-Yr3: Gym shoes: Slip on/Velcro fastened and a P.E. Bag

Yr4-Yr7: Gym shoes, black shorts and a bottle green T-Shirt

Uniform Grant Forms
Available from School Office

SUMMER UNIFORM

(Optional between Easter and Summer Holidays)

White T Shirt with collar

Green Sweatshirt with school logo

Green checked summer dress for girls

ALL UNIFORM SHOULD BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME

Please make sure that the children's footwear is suitable and will not slip off easily

All items of uniform are available from:

Waterside Superstore S&T Moores

Admissions Information

Principal in conjunction with the Board of Governors will select applicants on the basis of the criteria.

Admissions criteria to be used in the event that the school is over subscribed.

All pupils will be considered for enrolment provided that:

1) The school does not exceed its enrolment number as determined by the Department of Education; and/or
2) In the opinion of the Board of Governors their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

In the event of being over-subscribed on the last criterion that can be applied the following sub-criteria shall be used:

1) Children who have brothers/sisters, half brothers/sisters presently enrolled in the school
2) Children whose parent/guardian is presently being employed as a member of the school staff

If there are more applicants than places remaining when the last criterion has been applied then the selection of pupils will be based on residency in the Parish of St John's

The school welcomes applications for places from families with children with disabilities/special educational needs.

St John's P.S. Admissions Number: 50

Aims of Pastoral Care in St. John's Primary School

The pastoral care policy of St. John's Primary School is aimed at helping pupils to benefit to the full from their education and to acknowledge that education is about the whole child.

Everything possible must be done to remove the obstacles to successful learning to equip young people with the confidence and skills to be effective learners and effective members of the community.

To promote a caring, personal environment where the children can continue to develop:

Socially
Intellectually
Morally
Aesthetically
Physically

To help the children to develop to their potential through the provision of a constantly reviewed curriculum that includes:

Three main cross curricular skills:

Communication
Using mathematics
Using ICT
And:
Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

The main areas of Learning are:

Language and Literacy
Mathematics and Numeracy
The World Around Us
Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
Physical Development
Religious Education

The children deserve to be appreciated for all their achievements, however modest, and to feel confident in their ability to improve.

Aims of St John's Discipline Policy

The aims of St John's Discipline policy have been negotiated prior to the development of the policy and are consistent with and complementary to the overall aims of the school as an educational institution. The following are the aims that are central to St John's Discipline Policy:

In St John's Primary School we hope:
To develop in children a sense of their own self-discipline and an acceptance of responsibility for their own actions

To create a school community that is conducive to learning, there is mutual respect among all members, teaching and ancillary staff, parents and children

To foster good behaviour in a positive way within an environment where our children feel secure and free from emotional and physical harm

To enable our children to articulate their fears and concerns and be confident that they will receive a sympathetic and supportive response from teachers and other adults within the school community

To create a calm and caring community where teachers are able to teach and pupils are able to learn effectively

To recognise and respect the rights of each member of the school community

To promote and value:
- Respect for others
- Honesty
- Truthfulness
- Fairness
- Tolerance and compassion
- Self Respect
- Self Discipline
- Respect for property
- Respect for the environment

To help the children to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community

To promote and reward good behaviour and develop an ethos of kindness and co-operation

Positive Behaviour Approach

St John's Primary School does not just expect the children to behave well, but we organise ourselves in a way that positively encourages the desired behaviour outcomes

To achieve this we use a system of rewards and incentives that effectively helps to shape, establish and maintain positive and desirable behaviour

Positive rewards/encouragement will be used as often as possible.

Praise may be given in many ways and should include the following:-

A quiet word or smile – effort on a child's part in either improving work or behaviour.
A written comment on work or a written comment for parents
A visit to the principal and/or another class for commendation.
Public acknowledgement in front of class or assembly.
Use of school reports to make positive comments.
Verbal comment to parent when child is present.
Teachers will use their own reward system i.e. stars, tokens, certificates, badges etc.

Sharing Together,
Helping Each Other!!

THE CURRICULUM

The Curriculum for the three stages is set out in six Areas of Learning. Although the Areas of Learning are set out separately the teachers will, were appropriate, integrate learning across the six areas to make relevant and meaningful connections for the children.

The Areas of Learning in St John's are:

Language and Literacy	Mathematics and Numeracy
The World Around Us	Physical Development
The Arts	Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Religious Education is covered in addition to the six areas and integrated with other areas of learning were appropriate

Three Stages of the Primary Curriculum

Foundation Stage: Yr1 & Yr2
Key Stage 1: Yr2 & Yr3
Key Stage 2: Yr5-Yr7

Art and Craft

Working together. Four Hands are Better than Two!!

Foundation Stage

In St John's the Foundation Stage is when the children are in Yr 1 & Yr 2.

Young children come to school from a variety of different backgrounds, having had a range of diverse learning experiences at home and for most, some form of pre-school education.

The Foundation Stage aims to build on these learning experiences by providing children with an appropriate learning programme to develop their dispositions to learn and to provide them with the skills and competencies they will need to succeed in school and future life.

The Foundation Stage also endorses good early years practice where teachers have more flexibility in terms of what they teach. This flexibility allows teachers to follow the interests of the children, encouraging them to see links in their learning and to appreciate that the skills they learn in one area can be applied elsewhere.

Children Learning through Play and Creativity

Through the Foundation Stage in St John's

Children will have a positive attitude to learning

Children will settle more quickly in school life

Children will feel more confident and independent

Children will be well motivated, interested and happy in school

Children will find learning fun and enjoyable

Children will learn through a variety of teaching strategies

Children's learning experiences will be differentiated according to their needs

Emphasis is placed on the children's personal, social and emotional development

Classroom assistants work with the teachers in promoting the children's language and learning

Parents are encouraged to be involved and there is effective liaison between the parents and the school

Children make progress in their learning and they are not afraid to try and solve problems for themselves

Activity Based Learning!!

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

In St John's Literacy focuses on developing each child's ability to understand and use language as an integral part of learning in all areas in all areas of the curriculum. Language and Literacy are fundamental prerequisites for thinking, learning and interacting in personal, social and work contexts throughout life. Literacy is therefore a key to learning as well as a key to enjoyment and personal growth.

Language and Literacy will be considered in a holistic and recursive way. Children's knowledge, skills and understanding will be developed within an integrated programme that connects language and literacy work to the broader curriculum.

The programme of study for English is made up of three inter-related components.

~ Talking and Listening ~ Reading ~ Writing

The children are encouraged to explore and develop their language skills both orally and in written form. They have formal spelling and handwriting lessons and have opportunities to write for many different purposes.

Library Visit

Use is made of a progressive reading scheme supplemented by a variety of additional reading resources. Each child is encouraged to take home library books to be read and enjoyed at his or her own level.

Parents have an important part to play in their child's development by spending time in discussion with the child and listening while the child reads.
The importance of this kind of support should never be underestimated.
Reading is the key to success.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As a Catholic School we aim to work in a manner complementary to the Catholic Home;

By creating an atmosphere of a believing community committed to living out in its daily operations the Christian Way of Life.
To be a school which shows concern for each child as someone who is helped to become more Christ-like.
To provide and maintain the highest possible standards of education which are in keeping with the aptitudes and needs of each individual pupil.
To provide a carefully structured R.E. programme taught throughout the school and supported by regular visits and advice from the school chaplain.

Children follow the Alive-O series a programme that has been developed for children from P1-P7 and it is central to our Religious Education Programme. The books are well-designed and colourful and are designed to promote a cross-curricular approach to the teaching of R.E. and so the teaching of R.E. knows no subject boundaries. The successful implementation of this scheme involves parents, children, priests and teachers working together

Within the structure of the programme there are a series of sections based on preparing the children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist (Holy Communion) and Confirmation. School alone cannot prepare your child for the sacraments. This is a partnership task and in the course of preparation for these sacraments parents will be invited to meet teachers and priests for talks and prayer services.

Classes and individuals contribute to school assemblies and take part in significant religious events in the local community.

Pupils are encouraged to support a wide variety of charities, both in the local community and further a field. The Parish Priest will often visit the children in the school and lead whole school masses.

MATHEMATICS

Throughout the primary school, children should engage in a wide range of purposeful activities which should involve them in different modes of mathematical learning, including playing, exploring and investigating, doing and observing, talking and listening, asking questions, reflecting, drafting, reading and recording.

Mathematical ideas should be introduced to children in meaningful contexts. Teachers will create a well resourced and stimulating environment where children learn through taking part in oral work and a wide range of practical activities, including games, to develop and consolidate their learning. Activities will be balanced between tasks which develop knowledge, skills and understanding, and those which develop the ability to apply mathematical learning and solve problems.

The programme of study for mathematics covers the following areas:

~ Processes ~ Number ~ Measures ~ Shape and Space ~ Handling Data

The children are provided with opportunities to develop their understanding of these through practical activities, forming a sound foundation for their formal application and practice progressively through the school, and in work set for completion at home.

Investigating Capacity during Measures Week .

Investigating Patterns and Shapes

THE WORLD AROUND US

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The science and technology programme includes the study of
~ Living Things ~ Materials ~ Forces and Energy ~ Environment

Yr 7
Celebrating 100
Years of St
John's

HISTORY

The history programme of study is designed to provide the children with opportunities to develop an awareness of the past and the ways in which it was different from the present.
In Key Stage 2 pupils learn about important episodes and developments in the history of Ireland, Britain and the Wider world.

Exploring on the Frogs Field Trip

GEOGRAPHY

Our geography programme gives the children opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of people, places and processes in the world, both locally and beyond, and the necessary skills to help them conduct investigations.

THE ARTS

In St John's creativity is developed through every area of the curriculum. Art and Design and Music provide rich opportunities for developing creativity, allowing the children to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world in diverse ways, through pictures, sound, drama and dance. The children from a young age will be involved in a wide range of activities that will help them to develop their imagination and natural curiosity thus allowing them to express and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings with confidence.

ART AND DESIGN

The children are given opportunities to work in a number of different media and the results often become wall displays in classrooms and corridors which help to produce an attractive environment which reflects the ethos of the school.

MUSIC

Music plays an important part in the everyday life of the school. All children have opportunities to develop their understanding and enjoyment of music through listening, composing and performing. Each year a variety of musical productions are performed to an audience of parents and friends. A number of children have the chance to learn to play instruments - flute, violin, clarinet and recorder.

We also have a school choir that takes part in a variety of events and performances throughout the year

Peripatetic Music Service

Teachers from this service come in to the school weekly to teach selected children wind and string instruments.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In St John's the children will experience a broad and balanced PE Programme through which the children will develop their knowledge, understanding and skills, enabling them to participate and perform competently and confidently in a range of physical activities. All children should experience a sense of fun, enjoyment and achievement through a variety of progressively challenging and innovative activities.

The children are given opportunities to experience the four areas of physical education within the programme of study.

Athletics	**Dance**	**Swimming**
Games	**Gymnastics**	**Gaelic Games**

These contribute to the health of the child, encourage co-operation and also help children to make better use of their leisure time.

Years 5, 6 and 7 have swimming classes at Coleraine Leisure Centre and most children can take part in a variety of after school sporting activities during the year.

Fun! Excitement! Enjoyment! Activity!

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

In St John's Personal Development focuses on encouraging each child to become personally, emotionally, socially and physically effective, to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives and to become confident, independent and responsible citizens, making informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives.

The purpose of Personal Development is to provide the opportunity for specific attention to be given to emotional development, health and safety, physical activity and exercise, relationships with others and the development of moral thinking, values and action.

Through improving the children's Personal Development skills we can see positive benefits to the school ethos, pastoral care, discipline and relationships within the school and beyond.

Through Personal Development the children at St John's will develop:

- Self-confidence and self-esteem as individuals and a spiritual appreciation of their uniqueness
- Insights into their own emotions, attitudes and moral values and how they are formed;
- Understanding of the benefits and the importance of a healthy lifestyle
- Insights into society, other cultures and the environment, our interdependence and the need for mutual understanding and respect
- Their ability to use these insights to contribute to relationships, family life, the local and global community and the environment

Within St John's a lot of the Personal Development work will be carried out through various areas of the curriculum.

St John's PS Community Relations Education and Diversity Programme

The need for Mutual Understanding and Respect are vital in our society.
In St John's we have strong **CRED** links with

and **Killowen P.S. (Yr1-Yr7).**

ICT

In St John's we recognise that we are building learning for life in a fast moving world. All the children have access to interactive whiteboards in every classroom, iPads, computers and other technology equipment e.g. digital cameras, digital microscope, tape recorders and Roamer Robots etc.

ICT is used extensively throughout the school in all areas of the curriculum to support and enhance the quality of learning All classrooms have access to computers, interactive whiteboards and in addition we have a computer suite that can facilitate up to 32 children. In the early Years there are computers in the classroom to develop the children's early ICT skills.

The majority of the ICT available in the school is linked to the C2K system that is in place throughout Northern Ireland.

The children benefit from a wide variety of software to help develop the children's experiences within ICT. Some of the software we have available is particularly designed to support children with Special Educational needs.

Children working with the interactive whiteboard in the computer suite.

SPECIAL NEEDS

There is a Special Needs Co-ordinator in the St John's whose role is to advise and support the class teachers in their role or working with children with special needs.

The Special Needs Co-ordinator also assists teachers in providing more challenging tasks for children with above average ability

All Special Needs work is in line with the N.I. Code of Practice for Special Needs.

We try to identify children with Special Needs at an early stage and involve the parents in a supportive and informative way through regular meetings and feedback.

For children on individual education plans their progress will be discussed regularly with their parents and forms part of the termly parents meeting.

PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES & DISABLED ACCESS

The school has also been upgraded to full disability access from September 2004.

The school welcomes applications for places from families with children with disabilities.

We will endeavour to make special arrangements for children with disabilities to access all aspects of school life including extra curricular activities and school trips.

Homework

Homework has four main purposes.

To foster a link between home and school and to give parents an opportunity
to become more actively involved in their children's education.

To give an opportunity for children to practise, consolidate and develop work
already done in school.

To promote a sense of self-discipline and independence in each child.

To help child begin to establish routine and a pattern of learning in preparation for child's future education

By showing an interest in your child's homework you encourage his / her efforts and add support to the work of the teachers.

Homework will normally be given from Monday to Thursday nights throughout the school year. Please try to ensure that your child sits down at a table or desk (written work) and make an effort to sit with your child while he / she reads.

In P6 - P7 the children may find may that homework will take longer - Spring / Summer term in P6 and Autumn term in P7. From Christmas - P7 homework may be less formal and will often be based on project type work, which requires children to research or explore a topic on their own.

If your child is having difficulty with homework please do not hesitate to make arrangements to visit the class teacher.

Tears and anxiety should never be part of a child's homework!

Home/School Partnership

In St John's we believe that the co-operation and partnership between the home and the school is an essential element in the well being and education of all the children.

Parents are always welcome in the school and there are a number of opportunities for discussion with the teachers.

1. September: Open information sessions to find out how your child has settled in and an outline of what your child may be covering in the months ahead.
2. October: Yr1-Yr7 Individual Parent/Teacher Interviews.
3. February: Yr 7 Parents will met the Principal regarding Transfer to secondary school.
4. June: Parent/Teacher Interviews to discuss Annual Report if required.
5. Parents can request interviews with teachers if they have any concerns about their child.

Other links throughout the year include:

1. Weekly whole school newsletter
2. School website and Twitter updates
3. Termly Class information newsletter to parents
4. Building Together in the Foundation Stage: Yr 1 Parents
   A Programme outlining the work and partnership in the Foundation Stage followed by sessions on Literacy and Numeracy in the Foundation Stage
2. Information Sessions for Parents
3. Holy Communion and Confirmation Family Preparation Meetings

Pre-School Links

Parents and child will be invited into the school in the Summer Term. They will be given the opportunity to meet the Principal and the child's class teacher for Year 1.

Links with the local nursery school include a school visit for children with their nursery school teachers for a 'play morning' with Year 1 children. (Summer term)

When the children come to school for the first time parents are welcome to spend some time with them in the morning of their first few days.

Child Protection

The following principles form the basis for effective child protection practice in St John's Primary School and underpin the guidance that we follow:

- The welfare of the child is paramount; this over-rides all other considerations. Where a child is disabled or has special needs these must be taken into consideration.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; but where there is a conflict the child must always come first.
- Children have a right to be heard, to be listened to and to be taken seriously. Taking account of their age and understanding they should be consulted and involved in all matters and decisions that may affect their lives. Where a child has a disability specialist assistance should be sought to achieve this.
- Parents/carers have a right to respect and should be consulted and involved in all matters that affect their family.

The Child Protection Policy is intended to protect children and where there are grounds for concern it is better to be over cautious than to risk a child's safety.

All adults who volunteer to work with the children in St John's School will be vetted and references will be taken up.

Copies of the School's Child Protection Policy are available on request. The policy covers the following areas:

Policy Principles	Role of Designated Teachers
School Procedures	Vetting of Volunteers
Making Complaints	Contact Numbers

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In St John's we aim to offer a wide variety of extra curricular activities for the enjoyment of the children.

1. Multi Skills
2. Gaelic Football
3. Hurling and Camogie
4. Netball
5. Soccer
6. Orchestra
7. Tennis
8. School Magazine
9. Drama
10. ICT

In addition to this the children will get the chance to compete inter school competitions.

1. Inter School Football
2. Inter School Netball
3. Athletics
4. Swimming
5. Gaelic Football
6. Hurling
7. Credit Union Quiz
8. Art Competitions
9. Choir Performances

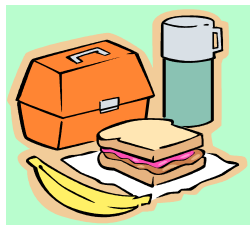
HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES

Please consider sending a Healthy lunch box to help reinforce the Healthy eating policy we have in school.

Eating a healthy lunch

The key to a healthy lunchbox is to include a balance of appropriate foods from the four main food groups -

1. Breads and cereals
2. Fruit and vegetables
3. Meat and alternatives
4. Milk and dairy products



Please try to reduce Crisps and Chocolate
(Either/or and **NOT** every day)

HEALTHY BREAKS!!

Our school has been encouraging pupils to eat a healthy break time snack.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS!!

YOGHURTS: Have a high sugar content and are not suitable for a break time snack.

1 small pot = 1-2 spoonfuls of sugar
1 large pot = 2-6 spoonfuls of sugar

CHEESE: Has a high salt and fat content. Not a good break time snack! Real cheese not the processed stuff could form part of the child's lunch box as it is a good source of calcium.

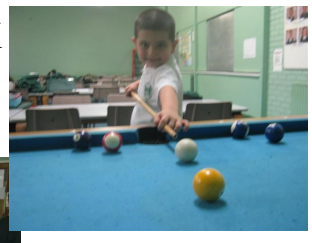
SUITABLE HEALTHY BREAKS:

MILK
WATER
FRUIT
VEGETABLES
BREAD BASED FOODS
E.g. Pancakes/Scones
(with low fat butter/no other spreads)

AFTER SCHOOL'S CLUB

ICT

HOMEWORK CLUB



GAMES

ART

COOKING

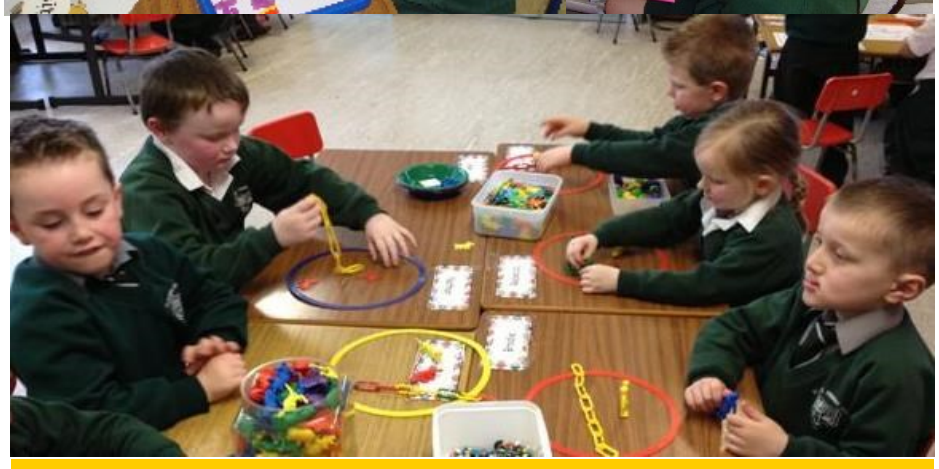
OUTDOOR PLAY

St John's is an Extended School.

Breakfast Club 8.15—8.50 am Cost: £1

One Pick Up Club 1.50—3.00 pm Cost: £2

After school Club 2.00/3.00—5.30 pm Cost £2 per hour



‘A broad and balanced curriculum for each child..’
‘A caring and stimulating environment..’
School Mission Statement