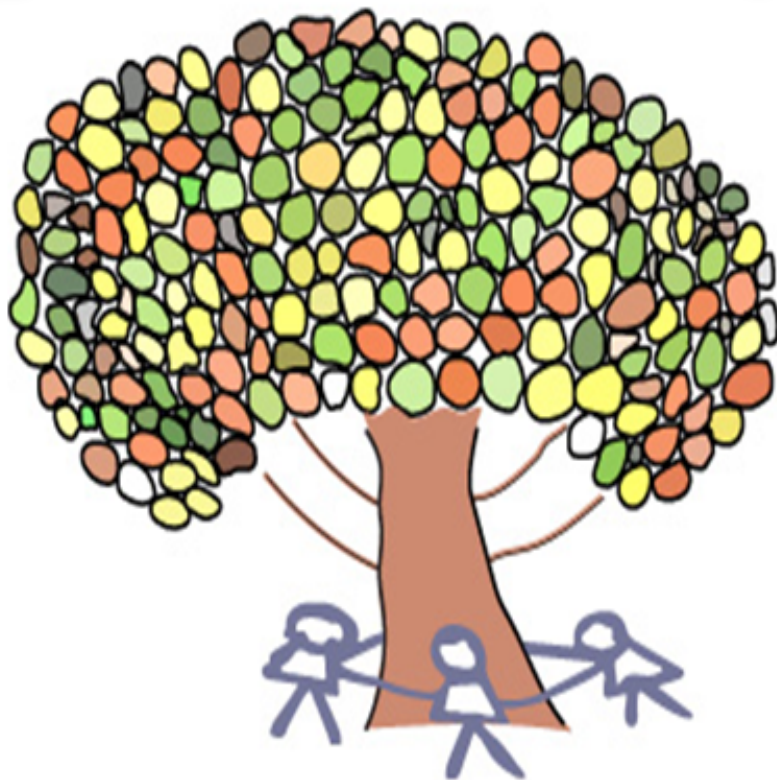


INFORMATION BOOKLET

Junior Infants

2025/2026

KILMURRY MCMAHON N.S.



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KILMURRY McMAHON NATIONAL SCHOOL

FORWORD

Starting school will be a significant, yet positive change in the life of your child. This is a time when parents and teachers should take special care to ensure that the transition from pre-school to primary school is as smooth as possible. If a child's first experience of school is one of happy involvement, a very good foundation will have been laid for fruitful school years ahead.

With this aim in mind, we have put together this booklet as a general guide for parents. It deals briefly with the period before your child comes to school, and their introductory stage in Junior Infants. We hope that you will find this helpful and that your child will be happy and fullfilled with us here in Kilmurry McMahon NS.

**Great oaks from
little acorns grow**





LETTER OF WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On behalf of our Board of Management and staff, I would like to welcome you to Kilmurry McMahon National School. I hope that you find this booklet useful as you prepare to send your child to Kilmurry McMahon N.S. this September. This booklet is intended to provide you with a helpful introduction to all aspects of school life.

We hope you are looking forward to your child's next milestone, starting Junior Infants in Kilmurry McMahon N.S. We hope to get to know you, our parents, while we get to know your children. Together, we hope to develop a warm, friendly and inclusive atmosphere and a vibrant school community with the joint aim of providing the best possible education for all the children in our school.

Be assured that you will always be welcome.

I look forward to getting to know you and your children.

Niamh Kelly
School Principal





OUR SCHOOL ETHOS

A Roman Catholic School (which is established in connection with the Minister) aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people.

The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Catholic school provides Religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith.



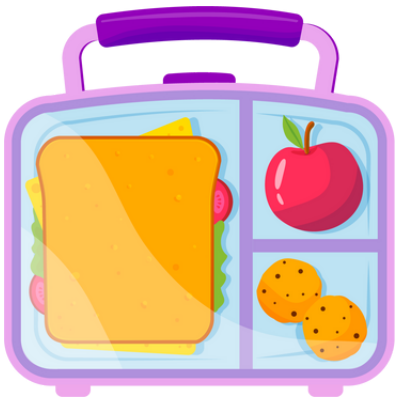
PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL

Before Your Child Starts...

Your child's physical, emotional and social independence will aid their sense of security and confidence as they settle into Junior Infants. The following may help your child's preparation for primary school over the coming months.

It would be very helpful if your child is able to:

- Button/unbutton/zip/unzip a coat and hang it up.
- Fasten/tie their own shoes - velcro fasteners are most convenient.
- Share toys and turn-take with others.
- Tidy up and put play items away.
- Use a tissue when necessary.
- Use the toilet unaided and fasten trouser buttons.



HELPFUL INFORMATION



- Our school is part of the Hot School Meals Programme, which means that each child will receive a hot meal every day for big lunch.
To support this, please ensure your child:
 1. Brings a fork to school each day
 2. Brings a lunchbox or lunch bag to take home any uneaten food this helps you monitor what your child has eaten
 3. Brings a small snack for the morning break
 4. Brings a drink
- Under our healthy eating policy, children are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks every day. Children may bring a small treat on Friday.
- Children should be able to open and close all boxes and items of food independently. Please be mindful of certain yoghurt products which often cause spillages. It is often helpful to peel and chop fruit.
- It would be very beneficial if children are able to recognise their own name on books and belongings before starting school.
- Please remember to have **a name label on everything** that your child owns. **This is really important.**



THE BIG DAY

On the first day of school, please be as casual as you can when you arrive at the school. Assure your child that you will be back shortly, say goodbye and leave without delay.

Speak with your children about school over the summer break and refer to it as a happy place where they will have many wonderful experiences.

TIMETABLE FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

First Day of School	Thursday 28 th August
28 th - 5 th September	Children commence school at 9:20am
Early Collection	Children finish at 12:30pm
From 8 th September	Children commence school at 9:20am
Full Infant school day	Children finish at 2:00pm





NORMAL SCHOOL DAY

School starts	9.20am
SOS (small break)	11.05-11.15am
LÓN (big break)	12.30-1.00pm
Home time for Infants	2.00pm

Punctuality in terms of dropping and collecting your child is important. While school starts at 9:20am children are asked to be in school by 9.15am to allow them time to settle in for their day. Children may enter the school after 9.05am. Children are asked not be on school grounds before this time.

When children arrive at school they go directly to their classroom. At hometime, the class teacher will escort them to the front gate. If your child is being collected from school by another person we ask you to please inform the class teacher/school of this.



AS TIME GOES ON...

Children need plenty of rest after the effort and excitement of a day at school. You should ensure that your child gets to bed early and has a good night's sleep.

- When they have settled into Junior Infants, continue to show interest in their daily adventures.
- Your child will start to get Homework in early September, details of which will be communicated to you when your child starts school. The expected time for infant homework is 10-15 minutes per day, as per our Homework policy. Homework will be detailed in your child's homework journal weekly. Journals will be checked each morning by the class teacher. Please sign homework following its completion daily.
- The Homework Journal will act as a means of communication between home and school. If you need to speak with the class teacher please write a note in the journal, or alternatively email the school. The teacher will make an appointment to meet you at a time that is mutually convenient.



SCHOOL CALENDAR



School Calendar 2025/2026

AUGUST	Reopening Thursday 28 th August 2025
OCTOBER	<u>Halloween Holidays</u> School closed from Monday 27TH October to Friday 31ST October 2025 inclusive
DECEMBER	<u>Christmas Holidays</u> School will close Friday 19th December at 12 noon and re-open Monday 5th January 2026
FEBRUARY	<u>Bank Holiday</u> Monday 2nd February 2026 <u>Mid Term Break</u> School will be closed Thursday 19th and Friday 20th February 2026 inclusive
MARCH/APRIL	<u>St. Patrick's Day</u> School closed Monday 16th March & Tuesday 17th March <u>Easter Holidays</u> School will close at 12 noon on Friday 27th March 2026 School will re-open Monday 13th April 2026
MAY	<u>May Bank Holiday Weekend.</u> School closed Monday 4th May
JUNE	<u>June Bank Holiday Weekend.</u> School closed Friday 29th May & Monday 1st June <u>Summer Holidays</u> School will close Wednesday 24th June at 12 noon



FREE BOOK SCHEME

From September 2023, school books, workbooks and copybooks for children in primary schools will be provided to every child free by their school.

The school books and workbooks will be on loan to the children. They must be returned at the end of the school year

It is important that books are kept in good condition so they can be re-used. Please help make sure your child/children keep the school books safe and takes care of them, so they can be used again by another child

Our school book grant does not cover stationery. A list of stationery that your child will need in Junior Infants is included on the next page.

Our schools voluntary contribution is 40 euro per child. This covers costs such as art and craft supplies, photocopying, Accelerated Reader, Aistear supplies, gymnastics/football coaches etc. for your child for the year





Stationery List 2025/2026

Please label everything on your child's stationery list

- triangular pencils x3
- pencil sharpener x3
 - eraser x3
 - twistables
 - glue stick x3
 - small ruler
- lunchbox to fit hot food box
- old T-shirt (art)



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Boys/Girls:

The school uniform consists of a grey polo t-shirt, grey skirt/pinafore/trousers and red school crested half-zip jumper. The school jumper is available in The Family Store in Kilrush. On PE days children can wear navy/black tracksuit bottoms

Please clearly label school jumpers and half-zips with child's name.



SCHOOL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Kilmurry McMahon National School operates under the Rules for National Schools which are drawn up by the Minister for Education (www.education.ie). The Department of Education and Science (DES) provides a percentage of funding and pays teachers' salaries. The DES Inspectors monitor the implementation of the curriculum in the school.

National schools are managed by a Board of Management which is set up according to Departmental guidelines with elected parent and teacher nominees, nominees of the Patron and members from the wider community.

The Board is responsible for the appointment of teachers and of other staff and for the day- to-day management of the school including heating, cleaning and maintenance of the building.

The Board is also responsible for ensuring that the finances necessary for running the school are available. As outlined above, the DES provides a percentage of funding and the Board of Management must provide the remainder of the costs. This money is raised in a variety of ways, including regular fund-raising by parents.

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF KILMURRY McMAHON N.S. 2023-2027

Chairperson: Gerard Cotter

Principal/Sectretary: Niamh Kelly

Teacher Nominee: Mary Lynch

Treasurer/ Community Representative: Sinéad Davis

Parents' Nominee: John Cahill

Parents' Nominee: Sinéad Boland

Community Representative: Martin Fitzpatrick

Patron Nominee: Mary Neylon

School Roll Number: 20447H

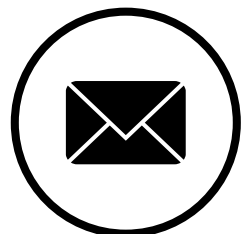
ABSENCES

- All absences must be explained to the class teacher in writing or through direct communication with the class teacher. This may be done in advance of planned absences, or during/following unexpected absences.
- Our school abides by the Education and Welfare Act 2000. Under this act, if a child is absent for more than 20 school days, a report must be sent by the school to TUSLA, the Child & Family agency.
- Teachers will not be providing educational work for children missing school time due to family holidays.





COMMUNICATION



- Good communication between parents and school is very important for all involved. If you have any queries, problems or concerns please contact your child's teacher to arrange speaking with her.
- In addition, if there is any change in home circumstance (illness, bereavement, separation or anything that you feel may affect your child), please let your child's teacher know, as this will enable them to support your child accordingly. We assure you of our utmost sensitivity with such information.
- Please check your child's homework journal nightly as important information may be contained within.
- Home- School Links: Regular updates, news and important information is circulated to all parents via email. Please keep an eye on your emails for our home-school links newsletters.
- Text-a-Parent: Important information is also communicated to your nominated mobile phone.
- School updates, news and photographs are all available to be seen on our school facebook page and school website www.kilmurzymcmahonns.ie

Remember to let us know if your contact details change so that we can update our records.



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT



Parents have a range of talents, abilities and skills that have the potential to enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for the children. Parents may participate in and make a valuable contribution to the school by:

- Going forward for election of the Board of Management
- Becoming a member of the Parents Association
- Fundraising
- Giving time to share a hobby, skill or interest during school hours in association with class teachers and the Principal
- Suggesting and getting involved in interesting projects for the children.
- Supporting initiatives in subject areas organised by the school during themed weeks, e.g. Seachtain na Gaeilge, Literacy Week, Maths & Engineering (STEM) Week.

If you would like to offer your time or service to our school, please make yourself known to the school Principal, your child's class teacher or the Parents Association.

Parents Association

Why do we have a Parents' Association?

The parents' association is the structure through which parents in our school can work together for the best possible education for their children. The parents' association works with the principal, staff and the board of management to build effective an partnership between the home and school.

What does the parents' association do?

The Parents' Association is entitled to raise funds for the administration and activities of the association. They shall consult with the Board about any fund-raising for the school or school projects. The approval of the Board is needed prior to these funds being raised. The expenditure of these funds is by the Board of Management in consultation with the Parents' Association. All monies raised or generated for an agreed project for the school should, as soon as is practicable, be lodged to the school account. Any funds raised must be used for the purpose(s) for which the money was collected. The parents' association can also help with special events organised in the school such as Christmas concerts, Communions, Confirmations etc.

How can other parents get involved?

There are meetings held during the school year. All parents are welcome to attend! We look forward to seeing some new faces every September!

HEALTH

Like most other Primary Schools, Kilmurry McMahon NS is under the administration of the Health Service Executive. Childhood vaccinations and screening tests for sight, hearing and dental problems may be offered to your child whilst attending the school. You will be asked to sign a consent form before any health test or intervention. If your child has a particular issue in any of these areas, they can be referred to the Health Centre for treatment.

Head Lice

No matter how careful you are about your child's hair, there is still a chance that it can become infested with head-lice if he/she comes in contact with other children. It is part of school life! Please check your child's hair regularly. It is very important that you inform your child's teacher immediately if you find head-lice, as they are highly contagious. We will immediately notify all parents to check their children's hair.



Health Problems

If your child has a particular health problem such as allergies, asthma, diabetes etc., you should advise the school. The school should be made aware of the name and address of your family doctor.

If your child needs medication on a regular basis you may need to make special arrangements for this.

As a general rule, teachers should not be involved in the administration of medication to pupils. However, where a teacher must become involved the following procedure should be adhered to:-

1. The teacher must obtain authorisation from the Board of Management to administer the medication.
2. The parent(s) should write to the school management requesting permission for the teacher to administer the medication enclosing details of the procedure and indemnifying the teacher for same. This request must be in writing for school records.
3. In cases where a child has a chronic illness the parents will be asked to fill out a Chronic Illness form which will give the school the necessary information on what to do in the event of a medical crisis with your child.



SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Principal & 4th/5th/6th class teacher: Niamh Kelly

Deputy Principal & 1st/2nd/3rd class teacher: Mary Lynch

Junior & Senior Infants teacher: Sinéad Gallagher & Nicola Madigan

Special Education Teacher: Louise Talty

SNA: Marie Walsh

Secretary: Eilís Daly

Caretaker: Bernie McCarthy



I would like to take this final opportunity to welcome you all to Kilmurry McMahan NS and hope that both you and your child have a very rewarding and fulfilling time with us here.

Niamh Kelly
Principal