



***Scoil An Croí Ró Naofa,  
Belclare***

***Information booklet  
for  
Parents of children  
Starting School  
September 2018***

*Email; [belclarens@gmail.com](mailto:belclarens@gmail.com)  
[www.belclarens.ie](http://www.belclarens.ie)  
[www.facebook.com/www.belclarens.ie](https://www.facebook.com/www.belclarens.ie)  
093 55569*



## ***FOREWORD***

### **Faile romhat agus roimh do phaiste**

Starting school will be the first big change in the life of your child. Up to this he/she has felt safe and secure with you in the home and family but now he is facing the wider world of classroom and school. This may seem a big step for someone so small but most children manage it without any great fuss or stress - and in fact take to it like ducks to water.

### **Before your child starts.....**

You should ensure that he/she is as independent as possible - physically, emotionally and socially. If he/she can look after himself/herself in these areas he/she will feel secure and confident and settle in readily.

It would help greatly if he/she is able to: -

- + Button and unbutton his/her coat and hang it up.
- + Use the toilet without help and manage pants buttons.
- + Also encourage personal hygiene and cleanliness. Your child should know to flush the toilet and wash his/her hands, without having to be told.
- + Use his/her handkerchief when necessary.
- + Share toys and playthings with others and take turns
- + Tidy up and put away his/her playthings.
- + Remain contentedly for a few hours in the home of a relation, friend or neighbour, then separation from his/her parents when he/she starts school will not cause him/her any great anxiety.

## **PREPARING FOR THE BIG DAY.**

The child's first day at school is a day to remember for the rest of his/her life. You can help to make it a really happy one for him/her.

- ✚ **Tell him/her about school** beforehand, casually, and talk about it as a happy place where there will be a big welcome for him/her and he/she will meet new friends.
- ✚ **Don't use school or the teacher as a threat.** "If you behave like that for the teacher she'll murder you" though said light-heartedly can make some children very apprehensive.
- ✚ If you feel it would help, you could take him/her for a stroll to the junior classroom and play area on an afternoon during June when the other children have gone home. He/She can browse around and become familiar with his/her new environment. On arrival you could drop in to meet the Principal with him/her and perhaps he/she could meet his/her teacher as well.
- ✚ He/she will like to have **his/her new uniform and his/her new bag** when he begins. These help him/her identify more readily with the school and other children
- ✚ It is advisable to have velcro strapped shoes
- ✚ Your child's books will be taken from him/her, the first day of school and the teacher will hold on to them until such time as they are needed. This minimises books getting lost.
- ✚ Please have your child warned of this fact: in case he/she thinks they will never see the books again. All books/copies must be marked with your child's name and readers must be covered. Your child will only feel important if he/she has something in his/her school bag, so perhaps you could buy a copy or colouring book for him/her, which he/she could use at home.

## **Packed Lunches**

**We will ask you to encourage a healthy lunch right from the start.** Also, please only give your child something you feel he/she can easily manage to eat. A healthy packed lunch should contain a sandwich, a suitable drink and some fruit.

## **As Time Goes on....**

School begins at 9.30am, infants go home at 2.00pm. Please make sure that your child is collected at 2pm. **Get him/her into the habit of being in good time for school from the beginning.** Mid-morning break 11.30am to 11.40am. Lunch break is from 1.00pm to 1.30 pm.

## **Going home.**

Be sure to **collect him/her on time.** Children can become very upset if they feel they are forgotten. Keep out of view until the children are released from class. If at any time the collecting routine has to be changed ensure you tell the child and the teacher.

There is a preschool in the building and they offer after school from 2pm to 3pm. Pupils can also avail of afterschool supervision in one of the classrooms from 3pm to 4pm.

## **A word of advice.**

**Trust the teacher.** She is experienced and resourceful and is used to coping with all kinds of starting of problems.

**Try not to show any outward signs of your own distress.** Sometimes the parents are more upset than the child and are the main cause of his/her anxiety.

When you have reassured him/her, leave as fast as possible. The teacher can distract and humour him/her more easily when you are not around. Check back discreetly in a short while. You will invariably find that calm has been restored.

Children often forget or relay messages incorrectly, so please, check your child's bag each night for notes. We are using a text service as a means of alerting parents to changes in schedule, upcoming events etc. Please ensure you notify us of any changes to your contact details.



## **SOME IMPORTANT AREAS OF EARLY LEARNING.**

### **First steps in Reading.**

#### **You can help.....**

- ✚ Have attractive colourful books in the home.
- ✚ Read him/her a variety of stories from time to time. He/she will get to associate these wonderful tales with books and reading.
- ✚ Look at the pictures with him/her and talk to him/her about what they say.
- ✚ Read him/her nursery rhymes. He/she will learn them off his/her own bat. Don't try to push him/her.

- + Say the alphabet song with your child, so that he/she at least heard of the letters. If he/she knows what each one looks like, all the better.

## Understanding Maths

### But you can help.....

In the course of your ordinary daily routine in the home, in the shop, in the neighbourhood you should use suitable opportunities to casually introduce the math's vocabulary referred to above. E.g. How many cakes? The glass is full/empty. We turn left at the lights.

The child gets to understand maths best by handling and investigating and using real objects. This has been his/her natural method of learning since he/she was a baby. This at times can be a nuisance but if it allows him/her to do the learning him/herself the final result is well worth it.

**Social skills** are very important. We encourage good manners at all times, please/thank you, addressing teachers properly, being courteous to fellow students and teachers. It is important to ask your child whom he/she played with at school and to ensure he/she isn't alone, also encourage mixing rather than being dependent on one friend only. **Rough behaviour is totally discouraged in the playground or in any part of the school.** You will find a list of school rules and policies in the enclosed code of behaviour.

The school is fortunate to have multimedia computers and your child will work on these after the initial first few weeks.

## **Education Welfare Act**

Under this act all children must now attend a recognised school until they are 16 years of age and have completed three years in Post Primary Education. As parents/guardians you have a responsibility to ensure that your child attends school on each school day and to notify the school of the reason for your child's absence if your child is not in school on a school day. It is the duty of the school Principal to keep a record of each child's attendance at the school and the reasons for any failure to attend, and to inform the Education Welfare Officer in writing about any child who misses 20 days or more in total during the school year.

## **PARTING THOUGHTS**

### **Teacher and Parent.**

At the early stages some parents meet the teacher almost daily and this is a very desirable thing. However, if there is something in particular that you would like to discuss you can arrange to meet her at a time when you both can have a little peace and quiet.

### **Our hope**

We are offering this Guide to Parents as a little practical help in dealing with the education of their children at the very early stages. We will be very happy if you dip into it from time to time and find something in it of value to you and your child.

*“Mol an oige, agus tiocfaidh siad”.*

## ***BELCLARE SCHOOL UNIFORM***

### **The uniform for Belclare School is:**

**Boys:** Grey Pants,  
Grey Jumper with school crest  
Blue shirt/polo shirt  
Royal blue tie.

**Girls;** Grey Pinafore / Pants  
Grey Cardigan with school crest  
Blue shirt/polo shirt  
Royal blue tie.

### **PE Uniform**

P.E.uniform is for PE/Swimming days etc. This uniform consists of a navy sweatshirt (with school crest) and a navy trackpants, worn with the regular blue polo shirt.

All of the above are available at the National School Wear Centre in Tuam on Chapel Lane. (093)52240

### **School Transport.**

A list of children applying for school transport will be forwarded to Bus Eireann from the school. In order to qualify for free transport the child must be 2Km from their nearest school. Any queries about your child's eligibility for free transport contact Bus Eireann at (091) 537512

Our website [www.belclarens.ie](http://www.belclarens.ie) contains a lot of information about the school.

You will find a section regarding our school policies, it is important that you familiarise yourself with these policies especially;

- ✚ Child Protection Policy
- ✚ Anti Bullying Policy
- ✚ Relationships & Sexuality Policy (R.S.E.)

If you have any queries please feel free to contact us by phone at 093 55569 or by email at [belclarens@gmail.com](mailto:belclarens@gmail.com)

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Belclare National School.