



Pre-School Newsletter 1.

Off to a great start!

Well done to all our Pre-School children for making a great start to their learning journey at St. MacNissi's.

Thank you also to all family members, day care providers, child minders and friends who have also made great start to life and routines at Pre-School this academic year.

In partnership with home and school, we aim to continue to support the Pre-School children in establishing smooth transitions, regular and predictable routines in a nurturing, safe, fun, and happy learning environment.

We appreciate your patience and understanding in working with school during these early weeks at school especially during dismissal while we get to know all the adults!

Uniform and Belongings:

The children are all looking super in their shiny new St. MacNissi's uniform.



To promote as much independence for your child and to help us to return your child's belongings to them, ensure that: **all items of clothing including coats are clearly labelled with your child's full name.**

Please note:

- Only stud earrings may be worn. Jewellery of any other kind is to be left at home.
- Ensure that your child's change of clothing has been replaced once used.
- **All belongings including bags and toys are to be left at home.**

Routines and Rules

At Pre-School, the children have been trying hard to...

- have a go at new things.
- learn new names.
- make new friends.
- have walking feet.
- use gentle hands.
- take turns and share.
- join in chats.
- listen to others.
- help at tidy up time.
- do their best in their work and
- engage in friendly behaviours...

and the list goes on!

As with all things, it takes time and plenty of practice to learn new skills.

Learning about emotions, self-regulation and rules are no different to learning how to walk, ride a bike or eat with a spoon....it takes practice, praise, and consistency in approach.

At Pre-School we highlight and reward positive behaviours saying what was good e.g.

"Well done for sharing the cars,"

"That was kind you helped your friend to pick up the Duplo,"

"Great job getting a timer to help wait for your turn,"

“Lovely gentle hands playing with the trucks.”

During the year, we will continue to explore routines, rules, and emotions through various strategies.



One of the ways we do this is through story.

To begin to develop a greater understanding of what our Pre-School 'Golden Rules' mean we use the Jenny Mosley books.

These stories expand on each rule through relatable incidents we can explore so we can promote learning every day in a 'fun and safe way.'



Pre-School Golden Rules

1. We are gentle.
2. We are kind and helpful.
3. We listen.
4. We are honest (tell the truth).
5. We work hard (try our best).
6. We look after property (our own and school belongings)



At home you could have a go at exploring how our 'Golden Rules' can relate to family life.

A lovely little story we use at Pre-School to explore various emotions is 'The Colour Monster.'



Might be worth adding to the Christmas list...apologies for early mentioning of Christmas!

How to help at home - a few key areas

- Promote independence in dressing, especially coats.
- Promote independence in managing footwear.
- Promote independence in attending to toilet needs.
- Reinforce using a tissue.
- Reinforce handwashing.

The 'Safe food' website has great resources to support handwashing.

<https://www.safefood.net/food-safety-kids/handwashing>



Getting Ready to Learn (GRTL)

We are fortunate to be taking part in the DE funded "Getting Ready to Learn" project again this year. There will be useful information headed your way to help support your child's learning and development during their Pre-School year.

The aim of the GRTL project is to raise standards for all Pre-School children. Our focus is on the 'Big Bedtime Read' with the key GRTL messages:

- A reduction of screen time
- The promotion of consistent and positive bedtime routines and
- The promotion of reading for fun, closeness, relaxation and to promote a calm readiness for sleep.

We will be in touch to let you know more about our home lending library, when it will commence and how it will operate - hopefully this will begin by November.

I have attached some Nursery Rhymes from GRTL for you to try at home in supporting your child's early language development. Nursery Rhymes are also great for promoting an ear for rhythm and rhyme in addition to being a lot of fun! There are lots of tips and information on the GRTL Nursery Rhyme leaflet too.

Parentline NI

This service is free and offers a wide range of support materials for families on a wide range of topics, it is worth a wee look if you would like to avail of training, support or to gain more information e.g. on toileting, sleep, transitions, choices.



Call Parentline NI today for advice, support or guidance.

 **0808 8020 400**

Policies

Can be accessed on the school website.



To all our Pre-School friends who have turned four!

Anna - 28/06/23
Austin - 28/06/23
Rory - 22/07/23
Conor - 09/08/23
Tiarnán - 31/08/23
Mila - 04/09/23
Noah - 08/09/23
Sasha - 13/09/23
Rita - 23/09/23



And finally,

I have been thinking about all the great progress the children have been making over the past few weeks. I have noticed them adapt, change, and grow. I have seen determination, patience, and resilience.

The children will continue to do this over the year and find some mountains higher to climb while others are easy to navigate - that is typical of all of us.

Words of encouragement from the grown ups in their lives help to scaffold the learning and make it easier to take risks whether that risk is to try putting on a coat independently or holding a paintbrush.

I found these wee words of encouragement and thought I would share.



I would add in...

8. I will help.
9. We can do this together
10. Thank you

Take care from,
Mrs McCorry (Pre-School Teacher/Leader)
Mrs Lavery (Deputy Leader & Classroom Assistant)
Miss Bunting (Classroom Assistant)