



# Prospective Enrolments Junior Infants Sept 2023

# What are Community National Schools?

- ▶ Community National Schools were established in 2008 and are managed by local Education and Training Boards, ours being Kildare & Wicklow KWETB. Our Board of Management is in effect a committee of the KWETB, with many functions resting with the KWETB such as HR, Finance, Buildings.
- ▶ Community National Schools are child-centred, multid denominational schools that strive for excellence in teaching and learning.
- ▶ You can learn more about Community National Schools at <https://cns.ie/>

# Vision & Mission Statement for GCNS

## Our Vision

- ▶ Greystones Community National School was established by the Department of Education and Skills in 2015 under the patronage of Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board.
- ▶ As a school, every day we strive to provide a happy, safe school for every member of our school community. We do this by valuing each individual, maintaining a positive environment, working together, celebrating uniqueness, respecting ourselves and others and living the ethos of Community National Schools.

## Our Mission

### Mission Statement for Greystones Community National School

The Mission of Greystones CNS, is for each member of our school community to embody the core values of community national schools every day in supporting each other to become the best we can be:

#### **Equality**

We welcome and celebrate every member of our school community

#### **Respect**

We are respectful in all that we do

#### **Care**

We care about our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others

We help each other

We care for the environment

#### **Excellence in Education**

We aim high in all that we do

#### **Community**

We are active members of our communities

# GMGY! Curriculum - <https://cns.ie/goodness-me-goodness-you-new/>



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- ▶ GMGY was redeveloped in 2018 and we are on the front cover of the programme.
- ▶ This is the multi denomination ethics programme used in CNS schools.
- ▶ 4 Strands: My Stories – centres on the child themselves, We Are A CNS – values of respect, equality, human rights and citizenship, Thinking Time – develop the children’s thinking & emotional skills (Weaving Wellbeing), Beliefs and Religion – multi d approach, learning about and from each other etc.
- ▶ For those interested in Sacramental Preparation for their child, this happens in conjunction with the local Catholic parish outside of school.

# A day in Junior Infants

- ▶ We teach 11 curriculum subjects in primary school and the GMGY Curriculum: Language (English and Gaeilge), Maths, Geography, History, Science, Physical Education, Social Personal Health Education, Art, Drama and Music.
- ▶ There are 27 in each class – this is the max class size in the school. There is one teacher at least and we try to maintain a second adult in each class (teacher or sna). Children in infants have adult supervision at all times.
- ▶ We use Aistear (play based) methodology in initial years and we have invested heavily in the right resources to support a play based and interactive curriculum for our children.
- ▶ Lessons in the infant classroom are typically 30 minutes in length.
- ▶ 2 eating & playing breaks – a smaller fruit snack in the morning approx 10:30 and a bigger lunch break approx 12:10. Children need to be independent with their lunch boxes, beakers and food. Please begin practicing. They eat for about 5-10mins per break.
- ▶ Playtimes on yard are supervised by teachers and SNAs. Junior and Senior Infants have separate play areas right beside the infant entrance.

# Teaching & Learning in GCNS

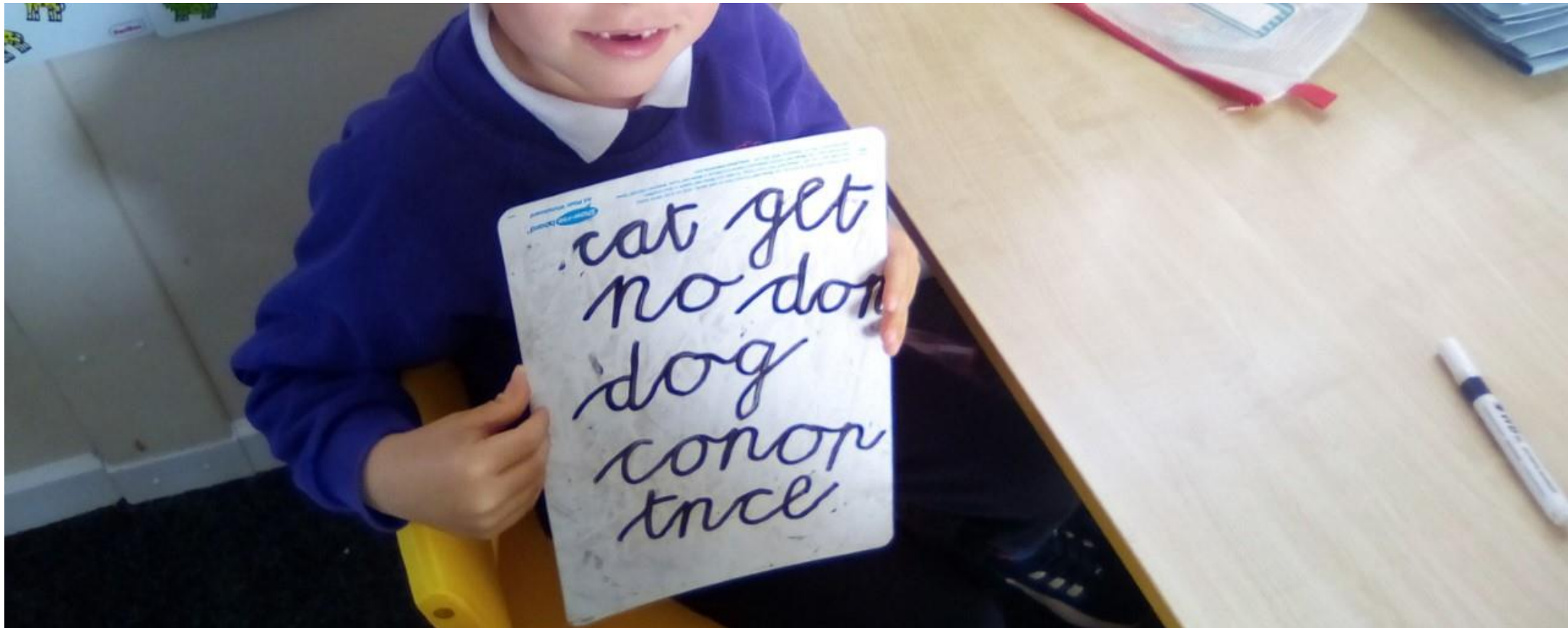
- ▶ We are inspected by the DES Inspectorate.
- ▶ We have had several inspections including a full Literacy Evaluation from the 2019/20 and received the highest praise in the published report from the two inspectors for the teaching and learning of Literacy in our school.
- ▶ We ensure Assessment for Learning is at the core of our pedagogy and have systems in place to ensure similar standards and structures are used by all teachers throughout the school
- ▶ We are passionate about getting the foundations right in Junior Infants, leading to a love of learning that will last throughout life. For this reason, we don't engage in formal reading with Junior Infants as a whole class initially. Instead we concentrate on phonological awareness, phonics, comprehension and other fundamental skills we need to know when reading.
- ▶ When we have a better sense of ability groupings we use blended approach of Station Teaching, whole class teaching and small group instruction. This allows us to match specific learning outcomes to specific groups of children where appropriate thus ensuring the children are reaching their full potential.

# Literacy & Numeracy

- ▶ We use Jolly Phonics in the infant classes to allow children to develop their phonological awareness and learn the basics of reading.
- ▶ We use cursive handwriting in the infant classes and across the school.
- ▶ We implement the Maths curriculum by delivering carefully planned and differentiated lessons to the infant classes with 2<sup>nd</sup> adult support where possible.
- ▶ Station teaching is deployed in Literacy and Numeracy to great effect in the infant classrooms. Station Teaching occurs when a class is divided into four or five small groups of pupils and they receive intensive tuition at the four or five different stations with the help of additional adults (e.g) in literacy focusing on New Reading, Familiar Reading, Phonics/Word Work, Writing and Oral Language.



# SAMPLES CURSIVE AND FIRST STEPS



# FIRST STEPS – NARRATIVE WRITING

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  |  |  |
| The pirates on their ship.   | They found some treasure but a monkey stole it.                                     | The pirates found it!  |

# Programmes we have invested in

- ▶ Dabledoo Music & Drama – Interactive music & drama programme
- ▶ Move Well, Move Often – a P.E. programme used in all classes based on the strand of Athletics.
- ▶ Go With the Flow pre-cursive handwriting programme – multi-sensory programme spending a lot of time developing fine motor skills and pencil skills necessary before introducing letters.
- ▶ Jolly Phonics / Letter and Sounds / Read Write Ink – we use a mix of these programmes to teach letter sounds (phonics) to our children and eventually reading.
- ▶ Starlights – An engaging interactive Literacy programme we use to support the teaching and learning of Oral Language and Reading.
- ▶ Welcome to Wellbeing/Weaving Wellbeing – a wellbeing programme that runs throughout the school from J1 – 6<sup>th</sup> Class



# Additional Learning Needs

- ▶ If you feel that your child may have additional needs, or indeed is already in receipt of support from external agencies such as Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language etc, it is essential that you can get in touch with us to discuss this so we can prepare the appropriate supports for your child, where relevant.
- ▶ This can help us to ensure a smoother and more successful start for your child to their primary school journey than is the case if a child arrives with additional needs and we have not been informed.
- ▶ If you or your child care provider have identified potential additional needs (whether social and emotional/behavioural or learning needs) and you would like to discuss with us please email our SENCO and Deputy Principal Tara Darcy on [taradarcy@greystonescns.ie](mailto:taradarcy@greystonescns.ie)

# Homework

- ▶ Homework won't be given until the children are settled into school life. Every child borrows a new book from our school library each week. **Lost or damaged homework readers and library books must be replaced by parents.**
- ▶ We give homework to provide a link between the home and school and to show to the children that what they do in school is not just for school.
- ▶ We hope to develop good attitudes and routines for the children in relation to homework / learning at home early in their school life.
- ▶ Tasks last no longer than 10 / 15 minutes in infant classes and take the form of one literacy, one numeracy, a shared reading book and one other task over the course of the week. Homework is given out on Monday and collected on Friday. Homework tasks become differentiated as the year goes on and the children progress.

# Discipline for Learning – See Code of Behaviour

- ▶ Star chart in each classroom
- ▶ Shark cards for each child in our school, 10 colours to progress through
- ▶ Super walks to show another teacher and class excellent work
- ▶ Friday assemblies – 2 workers of the week, 1 Green School award and 1 Lámh signer of the week
- ▶ <http://www.greystonescns.ie/policies.html>

# Timetable & Calendar

- ▶ .Children in Junior Infants begin school with a transition timetable. This is essential for ensuring a successful and less stressful transition for the children. Younger children often struggle with the beginning of school and the longer structured days associated with primary level.
- ▶ A finalised school calendar for 2023-24 will be published approx April/May 2023 – but the first day will most likely be Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> August.
- ▶ Transition Timetable – (the children will have one eating break during Wk 1 (2 days) & 2)
- ▶ Wk 1 & 2 – Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Aug – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Sept – 9am-11.50am
- ▶ Wk 3 – Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Sept Onwards – 8.45am – 1.25pm (Full Days)

# GCNS Uniform

- ▶ We are extremely proud of our uniform and crest which were decided upon in consultation with the parents and children of our first class back in 2015. We are also conscious of keeping costs down and as such the only item that must be purchased from a specific supplier is the jumper/cardigan.
  
- ▶ **Children wear what is comfortable for them providing it is one of the following:**
  - Purple school jumper or cardigan which can be purchased in The Schoolwearhouse in Tesco, Greystones. <https://schoolwearhouse.ie/>
  - A white polo neck t-shirt or shirt – purchased anywhere. School Team sports jersey is also an option.(schoolewearhouse.ie)
  - Dark Marl Grey tracksuit bottoms, trousers, skirt or pinafore – purchased anywhere. No brands/logos
  - Shoes/runners – **no laces until your child can independently tie them.** Velcro is best. Purchased anywhere. (Preferably black footwear but not essential)
  
- ▶ On P.E. days (not decided until September) your child needs to wear tracksuit bottoms and light sole runners however feel free for them to wear tracksuit at all times if that is more comfortable.
  
- ▶ GCNS uniform policy is at [http://www.greystonescns.ie/uploads/1/3/1/7/131710517/greystones\\_cns\\_-\\_uniform\\_policy\\_final\\_-\\_22-23.pdf](http://www.greystonescns.ie/uploads/1/3/1/7/131710517/greystones_cns_-_uniform_policy_final_-_22-23.pdf)





# Parental Charge

- ▶ The **Parental Books and Stationery Charge** is a compulsory charge that covers everything your child will need in school. **You pay us and we provide all copies, books, stationery, photocopying, licences that your child needs for the year.** If you accept a place you will be sent a link for payment in June 23. This allows you to pay electronically. The fees are broken down into a **compulsory charge** to cover your child's - Books / Copies / Folders / Stationery / Photocopying / Allianz Pupil Personal Accident 24 Hr cover. It is €70. We do this as a service for our parents whereas in other schools parents have to source all of the above themselves. We benefit from bulk buying discounts and so our parents can benefit from this.
- ▶ Later in the year, usually after Easter break, there is a **Voluntary Contribution**. The voluntary contribution helps us to meet the costs of running the school and is a completely voluntary payment. There is absolutely no obligation on any parent to pay this contribution.
- ▶ We teach children not programmes and therefore we don't use or rely on many workbooks or textbooks in GCNS. Infants usually only have a handwriting copy and a maths copy.

# Communicating with you

- ▶ In line with our communications policy, all our communications are done electronically – through email, Aladdin Connect App, School Website and the SeeSaw Platform.
- ▶ Direct contact with the teacher will be via the teachers work email or Seesaw. Please respect normal working hours when contacting the school and class teacher.
- ▶ Face to face meetings are possible however we also offer phone calls/zoom if mutually convenient Please do not approach your teacher at the line with messages, send via email in advance – ring secretary if urgent.
- ▶ We offer an Open Day for Jun Inf parents to come to visit their child's class in Term 1, meet the teacher and hear the teacher's plan for the year.
- ▶ We also offer 2 parent teacher meetings a year with a progress report also. A meeting in Term 1 over zoom/phone and an in person/remote meeting to discuss the end of year report in June.

# Our Achievements

- ▶ 6 x Discovery Primary Science & Maths Plaque of Excellence in STEM
- ▶ Green Flag School
- ▶ We are in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of applying for the Active School's Flag – 2 year process
- ▶ We are a Creative School
- ▶ We have a Student's Council
- ▶ We are part of the Erasmus project
- ▶ We will be offering MFL this year - Spanish

# School Visits for Children & Parents

- ▶ There will be an Information Evening for **parents only** who accept a place, which will be held in May/June
- ▶ There will then be a chance for **you and your child** to visit the school in late June/early July when you can visit us and see the Jun Infant classrooms. We will show you where they line up on the day.
- ▶ **There will be a further option for a visit available for the children on Wed 30<sup>th</sup> August where they can practice lining up by themselves, meet their class teacher and walk into the classrooms by themselves.** This will also give parents a chance to do a dry run of their commute to school and, if driving, where they can park on the day.
- ▶ On our first day, Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> August (TBC) at 9am they will then line up by themselves and walk into their rooms with their teacher/school staff. Parents will not be allowed into the classroom on the 1<sup>st</sup> September so please take all your photos etc before you drop your child to their line on this day.

# Breakfast Club, Infant Hour Club & After School Care – Kids Inc

- ▶ Kids Inc are the providers of pre and post school care at GCNS and will be present this evening should you have any queries.
- ▶ You can see all of the details on their offering at <http://www.kidsinc.ie/>
- ▶ Please note Kids Inc are a completely separate entity to the school and it is a matter for parents to decide if they avail of this service. All queries regarding this service should be directed to Gillian at Kid Inc [gillian@Kidsinc.ie](mailto:gillian@Kidsinc.ie) or call **01 6215790 / 083-3687181**

## How to enrol.

Please go to the Enrol section of our website where you will find all relevant information in relation to applying and enrolling in our school.

<http://www.greystonescns.ie/enrol.html>

If after reading these slides, you have any further queries please email [admin@greystonescns.ie](mailto:admin@greystonescns.ie)