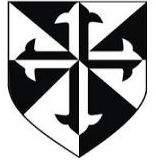




Welcome to
St Malachy's Infants'
School



Junior Infant Information Leaflet



Dear Parents

We are very much looking forward to meeting you and your child for a wonderful year of fun and learning.

We have compiled this leaflet of information to make the transition to school easier for you and your child.

Please read the 'Info for Parents' section and watch the virtual tour video on our website www.stmalachysinfants.ie where we hope you will get good sense of our school community.



Preparing your child for school

- ❖ Please spend some time helping your child learn how to put on their jumper and coat themselves including zipping up their coat.
- ❖ Shoes should be Velcro only.
- ❖ Please label coats and jumpers.
- ❖ We will have allocated toilet times during the day but make sure your child knows to ask if they need to go.
- ❖ Please talk to your child about good hygiene – coughing and sneezing into their elbow, using and disposing of a tissue, washing hands correctly, using and flushing the toilet etc.
- ❖ **Schoolbooks** - Please label all school books and stationary. Please put them in a sealed plastic bag labelled with your child's name. It makes it easier to collect the books on the first morning. Books should not be put in schoolbags unless everything is inside a plastic bag.

School Bags

The ideal schoolbag should;

- ❖ **Be big enough to hold a lunch box, drink and A4 folder with ease.** Please show your child how to open, close and take items in and out of the bag completely by his/herself.
- ❖ **Have 2 straps so that your child can carry it independently.** Show your child how to put the bag on their backs by his/herself.
- ❖ **Have a hook at the top** as all bags will be stored outside the classroom on coat hangers.
- ❖ **Not have wheels, buttons or buckles.** Bags should be zip fasten only.
- ❖ **Be made of waterproof or easy clean material.**
- ❖ **Only contain lunch box and drink and change of clothes.** No pencils cases, toys, copies or any personal items are to be brought to school



Lunch Boxes

Lunchtime is a Junior Infant's favourite time of the day. There is nothing they love more than getting the lunch out to see what's inside. They get to relax have a great chat with their friends while they eat what has been lovingly provided for them.

Please consider the following to make the experience easier for your child:

- ❖ Some lunchboxes and drink bottles can be difficult for the children to open and close. **Please ensure your child can open and close their lunch box and water bottle independently.** (see pictures below of our tried and tested best recommendations)
- ❖ **Please label your child's lunch box and bottle/ beaker.**

- ❖ **Drink cartons are not allowed** as they can't be put back in lunch boxes once opened and cannot be stored in the classroom.
- ❖ **Sports top lids only** as these do not spill even when left open.
- ❖ **No large screw top or straw bottles are allowed.** These contain far too much liquid and are too heavy for children to hold in one hand resulting in frequent spilling.
- ❖ **Send ready to eat food only** e.g. orange peeled, cheese string unwrapped etc. A simple sandwich, a piece of fruit and a rice cake/ cracker are sufficient for Junior Infants. Please do not send yogurts, children struggle to open them and they can be very messy. All left over food is to be taken home.
- ❖ Remember, for the first 2 weeks of school the children will be having 1 lunch only. We call this 'little lunch'. They will be having 2 lunches when the full day starts and we call this 'big lunch'.
- ❖ **Please talk to your child about good food hygiene** – not putting food directly on the table. Children should be able to eat their lunches from their lunchboxes.



NB: Sports Top bottles only.

Bottles should hold **no more than 500ml**. Children cannot manage large bottles with screw top or straws and they spill frequently.

