

A thuismitheoirí,

I would like to welcome your child to 5th class. In order to make this year as pleasant and rewarding to your child as possible, I feel it is important to clarify a number of points.

The curriculum subjects will be gone into in much greater depth this year. In this regard, your child's concentration, application to work and contribution to discussions are vital. It is an important year that requires hard work and a desire to do one's very best. I would like to draw your attention to these areas in particular:

1. Gaeilge

This area will involve an increased amount of writing and memory work related to areas such as grammar and new vocabulary. Greater development of creative writing will also be addressed.

2. Maths

Many new concepts will be encountered in the fifth class curriculum. In order to understand these new areas, your child will need to focus intently on the work being covered in class. Excellent knowledge of tables is critical at this stage for the speed of calculations, so regular revision of these is vital.

3. English

Your child has now reached a level of reading, which needs to be nurtured. Independent reading time is encouraged both at school and at home, so please make sure your child has a book for specific class time, which will be devoted to this area. Similarly, creative writing is very important. When writing stories, spelling can be a source of difficulty but rather than stunt the creative process, a child should be encouraged to write first and edit afterwards.

4. S.P.H.E.

This will be taught once weekly and promotes the well-being and personal development of each child. Areas such as self-awareness, myself and my family and relationships with others will be discussed. The strand **MYSELF** in particular will look at Taking Care of my Body and Growing and Changing. You may have talked to your child about this before but as this topic will be covered in school, it might be a good time to talk again.

5. Uniform/P.E.

Full school uniform is to be worn at all times except on the day the children have P.E. The only jewellery permitted are stud earrings and a watch. Make up/nail varnish is not allowed. The school tracksuit and suitable footwear should be worn for P.E. only on Tuesday, unless otherwise specified.

6. Healthy Lunch Policy

Healthy lunches as outlined in our policy are encouraged as per our policy which is available in the Homework Journal or on our website: www.scoiloilbheir.ie.

7. Homework

Project work and specific research will be a feature of homework at various stages throughout the year. Independent responsibility for homework needs to be encouraged from now on. Time spent on homework will vary but in general it will take approximately 45-50 minutes. It should not exceed 60 minutes. If you find your child struggling with an aspect of homework, please note it down in the homework journal. Please also sign the homework journal each night and any assessment reports sent home.

8. Procedure for withdrawal / absence

A child to be collected during the school day is collected at the office through our school secretary, Mrs. Quarry. In the case of absence, a note on return is required.

9. Punctuality

Punctuality is a very important life skill. I would urge all children to arrive in their classroom a few minutes before the bell rings in order that they are ready to begin work at 08:45 and to ensure that the class is not disturbed. As per school policy, any late arrival will be noted.

10. "Golden Time"

Occasionally, as a reward for ongoing positive attitude, work and behaviour, pupils may earn golden time. Board games, lego or other games that promote social interaction would be suitable for such times. Electronic games are not allowed. I do not advise that any game of significant value, either sentimental or monetary, be brought into school. Your child should be aware that they are responsible for the care of their own game, should they bring it in.

Finally, any general queries can be addressed with a note in the homework journal, or if of a more specific nature, please feel free at any stage to set up an appointment with me through Mrs. Quarry in the office as I will not be in a position to facilitate unscheduled parent teacher meetings at the classroom door.

I wish you and your child well in the year ahead and look forward to meeting you during the year.