
Newtowngore NS



Information Booklet

Page 3

- Welcome Note from Principal
- School Personnel
- School Contact Details

Page 4

- School Hours
- Board of Management
- Ethos

Page 5

- About the School
- School Uniform
- Parents' Association

Page 6

- School Communication
- Curriculum
- School Books Scheme

Page 7

- Extra Curricular Activities

Page 8

- Junior Infant Induction Day
- Homework
- Additional Education Needs
- Code of Behaviour

Page 9

- Bullying
- Healthy Lunch
- Hot School Meals
- School Attendance
- School Transport

Page 10

- Pupil Personal Accident Insurance
- Health and Safety
- Allergies/Administration of Medicine
- Accidents in School

Page 11

- *'Parents Are Teachers Too'*

Welcome note from the Principal

Welcome to Newtowngore National School. This booklet provides information for parents and pupils who are enrolling in the school for the first time. While the largest group of new enrolments in any year is the new Junior Infant class, we also welcome new pupils to the older classes and have kept this in mind in preparing the information. Hopefully many of your questions will be answered by careful reading of this booklet. If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact me via the school email or landline.

We hope that each child will enjoy their period in our school; and that it may prove to be a stimulating, happy and productive time in their lives.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Zena Anderson

Principal



School Personnel

Principal: Mrs. Zena Anderson

Acting Deputy Principal: Ms. Niamh Farrell

There are 2 Class Teachers, 2 Special Education Teachers and 1 EAL (English as an Additional Language) Teacher

Junior & Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd Class: Ms. Niamh Farrell

3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Class: Mrs. Zena Anderson

Shared Special Education Teacher: Mrs. Sharon O'Neill Chambers/ Mrs. Susan Smith

Principal Release Cluster Teacher: Ms. Eve Gorman

EAL Teacher: Ms. Aisling Kells

Special Needs Assistant: Mrs. Geraldine Murphy

School Inspector: Inspector Yvonne Ní Mhurchú

School Secretary: Mrs. Caroline Comiskey

School Contact Details

Address: Newtowngore National School, Mullyaster, Newtowngore, Co. Leitrim, N41 RY65.

Phone No: 049 4333955

E-mail: office@newtowngorens.ie

School website: www.newtowngorens.ie

Facebook page: Newtowngore N.S.

School Hours

9.10am	School Day begins
10.50am - 11.05am	Break
12.20pm - 12.50pm	Lunch
1.50pm	JI & SI school day ends
2.50pm	1 st -6 th Class school day ends



Parents are reminded that the Board of Management of the school does not accept responsibility for pupils before the official opening time of 9.10a.m., or after the official closing time of 2.50p.m.

Drumreilly Community Afterschool is also available for children in our school. Drumreilly Afterschool provide their services onsite from 1.50-2.50pm for the Junior and Senior Infants (Please see School Transport p9)

Board of Management

The Board of Management has legal responsibility for the overall running of the school. It serves a term of four years. The current Board was formed in December 2023. A new Board will be elected in November 2027. We are grateful to all members of the board for giving their time and energy voluntarily to support the school.

Principal: Mrs. Zena Anderson (Secretary)

Teacher's Representative: Mrs. Sharon O'Neill-Chambers

Parents' Representative: Mr. Carl Johnston (Chairperson)

Mrs. Helen Parke

Patron's Representative: Rev. Richard Waller

Mrs. Miriam Fisher

Community Representatives: Mrs. Florence Bayliss (Treasurer)

Mrs. Anne Garland



Ethos

Newtowngore National School is a co-educational primary school with a Church of Ireland ethos under the patronage of the Church of Ireland Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh. The school warmly welcomes and gives due recognition to children of all other religious beliefs and none.



Our school is committed to nurturing the unique potential of every child in a safe, caring and supportive environment where the child's intellectual, spiritual, social, physical, moral and cultural needs are supported. We strive to foster a positive atmosphere where self-respect, respect for others, and strong self-esteem are central to daily school life. Guided by Christian values, we seek to cultivate honesty, fairness, justice and compassion. Religious Education, grounded in the Christian faith, is taught with sensitivity and respect for children of all backgrounds.

About the school

Newtowngore National School is a warm, welcoming and inclusive school where children are educated in a safe, happy and caring atmosphere. We are a small, rural, two-teacher school, situated in a splendid setting on the Newtowngore/Carrigallen road. Our lower pupil-teacher ratio means that all children receive small-group attention throughout their schooling. We are fortunate to have a long-standing and proud tradition of community support for our school.

We have a committed and dedicated staff who believe in creating a supportive, fun and active learning environment; where each child's unique character and abilities are recognised, developed and celebrated. We are committed to excellence in teaching and learning which encourages each child to achieve his/her full potential. We are very aware you entrust your most precious possession to us, your child, and in our daily work our aim is to offer a rich and broad curriculum where the emphasis is placed on "trying your best", and learning to be "comfortable with yourself". It is our hope that in doing so, we will assist in developing the foundation for your child to become a happy, well-rounded, confident, self-motivated, socially responsible person, that will contribute positively in their own way to our community and society.

Our school is well maintained and in recent years our school building and playground facilities have been developed and upgraded. This helps to create a bright, energetic and stimulating environment in which the children learn and interact with care and confidence. Our spacious classrooms are well resourced and are equipped with interactive whiteboard panels. We also have a suite of iPads and Chromebooks allowing pupils a chance to develop digital skills. We have a spacious playground including a large grass area, jungle gym and an outdoor adventure trail, to promote pupils' balance and co-ordination.

School Uniform

All pupils wear the school uniform for all school occasions everyday.

- Navy jumper/cardigan
- Blue Polo shirt/shirt
- Plain Navy trousers (no logos/stripes/lines)
- Girls may wear a skirt/pinafore with plain navy tights
- Navy shorts/skort can be worn in summer but must be with the polo shirt



Shoes - None specified but PLEASE ensure they are clean and well-maintained. Velcro is recommended for children that require assistance with shoe laces. All shoes should be suitable for the weather conditions and activities that are a routine part of the school day such as being in the yard playing games.

Jewellery: Stud earrings in the lobe of the ear and watches are permitted jewellery.

Label: All Jumpers, coats, bags, footwear, school requisites, playing gear must be clearly labelled with pupil's name so that mislaid items can easily be recovered. Many children possess similar items and this avoids any confusion and minimises loss of personal belongings.

Parents' Association



Newtowngore N.S. has an active Parents' Association, where all parents have an opportunity to get involved. We welcome parental involvement in policy formation, fundraising and school celebrations and events throughout the year. The Parents' Association support staff in organising school activities and are actively involved whenever requested by The Board of Management or School Staff.

School Communication

We are very aware we live in a more rushed world but actively encourage parents to be involved in their child's education. Our aim is to foster positive pathways for communication between the school and parents. In doing so, we hope to facilitate discussion in relation to your child's progress and relevant school information /events. In order to facilitate this, we use a number of methods of communication including:

- Letters/Newsletters
- School Homework Diary/Homework Sheet (please check routinely)
- Phone calls/E-mails
- Parent-Teacher meetings (Oct/Nov)
- End of Year Reports



Should you wish to meet your child's teacher on a matter that concerns you please do contact the school by phone or email. The teacher/principal will return your call at a later time or arrange a meeting at a mutually agreeable time if necessary. All parents are requested not to contact teachers on their personal mobile phones. All school related queries must go through the school office (049) 4333955 or email office@newtowngorens.ie.

Alternatively, you can write a note in your child's diary to inform the teacher if you are picking up your child early /reason for an absence / homework was unable to be completed due to an appointment.....

Curriculum

Ireland's new **Primary Curriculum Framework (2023)**, developed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), sets out a modern, child-centred approach to learning in primary schools.

The Framework supports the development of each child as an active learner, creative thinker and confident communicator. It promotes wellbeing, inclusion and meaningful learning experiences that prepare children for life in a changing world.

The Curriculum Areas

The curriculum is organised into five broad areas:

- **Language** - Gaeilge, English and Modern Foreign Languages
- **STEM**- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- **Social and Environmental Education (SEE)**
- **Wellbeing** (including SPHE and Physical Education)
- **Arts Education** (Visual Arts, Music and Drama)

Teaching and learning are active, engaging and inclusive, with a strong emphasis on developing skills, understanding and a love of learning.

School Books Scheme

The Primary School Books Scheme was introduced in 2023, to remove the cost from families of funding schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks for all pupils in recognised primary schools. All books and copybooks are purchased by the school for your child/ren. The school will also organise the purchase of stationery for the pupils at a cost per pupil.

Extra-Curricular Activities

In Newtowngore N.S. we avail of opportunities to expose pupils to a variety of experiences and initiatives in addition to the formal curriculum. We strive to nurture the child in all dimensions of his / her life – spiritual, moral, cognitive, emotional, imaginative, aesthetic, social and physical. We endeavour to recognise and foster each child's individual talents. Some children are very able readers, some excellent mathematicians, more are fine artists or singers or sports people. We try to give them at least a "taste" of extra-curricular activities while they are here, so they experience success and enjoyment, develop a sense of teamwork, an interest for their future and hopefully build their self-esteem along the way.



Newtowngore NS is an "Active School" and physical activity is encouraged and promoted. A wide range of sports and movement skills are taught during P.E. lessons. External coaches visit the school, and the children partake in sporting leagues and matches against other schools.



Through the cooperation of pupils and staff, we have attained Green Flag status. As part of this initiative pupils are encouraged to reduce waste, recycle and conserve energy and water. Waste separation is practiced in all classrooms.

Other activities include:

- School concerts and shows
- Cumann na mBunscol
- Buddy Reading between the children in the Junior and Senior Classrooms
- Visiting Speakers to the school, including poets/artists/ wild-life experts, historians
- Junior Entrepreneur Programme
- Local nature walks
- Discover Primary Science and Maths
- Participating in Art Competitions
- Chess
- ICT Education- Coding, Microbits, Lego Spike, Beebots, Bluebots
- Educational trips during the school year
- Music Generation Programme
- Health Promoting School Initiative
- Credit Union Quiz
- Peace IV Programme/Aspire Peace Plus- Shared Education with another school
- Bicycle safety workshops and lessons
- S.T.E.M - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- BLAST- Artist in Residence
- Amber Flag
- STEPS Engineering
- Children participate in Maths Week, Science Week, Engineering Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, World Book Day and many other projects and initiatives



Junior Infant Induction Day

In June, all new Junior Infants are invited to attend the school for an induction day. This induction day gives the children the opportunity to meet with their new teacher and to also meet the other children who will be in their class. On this morning, the children will complete some activities in the classroom and will get to experience one break-time.



Homework

Homework supports independence, responsibility and lifelong learning. It is usually prepared in class and should be manageable for your child to complete independently. Homework may reinforce class learning or provide opportunities for challenge and creativity.

How Parents Can Help

Provide a quiet space to work, listen to reading, practise spellings and tables, and offer support where needed. Please ensure homework is completed neatly, check and sign the homework diary/sheet, and use it to communicate with your child's teacher. Regular review of homework becomes increasingly important as your child progresses through primary school.

Approximate time that children will need to spend on homework:

Infants:	20 mins
1 st & 2 nd Class:	20 - 30 mins
3 rd & 4 th Class:	30 -40 mins
5 th & 6 th Class:	40-50 mins



Additional Educational Needs

All children are valued, respected and welcomed to the school whatever their additional need. We will support their learning and ensure they are fully included in school activities, while also helping these pupils to attain maximum educational achievement while in our school.

Pupils will be selected for supplementary teaching in accordance with DES guidelines. This selection process will follow administration, scoring and interpretation of standardised screening tests. Emphasis will be placed on early intervention and prevention programmes. Pupils will be monitored and have their learning targets reviewed on an on-going basis. The results of these will be communicated to parents regularly. Teacher assessments may be carried out on pupils who have been identified as experiencing low achievement or learning difficulties and referral to outside agencies may be made.

Should your child require any special assistance, be it short term or long, a member of staff will contact you and invite you to the school to discuss your child's needs. The school also has the services of an educational psychologist, who works closely with the school in assessing children who may be experiencing difficulties.

Code of Behaviour



All parents receive the school's Code of Behaviour on application. Newtowngore NS places great importance on pupils being encouraged to develop good patterns of behaviour. The school rules must be adhered to at school and at all school related events.

Bullying



Bullying in any form, verbal or physical is totally unacceptable and runs contrary to the stated aims of respect, courtesy and consideration. A Bí Cineálta Policy was drawn up by the staff in collaboration with parents and approved by the Board of Management. A copy of this policy is available on our website.

It is essential that anyone (staff member, pupil or parent) who suspects that bullying is occurring informs the school authorities immediately. All reports and information received will be acted on with discretion and sensitivity and in line with the Bí Cineálta Policy. At all times staff foster a positive atmosphere of inclusiveness and integration to ensure that all children develop a positive attitude towards each other.

Healthy Lunch

The school operates a Healthy Eating Policy. Please follow our Healthy Eating Policy and ensure that children are given food that you know that they will eat. In the interest of pupils' health and in fairness to other pupils, all parents are expected to abide by this policy. Pupils are expected to bring a snack, generally accepted as "healthy," i.e. sandwiches, fruit, yoghurts etc. Pupils are asked to bring either water or milk to school every day. Crisps, chewing gum, fizzy drinks and lollipops are not allowed in school. Once a week, on a Friday, children are permitted to bring in one small treat. Please ensure that your child's lunch box and drinks bottle are clearly labelled with your child's name.



Hot School Meals

The school participates in the Hot Meals Programme for schools. Thanks to this government scheme every child gets a hot school meal free of charge every day. These meals are supplied by a local supplier. Parents/Guardians choose and order their child's daily hot meal which provides a wide variety of food options to suit every child's needs.

School Attendance

Under the Education Welfare Act (2000) you must ensure that your child attends school regularly. If your child is absent from school for any reason you must notify the school of the reason for the absence in writing or by email. The school must inform the National Education Welfare Board when a pupil is absent for 20 days or more in a school year. Taking children on holidays during the school term is not encouraged.



School Transport

Our school bus collects children from a wide catchment area.

School transport is available if you are on a bus route and over a distance of 3.2 kilometres from the school. The School Transport Department of Bus Éireann determines if your child/children are eligible. If you wish to apply for school transport, contact the Dundalk School Transport Office: 042 6825900. **Children can also access Drumreilly Afterschool Facility by applying for a concessionary ticket on the Bus Éireann website. On-site afterschool care for children in the infant classes is available from 1:50 to 2:50.**

Pupil Personal Accident Insurance

Each pupil has 24 Hour Personal Accident Insurance for all pupils in the school. It insures the pupil against medical or dental expenses up to €50,000. As we have opted for 24 Hour Cover even if a pupil has an accident outside school hours they are still insured.

Health and Safety

As part of our school health programme we encourage regular washing of hands, particularly after toilet use. We are not, however, always able to oversee this so please remind your child of its importance. Unfortunately, germs and viruses spread very quickly in a classroom environment so it is vital that the children are encouraged to use a tissue when blowing their nose and to cover their mouths and turn away when coughing.

If your child develops any infectious illness such as chickenpox please keep him/her away from school until the period of contagion is over and inform his/her teacher immediately.

We recommend that you check your child regularly for lice, treat immediately if they occur and inform the teacher so that notification of possible risk may be sent to other parents.

When the class teacher feels that a child is not well enough for school either as a result of becoming sick or an accident the Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately.

Allergies/Administration of Medicines

The Board of Management requests parents to ensure that staff members are made aware in writing, of any medical condition suffered by their child. This information should be provided at enrolment or at the development of any medical conditions at a later date. As a general rule teachers will not be involved in the administration of medication.

Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions or allergies, or when pupils require the administration of medicine in school, parents must complete a Medication Administration Form and Administration of Medicines in Schools Indemnity Form (please contact the school secretary for these forms).



Accidents in School



If an accident happens in school, your child will receive first aid for minor cuts and bruises. If there is anything more serious you will be contacted. It is very important that we have a contact number of somebody who will be able to collect the child if the parent/guardian is not available. Parents are asked to make sure that the emergency phone number entered on their child's Enrolment Form is up to date

PARENTS ARE TEACHERS TOO

I dreamed I stood in a studio,
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they had was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher, the tools he used
Were books and music and art;
One was a parent, with a guiding hand
And a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled
With touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent, laboured by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last their task was done,
They were proud that what they had wrought,
Could neither be, sold or bought.

And each agreed they would have failed
If they had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood THE SCHOOL,
And behind the teacher THE HOME.



Notes