

Where children come first

STARTING SCHOOL

GENERAL INFORMATION

School Address	Main Street Brookeborough Co Fermanagh BT94 4EZ
Telephone Number	028 895 31272
Email	info@brookeboroughps.enniskillen.ni.sch.uk
School Website	www.schoolsites.org/brookeboroughcps/site (a new website should be up and running by November)
Principal	Mr Andy Young BA (HONS) PGCE
Class Teachers	Mrs Linda Gould B.Ed (HONS); ADV.DIP PD Mrs Amy Robinson B.Sc (HONS) PGCE, CCET, ATS Mrs Kate Rainey BA (HONS) PGCE (Principal Release)
Secretary	Mrs Joanne Bennett
Classroom Assistants	Miss Laura Taylor Mrs Sarah Coalter Mrs Rachel Coalter Mrs Joy Keys Mrs Deborah Robinson
Building Supervisor	Mr Leo McCaffrey
Main Cook	Mrs Rita Gilroy
Dinner Supervisor	Mrs Joanne Bennet, Mrs Sarah Coalter, Mrs Rachel Coalter
School Hours for Reception	9.05 am – 12.05pm
School Hours for Year 1 – Year 2 for Years 3-7	9.05 am – 2.05 pm 9.05 am – 3.05 pm
For the first 3 weeks of September P1 pupils will go home at 1pm. From then on the end of June 2024 P1 will go home at 2:05pm.	
Break	10.45 – 11:00 am
Lunch and outside play	12.15 – 1.00 pm

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

It is a big step for children to leave their home environments and join the large community at school, where they have to learn to live, work and share with others, instead of being the centre of attraction in a small family group.

Children learn their attitudes towards school from things their parents say, so please ensure that your child looks forward to starting school. Always emphasise the enjoyment to be had in school, and the interesting things that are done there.

Don't threaten your child with school or with the teachers e.g. don't say, "Wait till you go to school, your teacher will fix you". If you must use the school as a weapon with the erring child, speak of going to school as a privilege to be earned.

Don't allow your child to scribble on books/destroy toys.

The child-:

- ⇒ who is read stories regularly (reading is the essential tool in the field of learning in the infant school);
- ⇒ who is talked and listened to ungrudgingly;
- ⇒ who has questions answered;
- ⇒ who knows some nursery rhymes and songs;
- ⇒ who is allowed to help mummy and daddy;
- ⇒ who has interesting things pointed out to him;
- ⇒ who is encouraged to count;
- ⇒ who has played with all sorts of materials, not just toys;
- ⇒ who is obedient;
- ⇒ who is tidy
- ⇒ who says "please" and "thank you"

is the child who starts school with the greatest advantage.

THE FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

School starts at 9.05 am and the doors are open from 8.50 am. When your child starts school please make sure they understand that you are going to leave him/her in school with their teacher but reassure them you will collect him/her later on and will want to know what he/she has been doing at school. Emphasise that school is a safe and happy place and that the teachers are there to help and support them.

This should be explained to your child on a number of occasions before he/she comes to school – Mummy or Daddy will only leave him/her for a short time, and then will collect

him/her later. Please remember, tears seldom last any length of time – with the children anyway!!

Reception children go home each day at 12.05pm. **For the first 3 weeks Primary One pupils will go home at 1pm** and have lunch in school. After the initial few weeks Primary One and Two children go home each day at 2.00pm. At the end of their school day the pupils will be walked up to the main gates by the class teacher. Please make sure that your child knows who is taking him/her home and that there is someone there at the right time. Please ensure that the teacher knows who is collecting your child.

You are encouraged to walk your child down to the pupil entrance at the start of the school year where staff will be there to greet them. Please remember that if you are bringing your child to school yourself and they are not travelling by bus, you must park at the school gates.



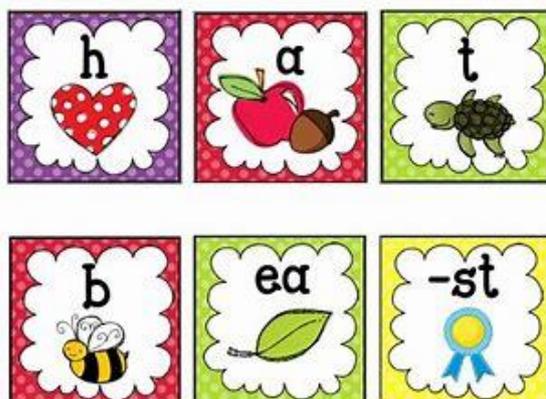
The Curriculum

READING



At the moment there is one main reading scheme (Rigby Star) used in Foundation and Key Stage 1 (P3/4) and three other supplementary reading schemes. This means that your child is being introduced to a wide vocabulary. The schemes have been carefully selected to introduce the children to attractive and interesting books and so cultivate a love of reading. The class is well provided with library books suited to the children's reading ability.

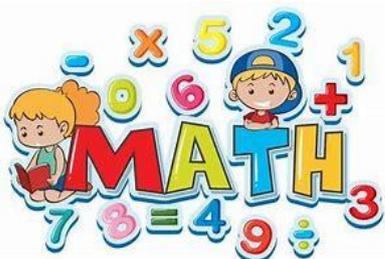
During the P1 year in school, children are taught to "enjoy books" and become familiar and confident in handling books. At first this is done through Shared Reading and generally involves the use of Big Books. The Big Books used are at an appropriate level for the children and are one of the many tools used by teaching staff to help children acquire the many complex skills they will need if they are to be to read. Before the book is read a lot of discussion and exploration of the book, the illustrations and the blurb takes place. After the initial reading the children then get lots of opportunities to discuss the text, talk about their favourite parts/favourite characters, recall and retell the story, help re-read it, find specific letter sounds, words or text features etc. All of these activities not only help develop the children's vocabulary and their understanding of language but they are also laying the foundations for the time when they will begin to read books on their own - this usually starts at the end of term 1 or start of term 2. Word recognition is also addressed through the Big Book work, with children searching for and locating keywords and phrases in the book. Some other strategies used to teach keywords include look and say, inserting missing words, making words from playdoh and magnetic letters, drawing words in sand, painting words, playing bingo style games and other board games and of course writing the words.



Development of children's phonological awareness (the ability to identify and manipulate sounds in words) is an essential pre-requisite to reading and writing. Brookeborough Primary School uses the Jolly Phonics programme to introduce letter sounds in P1. The Linguistic Phonics Programme and The Complete Spelling Programme are used in P2 to support phonic and spelling progression. The linguistic phonics programme teaches children that sounds are represented by letters, that sounds can be represented by one or more letters, that 1 sound may have many different representations and that 1 representation (i.e. letter or group of letters) can have more than 1 sound. It is a systematic programme that teaches children to segment, blend and manipulate sounds which are the building blocks of words, thereby giving the children the tools they need to read, spell and write.

In P1 lots of games and activities will be carried out to help the children develop their phonological awareness skills. These skills include: auditory and visual discrimination skills, identifying and hearing syllables in words, identifying rhyme and alliteration and segmenting, blending and manipulating sounds within words. By engaging in these games and activities the children will be given the opportunity to develop these skills before formally moving on to the main Linguistic Phonics Programme in P2.

MATHEMATICS



In P1, children engage in lots of practical, hands on activities in all curricular areas including numeracy. They will -: sort a wide variety of resources and materials for different criteria; develop number recognition skills, order numbers, count out sets/groups of objects up to 10; explore the concepts of addition and subtraction and will get the chance to develop their skills and understanding of 2D and 3D shape, time, money, weight, length and capacity. During the initial stages of P1 most activities are practical in nature. It is not until later in P1 that children are expected to record their work in writing or through the use of workbooks.

WRITING



We do not expect children to write before they come to school, but some are very keen to do so. If your child is one of these, it would help greatly if you would teach him/her

exactly as we do in school. (Correct pencil grip should be encouraged). In the early stages, the reading books we use do not use capital letters, even at the beginning of sentences. The only capital letters used are for proper nouns, so please, only use a capital for the first letter of your child's name.

Most letters and numerals are formed in one motion. A guide to letter formation has been attached for your reference. Once your child does begin to write it is important that they get into the habit of correct letter formation – any errors should be sensitively and supportively corrected to avoid bad habits being established. Once your child begins to write individual words it is important that they keep the letters close together and put a finger space between individual words and lines.

While some children may be eager to start to write before school starts, not all will show the same enthusiasm. Activities such as drawing, painting, playing with playdough, building jigsaws, lacing beads, building with lego are all excellent pre-writing activities which they can do now, as they prepare to start school. Indeed, these are the very types of activities we begin in P1 as they are superb ways to build fine motor skills and develop fine motor strength.

THE WORLD AROUND US



This curricular area encompasses the subjects of science, history and geography and is largely addressed through topic work in both P1 and P2. Examples of some of the topics your child may cover include: Homes, Bears, Snow & Ice , Light and Dark, Colour, Toys, People who Help Us and Ourselves.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY/SCIENCE – PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

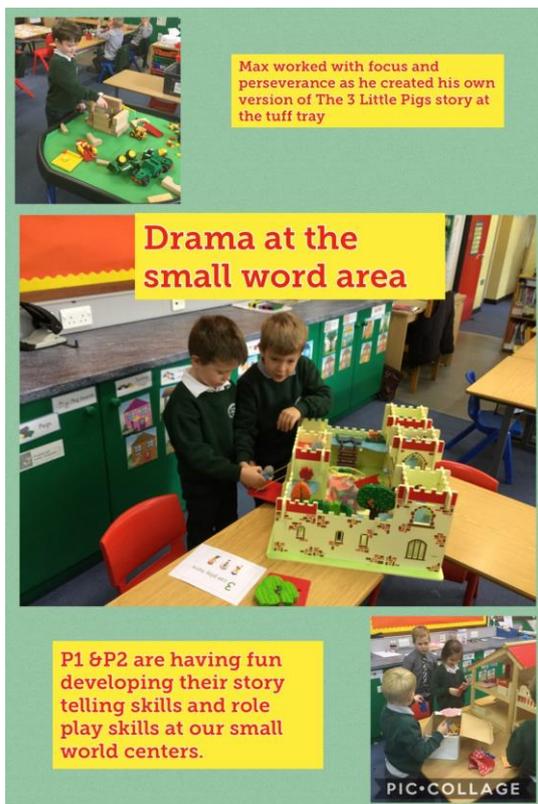
Learning through play is an important activity in the infant school. Play is the principal means of learning in early childhood. In play, children gradually develop concepts of casual relationships, the power to discriminate, to make judgements, to analyse and synthesize, to image and to formulate. Children become absorbed in their play and the satisfaction of bringing it to a satisfactory conclusion fixes habits of concentration which can be transferred to other learning.

From infancy children investigate the material world. To destroy and construct involves learning the properties of things, and in this way children can build up concepts of weight, height, size, volume and texture.



Materials such as sand, water, clay, dough and wood attract young children and evoke concentration and inventiveness. Children are stimulated by materials of many shapes, colours and textures. Their imagination seizes on particular aspects of objects and leads them to invent as well as to create. When teachers enter into the play activity of children, they can help by watching the connections and relationships which children are making, and by introducing, almost incidentally, the words for concepts and feelings that are being expressed. It is the teacher's input that leads children to the next stage of learning.

Children can choose from a great variety of activities – painting, sand, water, dough, role play, jig-saws, lego etc. This is an important part of the curriculum as the children have the opportunity for experiment and discovery. The happy and relaxed atmosphere promotes imaginative thinking and language development.



Most Learning Through Play lessons follow a theme or topic, as noted in TWAU, allowing teaching staff to cover many of the skills, concepts and knowledge that they want to convey and share with the children to be done in a relaxed, enjoyable, practical and fun manner.

Brookeborough Primary School is also very proud of the fantastic Outdoor Play and Outdoor Learning resources and facilities that we have to offer. We have tricycles, tractors, scooters, stepping stones, skipping ropes, hoola hoops, and climbing frames, to name only a few resources, for the children to use during outdoor play sessions which help develop their gross motor skills. Their imaginative, creative and inquisitive skills are also addressed and catered for through the outdoor playhouse, amphitheatre, outdoor whiteboards, raised garden beds, mini-beast hotel, butterfly garden, poly-tunnel and willow hut. These superb facilities have been developed over recent years and have the sole purpose of extending the classroom to the outdoors and providing children with the chance to engage in practical, purposeful, fun learning activities which will promote and develop their love and understanding the world around them.

The overall emphasis in the curriculum at Brookeborough Primary School is on the subjects of Northern Ireland Curriculum taught by tried and tested traditional methods. Beyond this our aim is to strive for a broad and balanced curriculum, enriched and extended at all levels by the best of modern educational practice.

We are looking forward to welcoming your child to Brookeborough Primary School. We hope that you will read the next section of this booklet to your child and talk about it, in order to build up a healthy attitude towards starting school.

Please remember the education of a child is a joint project between the home and the school – it is vital we keep in touch. If you have any worries, come to the school and let us see if we can help. When needed, teachers will contact you directly either by phone or written note. All other communication will be done via a school app.

Will you be able to do these things before September?

1. Take off/put on your coat and hang it up. Take off/put on your shoes and fasten them. (Practise this at home).



It is a good idea to have a loop on your coat. It means it will stay on the peg and not fall on the floor and get dirty.

2. Fasten your school bag. (Practise opening and closing it at home).
3. Use your handkerchief
4. Go to the toilet, wash and dry your hands yourself.



5. Some children have dinner in school. Can you use a knife and fork? Some children bring sandwiches and some go home for lunch.



6. If you are bringing a lunch box practise opening and closing it at home.



You will need your name on all your belongings. Then the teacher will know if they get lost or mixed up with other children's things.

You will need a bag to keep your indoor shoes in. Perhaps your mummy could make one for you. (Practise putting on and taking off your indoor shoes at home.)

Mummy should check your school bag every day. You might bring home a picture or a letter from the teacher.

If you bring money to school, it should always be in a sealed envelope with your name, class, amount and what it is for written on it.

From September dinners will be paid for via a school phone app, which should be up and running by that time, we will keep you informed.

Munyao

Every Friday pupils have the chance to donate 20p to the charity "Compassion International". This charity raises money to help children living in poverty and is used to provide food, medicine, education and the opportunity for the children to learn about God.

The money that the pupils donate sponsors one specific child – Munyao a young boy who lives in the hills of Kenya. It is used to provide Munyao with Bible Teaching, Nutritious Food, health checks, sports, tuition and educational materials. The pupils also get the chance to write to Munyao and to receive letters from him. These letters allow the children to compare their lives with that of Munyao thus enhancing their understanding and appreciation of the world beyond their own.

School Uniform

SD KELLS of Lisnaskea will be stocking all the clothing which will be available to buy over the Summer within the next few weeks as some of it is still being made, if purchased before September they are offering 20% off, the prices below include this discount.

We feel that school uniform is very important. It's a public identifier and should be smart and worn with pride.

Normal days uniform

- Grey trousers (1880 club recommended)
- Grey pinafore or grey skirt
- Polo shirt (white for girls, grey for boys - Banner)
- Sweatshirt with school logo (banner)
- Grey socks
- Grey tights
- Black shoes (smart not trainers)

PE days uniform (the sweatshirt can also be worn when needed as well)

- Sports nylon t-shirt with school logo
- Black tracksuit bottoms with school logo (Banner)
- Black shadow shorts plain (Banner)
- Black trainers

Outdoor clothing

We ask all pupils to keep a pair of wellies in school for Learning outdoor activities. The school will provide waterproof outdoor clothing.

School Dinners/ uniform and milk.

When your child starts school you may wish him/her to take dinner in school. If you are in receipt of benefits you may be entitled to apply for Free school meals and a uniform grant.

The application process has changed for the 2023-24 school year onwards. This can now be made online by searching Education Authority Free School Meals. You are now required to register and create an account before applying.

The application must be made by the person receiving benefits who is named on the Proof of Benefit Letter / Tax Credits Award Notice / Universal Credit Payments Breakdown.

Please include in your application all children for whom you have parental responsibility and who will be attending full time at school.

Please note the application form works best with an up-to-date web browser (the software you use to access the internet). If you are using an old web browser or if it is out of date, the page may not display properly. The Gov.uk website provides information on upgrading to a newer browser.

If you are paying for dinners, the current cost is £2.60 per day or £13 a week. It is more convenient if this could be paid weekly on Monday morning. We will keep you informed regarding the paying via the school app which is currently being designed.

Milk is available daily and can be ordered and paid for at the beginning of each half term.

School Transport.

If you are applying for school transport please apply using the go to the EA website.

Draw your new school

Draw your house

Draw your family