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Starting School

"A million billion willion miles from home,
Waiting for the bell to go.
To go where?"

Taken from "First Day at School" by Roger McGough



Welcome to a new and exciting stage in your child's life. During the year your child will make new friends, enjoy new experiences and learn the vital skills of reading and maths. Teacher and parents work as partners to ensure that at the end of the school year your child will have a positive attitude towards an education based on social and academic confidence. The community that is Ss. Michael and Peter Junior School welcome you as parents and especially welcome your child. We hope they will be happy here and we look forward to a positive working relationship with you.



First Day - A Happy One!

Be positive with your child in preparing him/her for school. It is an exciting new adventure.

After the first day teacher will collect the class from the yard each morning and bring the class in together. Be positive and happy about this experience - no matter how emotional you are, as your child will pick up on your anxiety. Most children even if initially upset soon become distracted by their surroundings and settle down. It is best for your child not to hang around after the teacher has taken the class in unless the teacher specifically asks you to.



Beginning /End Of School Day

- **First Day of Term I**

You will be given a 15 minute slot for you to come in with your child to meet teacher and then go home.

- **Second Day of Term I**

Opening & Finishing of School time for your child will be notified to you

Please stay with your child in the yard as they line up.

- **Third week of Term I**

Children will line up and parent will wait behind the yellow line when teacher rings the 1st bell 5 minutes before school start time. You may leave the yard at this point.

Please be on time to collect your child from school as they may fret if they think that they have been forgotten.

Please be mindful of maximising your child's time in class. Hence please do not collect your child any day before school finishing time, except in exceptional situations.

It is important to inform teacher if there is to be a change in the normal collection arrangements. No child will be released to another person without prior arrangement. In emergencies if anyone other than a parent needs to collect your child before home time, that person must have a note signed by the parent and the parent must phone the school to advise of change in arrangements.



Things to do over the Summer

- Ensure your child can identify their name, coat, hat etc., put them on, take off and hang them up.
- Ensure your child can open/close their school bag, lunch box and drinks. Yoghurts while very healthy are often messy so help to practice spooning. Preferably no frubes.
- Ensure your child is able to toilet independently, wiping/washing hands etc. Explain and practice asking teacher permission to use toilet.
- Make your child aware of the written word in his/her environment, road signs, names of shops etc.
- Read to your child. Bed time stories are great as they foster a love of books and allow you time to cuddle and be close. Talk to your child about stories and let them talk and express their ideas.
- Encourage your child to talk about pictures, stories, daily events, feelings etc.
- Encourage mathematical activity and language development e.g. setting table, counting out objects etc. Talk about things that are the same/different, do jigsaws, play board games.
- Encourage the learning of nursery rhymes.
- Train your child to
 - A) Take turns
 - B) Listen to others without interruption
 - C) Share - sharing is caring!
 - D) Be kind to other children and creatures.
- Smile - this is going to be good!

Writing

Good writing is all about muscle and motor control so it will help your child greatly if they practise colouring, drawing, painting, manipulating materials such as plasticine, construction work, jigsaws etc. also doing practical jobs at home.



Reading

We use a combination of two approaches, Look and Say and Phonics. Formal reading starts in Junior Infants. Children will be given a variety of books for reading at home.

Please ensure all books belong to the school are kept in the plastic envelope provided, to avoid spillages. We are keen to make reading an enjoyable experience for your child, so praise, encourage and enjoy.



Speaking

In order to express themselves children will need to be able to say the following:

My name is _____.

I am _____ years old.

Will you be my friend?

Can I play with you?

I like you.

May I go to the toilet please?

I feel sick.

I have a pain in my head.

I have a pain in my tummy.

I fell.

I am hurt.

I hurt my arm.

I hurt my leg.

I bumped my head.

I am happy.

I am sad.

I am hungry.

I am thirsty.

I am sorry.

Understanding

Your child will need to understand the following instructions.

Stand up.

Sit down.

Walk out.

Do not run.

Do not talk.

Follow the leader.

Do not pass the yellow line.

Take out/ put away your lunch.

Take out/ put away your drink.

Take off your coat.

Hang up your coat.

Progress

Informal assessment will be undertaken by your child's teacher throughout the year.

Formal parent/teacher meetings, which provide an opportunity to discuss your child's progress are usually organised in 2nd term. Please request an appointment with your child's teacher through the school office if you have any concerns about your child, at any other point in the school year.

Schoolwork

- Look at your child's copies/books/worksheets every night.
- Praise and encourage your child's efforts in school.
- Keep homework books etc. in plastic envelope to avoid spillages.
- We strongly advise that sounds and words sent home be practised nightly.

Arts and Crafts

Please send in a big old T-shirt clearly labelled with your child's name for use as an apron. This will be kept in school.



Clothes

Please ensure that all clothes likely to be removed i.e. coats, hats, scarves, gloves, jumpers etc. are clearly labelled with your child's name, as many children possess similar items. We have some spare clothes for use if needed however if your child has any toilet problems please let the teacher know and send in a spare set of clothes for emergencies. We do not recommend trousers with clasps or belts which may be difficult to open. No laced up shoes and coats should be easy to open/close.

Uniform

Boys

Grey Trousers
Navy round-necked Jumper
White Shirt
Navy Socks
Black Footwear

Girls

Red Kilt
Navy round-necked Jumper
White Shirt
Navy Tights/Socks
Black Footwear

P.E. Uniform

Boys & Girls

Plain navy Tracksuit Bottoms
Navy round-necked Jumper
White Polo Shirt
Any colour runners (must be suitable for P.E.)



From November and up to February Mid-Term Break girls may wear grey trousers if preferred instead of their kilt. Tracksuit bottom/leggings are not allowed.

P.E.

The teacher will inform parents of the days on which P.E. will take place. On P.E. days PE uniform must be worn.

Lunch

We encourage "healthy choices" for lunch, sandwiches, crackers, fruit, yoghurt. Because of the well-established link between diet and behaviour, children should always bring a sensible nutritional lunch to school. Crisps, fizzy drinks, chocolate, sweets, chewing gum, are not allowed.

Children should not bring their drinks in cartons, a secure plastic bottle is better to avoid spillages.

Nut products and Sesame Seed products are strictly banned, due to children with severe allergies in our school.



Stationery and Bags

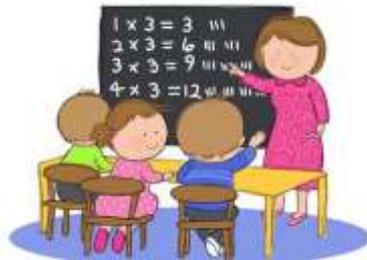
Please ensure your child has their books and copies covered, clearly labelled and in school on the first day of term.

- Pencils, paint, crayons, maths materials, additional readers, Aistear resources etc. are all provided for your child in school from the resource/arts/crafts fee which is payable on the 1st day of Term 1.



Seating

Classroom tables are coded and after a couple of days your child will be given a special place to sit. Places are changed frequently during the year to encourage children to make new friends and also to avoid over dependence on one friend.



Green School

Ss. Michael and Peter is a Green School. Every year children have the opportunity to be on the Green School Committee. Every class room has two bins, a recycling bin and a general waste bin. Each child is encouraged to sort their school waste only into the correct bins. All your child's lunch waste must go home with them to be sorted and recycled there. Our motto is "Let's go green to keep our school clean. Reduce, reuse, recycle."



Information Bulletins

School notes are sent home from time to time. Please check your child's bag regularly for these important notices.

Supervision

St. Michael and Peter Junior School is not responsible for pupils who are on the premises outside of the official opening and closing time for each building. There is no supervision outside of these times. In the interest of health and safety, please bring your child into the yard every morning where they will line up. When the supervising teacher arrives on the yard 5 minutes prior to school starting time, which will be signalled by the bell ringing, you may then leave the yard.

Access and Parking

In the interests of health and safety there is no vehicular entry, parking or drop off facility available on the school grounds for either St. Michael or St. Peter building. Parking in the staff car parks is strictly prohibited. All pedestrians must use the pedestrian gate to access either school grounds, not the car park gates. The school is not liable for any loss or injury that may occur as a result of people not following these guidelines. They are for you and your child's safety.

Health and Safety:

- As part of our school health programme we encourage regular washing of hands, particularly at eating time and after toilet use. We are however not always able to oversee this, so it is important that your child has learned to wash his/her own hands before they start school.
- If your child develops any contagious illness such as chickenpox please keep him/her away from school until the period of contagion is over and inform his/her teacher or school office immediately.
- We recommend that you check your child regularly for head lice. This is highly contagious. Please treat immediately if it occurs and also inform the teacher so that notification of possible risk may be sent out to other parents. Tea tree oil and lavender are great deterrents for head lice. It is good practice to tie up long hair every day coming to school in order to minimise the risk of your child catching head lice.

Administration of Medicines

Under Department of Education Guidelines certain procedures have to be followed regarding the administration of inhalers or any other form of medication in school. If this concerns your child please contact the school office immediately.



If a Child Lives With.....

If a child lives with criticism
They learn to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility
They learn to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule
They learn to be shy.

If a child lives with jealousy
They learn to feel guilty.

But if a child lives with tolerance
They learn to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement
They learn self-confidence.

If a child lives with praise
They learn to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness
They learn justice.

If a child lives with approval
They learn to like themselves.

If a child lives with security
They learn to have faith.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
They learn to find love in the world.

SCHEDULE for Ss. Michael & Peter Junior School

Ss Michael and Peter Junior School is a Roman Catholic school which is established in connection with the Minister. It aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral social and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Catholic school provides religious education for pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith.

We look forward to seeing you the first day of term.

