General information

Principal: Damien O'Donoghue

Deputy principal: Lora Morrin

School roll number: 17472M

Address: Hedgestown NS, Jordanstown, Lusk, Dublin

School phone number: 01 8438372

School email: office@hedgestownns.com

Times

Classes begin at **9:20**

Children are collected by the class teachers in the hall when the bell goes. Parents will walk their child up to the school entrance where a staff member will be waiting to greet the child. Parents are not allowed passed the school door.

Children are expected to be on time for school, or they will be marked late on the attendance roll.

Small break- 11:00-11:20

Big break- 1:00-1:20

Infants go home at **14:00**

Parents wait at the set down area near the bike racks for the children to walk out with their teacher.

There are after school services available in Toddle In (in the school). If you are enrolling your child in after school services please let the teacher know in September.

Parents must be on time when collecting their children. Children become anxious if they see other children being collected and they are left behind.

For the first two weeks of Junior infants, the children go home at 12:30.

School uniform

Children are expected to wear a uniform everyday.

Our school uniform can be purchased in Mc Faddens in Balbriggan.

Our uniform is a navy tracksuit with a red polo shirt. Jumpers have a school crest.

Please make sure to label your child's uniform.

Velcro runners are encouraged. Coats with zips instead of buttons are advisable.

School facilities

We are lucky to have moved into our new school building which has state of the art facilities including infant yard play area, PE hall, basketball court, school garden, well being room and library.

We have just opened 2 ASD classes where they can avail of a new state of the art sensory room.

Healthy Eating

In Hedgestown NS we have a strict healthy eating policy. Crisps, sweets, fizzy drinks, chewing gum etc. are not allowed. If your child has these in their lunchbox they will not be allowed to eat them and could be taken off them until home time.

Please be aware that we are a nut free school also.

Children are allowed a small treat on Fridays only.

Junior infants tend to need explaining of what to eat on which break as there are 2 breaks.

You might explain to your child that on the first break they will eat their yogurt and their fruit and then second break eat their bigger items such as a sandwich.

By enrolling your child into the school, you are agreeing with the healthy eating policy and must stick to this. All policies can be found on our website.

- **Practice with Lunch Items:** Give your child plenty of practice opening and closing their lunchboxes and bottles. The simpler the containers, the better!
- **Label Everything:** Ensure your child can easily recognise their lunchbox and bottle. Many children will have similar items, so labelling each item with their name is helpful.
- **Prepare Snacks for Easy Eating:** There are two short snack times during the day (about 5 and 10 minutes). Save your child time by pre-peeling oranges, slicing apples and topping bananas.

Behaviour

School should be a safe space for each child especially in the junior infant classroom as we want their first year of school to be a good one full of happy memories!

Our behaviour policy is available on the school's website. Teachers and parents must follow the behaviour policy of the school.

Our class and yard rules:

1. Put up your hand
2. Listen to everybody

3. Keep the classroom tidy
4. Use kind words (no bad language)
5. Use kind hands (no hitting, kicking, biting or causing physical harm to anybody)

If any of these rules are broken there are consequences such as verbal reprimand, time out or in serious cases a trip to the principal's office.

We use **Class dojo** to award good behaviour. Children can get points for working hard, participating and helping others. Once they get a certain number of points they get an award e.g. a sticker, can choose a PE game etc.

If a child is being disruptive, they will be escorted out of the room with a staff member. If being physically or verbally abusive they will go to the principal's office or parents will be rang to come and collect them. Teaching and learning cannot occur if a child is being disruptive or upsetting others.

Toileting and Hygiene

Your child should be fully toilet trained and able to use the bathroom independently

Children should know the procedure around the toilet.

They should know how to wipe, flush & wash.

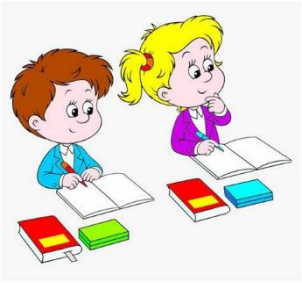
We wash our hands before we eat on both breaks.

Hygiene is extremely important as they share toys, crayons, etc..

Provide them with opportunities to use 'cubicles' when you are out and about

Your child should be able to remove items of clothing and put them back on without assistance

If your child is prone to accidents, please let us know and have a spare change of underwear and trousers in their bag.



A typical day in Infants

The junior infant day is a busy one! Due to their shortened attention spans lessons and activities tend to be short.

Morning

9:20: Children line up in the hall and wait for their teacher. Teacher collects them and brings them to the classroom.

Fine motor activities. This is a crucial part of the day when children settle in, chat and play. Early arrival is highly recommended to help them adjust smoothly.

Fine motor skills involve the small muscles in your child's hands, fingers, and wrists. These skills enable tasks like writing, buttoning a shirt and picking up small objects.

Encouraging activities like drawing, cutting with scissors, and playing with building blocks can help develop these important skills.

Morning meeting and Nursery rhyme

English/Phonics

Movement break

Gaeilge

Wash hands and eat

11:00-11:20: Yard

After First Break

Maths

Movement break- PE in the hall

SESE/Religion/SPHE/Music

Reading/Story time

Wash hands and eat

13:00-13:20: Yard

After Second Break

Play time- we would normally do art in small groups here

Our play rules are:

Use kind words

No throwing toys

Sharing is caring

Tidy up after ourselves

Tidy up and get ready to go home

Homework

Homework will start after the first few weeks once the Junior infants have settled.

Each child is given a homework folder each Monday this should be returned each Friday with the completed homework.

Parents need to sit down and do the homework with their child due to their age.

Find a quiet place with no distractions

Our homework policy recommends that Junior infants spend 10 minutes on their homework each night.

Homework might include: phonics work/games, fine motor work, Reading Eggs programme (online)- you will need a device for this, maths activities.

Learning programmes that we use:

Jolly phonics songs

Sounds like phonics games

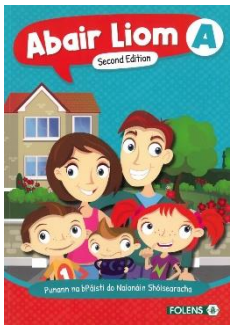
Reading Eggs and Fast Phonics (online using your own child's account)

Youtube- silly education songs and for nursery rhymes super simple songs

Busy at maths games

Abair Liom programme for Gaeilge- includes stories, games and songs

Learning support might go Ready, Set Go Maths or Literacy Lift off for extra support

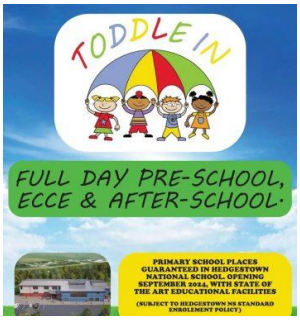


Preparing your child for school

Top Tips for the First Day of School

- Prepare the Night Before: Have your child's school bag, uniform and other essentials ready the night before. Encourage your child to help you go through a checklist to ensure everything is in place.
- Minimize the Build-Up: Avoid putting too much emphasis on "the big day" to prevent your child from feeling overwhelmed. Keep conversations light and positive.
- Breakfast Together: Try to leave time to sit down together for breakfast. A calm and nourishing start to the day can make a big difference.
- Leave Extra Time: Allow extra time to get to school. Rushing can add unnecessary stress to an already emotional morning.
- Be Prepared for Tears: It's perfectly normal for both you and your child to feel emotional. Stay positive, say bye and reassure them that they will be well taken care of. Parents are not allowed in the school building or classroom on their first day as this can upset the child even further.
- Trust the Teachers: Remember, the school staff is experienced and ready to take good care of your child. They will help your little one feel safe and welcome.

Toddle In Creche and Montessori (After School)



Phone Number: 0876457587 Claire McCormack

Email: toddlein@hotmail.com

It would help greatly if your child is able to:

- Button and unbutton a coat and hang it up
- Put on and take off their own jumpers
- Manage hats, scarfs and gloves
- Use the toilet without help and manage pants and buttons
- Know how to flush the toilet and wash hands, without having to be told
- Use a tissue when necessary.
- Share toys and playthings with others and 'take turns'
- Tidy up and put away playthings
- Remain contentedly for a few hours in the home of a relation, friend or neighbour. If children have had this experience, then separation from parents when they start school will not cause any great anxiety
- Manage their own shoes. Velcro is the best option for this
- Open and close his/her own lunchbox
- Undress and change themselves in the unlikely event of a toileting accident

At Toddle In we strive to provide quality care and education in a safe and friendly environment. We protect and encourage children, focusing on and reinforcing positive behaviour. We encourage independence and self-esteem through a curriculum that is child-focused and designed to assist children in valuing themselves through play, learning, and positive social interactions with others.
We value and work closely with parents so that they may actively contribute to and reinforce their child's growth and development. Working together to provide for the best outcomes for the children in our care.

We always maintain the highest standards of early childhood education and care and welcome parents to look at our TUSLA reports on www.tusla.ie

Sharing Important Information

Share any important information that may impact your child's transition to school. If you communicate any needs or issues that your child might have we can prepare in advance.

We can make sure the correct supports are in place to make the move easier and less stressful. Consider telling us if your child has:

- Any special needs
- Speech and language difficulties
- Developmental issues picked up by the HSE nurse
- A recent family circumstances (bereavement, new baby, separation, parent back to work, moving house)
- Allergies or health problems

Information you communicate will be respected and confidential and will benefit your child

Contact us

Parents are expected to communicate with staff through Aladdin, email or face to face at the gate. If you would like to chat with the teacher or principal one on one, a meeting needs to be arranged in advance. This can be done through Aladdin, email or phoning the school.

I hope you have found this welcome pack helpful in preparing your child for school!