



September School Blog

September? How did we get here? Where did our summer go? How are we back to school already? Don't panic, our September blog has all the juicy info that you need to settle into the new school year! So, sit back, get cosy and get informed!

In this school blog our top stories will be...

- ☺ What is it like starting Junior Infants?
- ☺ School News-Gaa, fun class news and more...
- ☺ New after school clubs
- ☺ New people and things around the school
- ☺ Back-to-school jokes!
- ☺ And more...

What is it like starting Junior Infants???



For a lot of us, it's not a big deal starting the new school year. To be honest, the only thing we worry about is getting homework! But when you are a Junior Infant, everything is bigger and scarier, and you also must learn to read and write and learn maths and a lot of people don't like learning, especially when they are younger. And sometimes some of them haven't gone to playschool or preschool before so they don't really know what to expect, so they might start crying and they might get sad, nervous, or scared. And sometimes their friends from preschool or playschool might go to different schools, like the boy's school or the girl's school, so they might not have any friends in 'big' school and that might make them feel anxious, sad, or angry. And quite a lot of kids would

be traumatized over having to leave their parents for larger amounts of time such as, as little as 2 hours all the way to 4 hours 40 minutes and more.

So, as you can see, starting primary school is a scary adjustment for a lot of kids, but it's also a time to get excited about the new school, and the little kids can help out by choosing their bag and water bottle and lunchbox, maybe labelling them, and parents/Guardians can talk about school in a happy, positive way and encourage them to try different subjects and help them by maybe setting up playdates beforehand so they have a safe friend to go to.

Now we are going to talk to a Junior Infant who has just started in our school.

Here is a Q&A:

Q: What is it like starting school? Well, it's great!

Q: What did you do today in school? Well, I watched a program Under the Sea, in the television in my class. I went outside for a little bit. It was a little bit rainy. I ate all my lunch. And I played with X and X.

Q. What is your teacher like? Are they nice? Good.

Q. What is your favourite thing about school? My favourite thing about big school is eating my lunch.

If you are wondering about some tips and tricks to help your child settle into JI, here is some information from the National Council of Special Education <https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NCSE-Preparing-Young-Children-for-Primary-School-1.pdf> and a parent who has been in the school for 4 years gives some tips

"We had some visits to school to pick up older siblings. We talked about how things would be different. We bought a new school bag and a new lunch box, and we helped label them. We started a new bedtime routine, getting to bed earlier. Bringing her home after school, letting her relax with usually no plans, just letting her relax, and that's been good."

From the National Council of Special Education: Before the transition

- ☺ Familiarise your child with the school building.
- ☺ Meet with your child's teacher if possible or tell the child the teacher's name.
- ☺ Involve your child in choosing a school bag/water bottle/lunchbox.
- ☺ Speak positively about school.
- ☺ Reassure your child that their teachers, special education teachers and special needs assistants are there to help them when needed.
- ☺ Read stories about starting school.

Get into a morning routine and night routine that suits you and your child. 30 minutes before bed, start getting your child calm & ready for a good night's sleep. The routine could go something like this: bath, teeth, pyjamas, story and bed.

Promote less screen time and more family & physical time. Help your child if they are struggling with the school transition.

If you want more tips visit <https://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NCSE-Preparing-Young-Children-for-Primary-School-1.pdf> for practical ideas about starting school.



School News!!!

GAA is back with Declan!

Thomas has organised for Declan, GAA coach to come back to our school on Wednesdays to teach classes 1st-6th some quirky new Gaelic football games, skills and practices and some friendly matches! Gaelic football is an Irish sport which

consists of hand passing, solo kicks, coordination and skills as well as friendship and of course FUN!!!

No doubt everyone will learn loads of new fun skills over the next coming weeks!

Need some new after school activities? Look no further...



METNS is proud to be running an array of different afterschool clubs, for all classes, abilities and interests. Here is a list of the classy clubs that are springing up all over the school...[please see website for contact details.](#)

- Irish Dancing is a popular club on Tuesdays at 2.10-3.10pm where you will learn dancing skills of Irish culture and compete in a Feis or two (competition) and you will surely have a lot of fun with your friends, make new friends and you are exercising as well! If you are interested, please contact Siobhán Keogh of Lil Tully Irish Dancing School, 086 8962008
- If you are free on Tuesdays at 2.10-3.10pm and are interested in acting, then come along to a BRAND-NEW club starting soon! Teachers Olivia and Aoibhín will introduce you to singing, dancing, and of course, acting! If this sounds up your alley, then come and try it out!
- If your favourite subject in school is Art, then you might want to try a favourite from last year, Art Club! This club is on Wednesday straight after school, and you'll do painting, drawing, gluing, colouring, cutting and more!
- Are you that kid that wants to be an architect when they're older and always has their head stuck in the LEGO box? Well then, try out the FAMOUS LEGO club! You can build creations for an hour with your friends straight after a hectic day in the classroom, so you can relax, unwind and build! This will be suitable for you if you have no plans either Wednesday or Thursday

right after school, and if you like the sound of this, then pop down to the office and grab a form from the door, fill it in and give to either Cristina or Joan!

- Become a mad scientist for an hour on Wednesdays at the usual time (straight after school) with STEAM Academy and explore the world of Science Technology Engineering Art and Maths! To book click this link [RoboNauts | Exoclass](#)
- Football, tag rugby, hockey, handball and dodgeball are the definition of FUN! for some people. If you're one of those people, I think you'd really enjoy Sports Club on Thursdays after school for some active after school action! So, get out there and get active!
- If you dance around your bedroom and bop to tunes on Spotify, then SAOR Dance and Fitness club could be for you! Move your body and make friends every Thursday at the usual time with Elaine McDonald, who you can contact at saordanceandfitness@gmail.com or drop her a call at 085 7406974
- Do you have a younger child in Junior or Senior Infants with a different pick-up time? Are you tired of ferrying your kids back and forth with no time to spare between pickups at home? Then try Stay and Play Club, where your junior or senior infant child can play outside, do crafts, draw etc. to bridge that hour between pickups! €7 per day Monday-Friday 1.10-2.10pm all teachers garda vetted and insured, express your interest by dropping them a line a infantshour@gmail.com
- Lyons Den: The school also has a new in-school childcare program for afterschool running at cheap prices from Monday-Friday 1/2.10pm-6.00pm contact Lyons Den.
- Sport club is starting up soon! You will learn kicks, passes, drills, games and play some matches there! Please Note: this club is limited to 24 people only and if the number exceeds that amount a waiting list will be created.

With all these activities you can never get bored!

Well now let's move on to the next topics we will be covering in the September school blog.



SCHOOL RULES

This year Lorraine and Elaine have worked together to highlight our school rules that can be found in our code of positive behaviour. This is to ensure both yard and classrooms are safe. They have put posters of the rules in every classroom and on the yard. Now the kids can see what the steps are. The system is quite strict but very fair.

THE RULES ARE:

1. Verbal warning
2. Move in the class/lose some privileges
3. Move to another class/Note or Email home
4. Social Story for Juniors and Seniors or Reflection Sheet for 1st-6th
5. Meeting with Teacher and Parents/Guardians
6. Meeting with Principal, Teacher, Pupil and Parents/Guardians



New People, New Things and New Places Around the School

When the new school year starts, the school might have had some upgrades, unfamiliar staff, new rooms, resources and more. So, I'm going to tell you about the new things that EVERY student needs to know about new things in METNS!

September means new beginnings and that's certainly the case in METNS! This school year we welcome lots of new teachers and support staff to our school community. The new teachers are:

- ★ Hannah McGuckin, 6th Class
- ★ Sinéad Sullivan, 5th Class
- ★ Triona Cahill, 4th Class
- ★ Anna Cuffe, 2nd Class
- ★ Annie Mooney, 1st Class

If you see any of these fresh faces around, make sure to give them an extra-friendly smile and hello!

Sorry if I have left out any people's names, I have an unbelievably bad memory lol! Please let me know if your name isn't here and you are a fresh staff member, and we can work something out! There might also be some student teachers in the next months!

There are some new places in the school as well!

- ❖ We of course have the kitchen! The kitchen is where our delicious lunches are made by our lovely lunch ladies! Thank you! The kitchen is a state approved, of-standard, proper working, suitable kitchen where our ladies can safely make our delicious dinners!
- ❖ The Rainbow Room is a new addition this year. The idea was sprouting last year, and you could see the colourful sign being put up, but the place has really come into its own this year! The Rainbow Room has all sorts of different games, sensory toys, huts, materials and more! You can go and have a quick break there and just... aaah, RELAX!



Back-to-School Jokes!!!

Feeling down about having to start school again? Then take a look at these extremely funny back-to-school jokes that have cracked up all over this page! Ha!

- 1) On the first day of school, what did the teacher say their three favourite words were? June, July and August!
- 2) What is a math's teachers favourite season? Sum-mer!
- 3) Why do calculators make great friends? You can count on them!
- 4) Why does the maths book always look sad? It's full of problems!
- 5) Why did the kid cross the playground? To get to the other slide!
- 6) What is a math's teachers favourite dessert? Pi!
- 7) Why does a music teacher need a ladder? To reach the high notes!
- 8) Why did the M&M go to school? Because it really wanted to be a smartie!
- 9) What flies around the school at night? An alpha-bat!
- 10) What did the pen tell the pencil on the first day of school? Looking sharp!
- 11) How do you make time fly? Throw a clock out the window!



Silly Class News!!!

Here are some fun or silly things classes have been doing during the first few weeks back at school to settle in! It can be anything from a class playlist to some crazy art pieces and having dance parties!

Aoibhín's Junior Infants have been very busy! They've done a tour of the school, played singing games and did PE for the **FIRST TIME!!!**

Sinéad St's Senior Infants have been creative the last few weeks! They have made some very colourful colour wheels with little smiling faces and have gone on walks around the school!

Carolina's Senior Infants had some run-around and free-play time with the other Senior Infant Class a few days ago! They played a lot of games and had a lot of fun!

Annie's 1st Class have made some pieces of art as well! These cool kids have made snails with moustaches on them! How original!

Thomas' 2nd Class have been dancing to the hokey pokey...in IRISH! They have also made some lovely autumn art for the season!

Anna's 2nd Class have been occupied drawing pictures of themselves...Picasso style! They find cubism very interesting! They also have a sporty cricket blitz coming up next week!

Jennifer's 3rd Class have been bustling about with so much fun and games these past weeks! They've played so many games such as: Wordle, Global, Sudoku, Cat and Mouse and Ship Sea Shore; have made some eye-catching art and even done the Waka Waka dance a few times!

Robert L.'s 3rd Class have been extremely engaged since the school year started with so many entertaining activities on hand! We had the Chromebooks, some fun projects, handball competitions, Kidz Bop dances, they've played Stop the Bus, done fun movement breaks, played basketball, football, cards and board games! Wow!

Robert P.'s 4th Class have also been having a lot of excitement starting the new school year! They've played a quiz on Kahoot, done fun Maths stations, enjoyed making cool drawings and even visited the Guinness World Records website. Some people tried to break some records, but unfortunately, none were broken! And guess what? The class told us that the fastest time to tie a shoelace is 0.638 seconds! Can you believe that!

Sinéad Su's 5th Class have done GAA, made birthday cards, danced to the Sid Shuffle and done a Roald Dahl themed Quiz in honour of Roald Dahl Day. Also, one of the pupils in this class told us a fun fact about Roald Dahl: Did

you know that one of Roald Dahl's sisters Elsie, was going to be sent to boarding school, but she didn't want to go, so she ate her train ticket!

Olivia's 5th Class have also been busy creating their class playlist, having dance parties with singing, hanging out in their Calm Corner and enjoying some Challenges in their Morning Meetings!

Hannah's 6th Class have been enjoying playing darts and Wordle and starting projects on Ancient China! Interesting!

Dave's 6th Class have finally chosen their 6th Class hoodies with the other class. They have chosen the colour, design and style. They are very happy. Besides that, the class have been entertained by a Cycling Safety Lesson, playing Darts, learning to code on Scratch and playing checkers with Hannah's class!

The Editor's Blackberry Crumble Recipe



✓ Ingredients

- ✓ 340g blackberries (hand-picked or shop-bought)
- ✓ 6 tbsp unsalted softened butter
- ✓ 2 third cup of brown sugar (substitute Demera sugar)
- ✓ Half a cup rolled oats (or porridge oats)
- ✓ Half a cup plain flour
- ✓ A quarter tsp ground cinnamon
- ✓ A pinch of salt

Method:

1. Heat oven to 170C fan. Line an 8 inch square tin with tin foil (or use a silicone tin and don't line.) Place the blackberries in the pan.

2. Mix all the ingredients together except the blackberries, and crumble with your fingers. Make sure there is no visible butter, sugar or flour once you're done crumbling.
3. Tip the bowl over the tin of berries and spread the topping out evenly with your fingers.
4. Bake for 30 minutes. Take it out and let it cool a little so the crumble can fully form.
5. Enjoy with ice-cream, cream or yogurt, and eat it slightly warmed! Mmm! So delicious! It's even more delicious if you hand-picked the berries yourself 😊

And that wraps up this month's school blog! We hoped you enjoyed reading it and we will be back in October for a **SPOOKTASTIC** edition! We hope you have a lovely day and thank you for reading our piece of work! From all the **METNS Blog team!**

WATCH OUT FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL

BLOG! 😊 Signed by Eli Coogan, Editor and Journalist and Amélie Welmer, Journalist

