

WELCOME TO JUNIOR INFANTS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome you to South Lee Educate Together National School. I hope that you find this booklet useful as you prepare to send your child to our school. This is a very exciting time for your child and family and I am sure that you have a number of questions! This booklet is intended to provide you with an introduction to all aspects of school life.

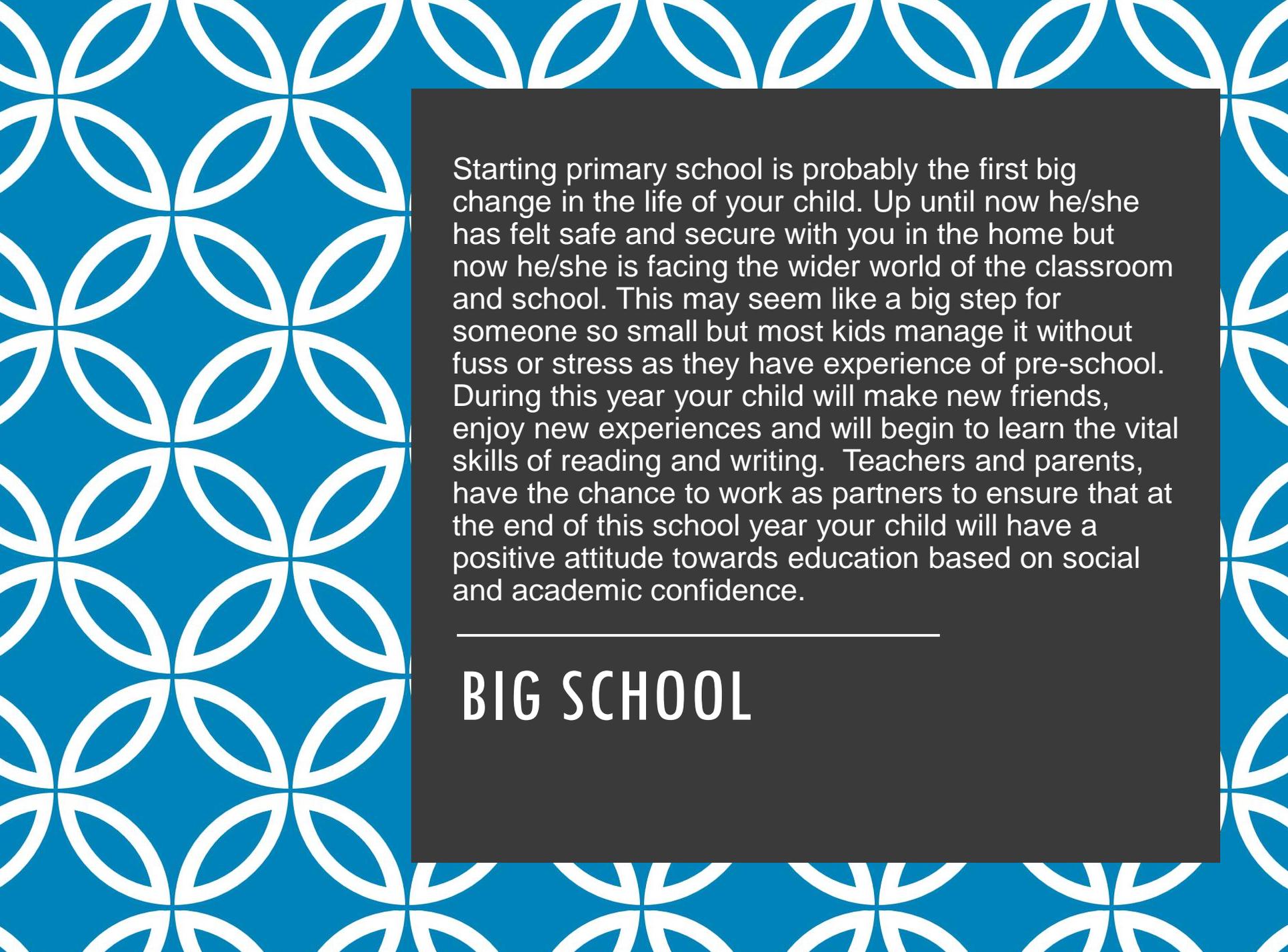
We hope to get to know you, our parents, as well as we get to know your children. All of us involved in the school intend to work very closely with you, our new parent body, over these first exciting years of our school. Together we hope to develop a warm, friendly and inclusive atmosphere and a vibrant school community with the joint aim of providing the best possible education for all the children in the school.

A high level of parental involvement is a feature of our school. I encourage you as a parent to become involved in the life of the school. I know that once you become involved here, you will realise the value of this for yourself, your child and our school. Be assured that you will always be welcome.

David Cashman

Principal





Starting primary school is probably the first big change in the life of your child. Up until now he/she has felt safe and secure with you in the home but now he/she is facing the wider world of the classroom and school. This may seem like a big step for someone so small but most kids manage it without fuss or stress as they have experience of pre-school. During this year your child will make new friends, enjoy new experiences and will begin to learn the vital skills of reading and writing. Teachers and parents, have the chance to work as partners to ensure that at the end of this school year your child will have a positive attitude towards education based on social and academic confidence.

BIG SCHOOL

WHAT IS AN EDUCATE TOGETHER SCHOOL?



Educate
Together

Educate Together is a national organisation of the Educate Together multidenominational schools in the Republic of Ireland. There are 82 Educate Together primary schools in the country and this number is growing. There are also nine Educate Together secondary schools, including Cork Educate Together Secondary School.

Educate Together primary schools are National Schools. We are governed by the *Rules of National Schools* and by the Department of Education and Skills. We teach the *Revised Primary School Curriculum (1999)*. The schools are fully recognised by the Department of Education and Skills. What makes our schools special is our ethos and core principles.

Ethos and Core principles

South Lee Educate Together National School is founded on four core principles:

1. **Equality-Based** - children of all creeds and none have equal rights of access, and the social, religious and cultural background of each child is equally respected.
2. **Co-educational** - the school is open to boys and girls on an equal basis. Every effort will be made to ensure that girls and boys are actively included.
3. **Child-centred** - the school aims to establish an environment which encourages, nurtures and facilitates each child so that they will explore their full range of abilities and work towards realising their highest potential.
4. **Democratic** - the school is run by a Board of Management. Children are encouraged to become involved in school structures through their representatives on the Student Council. Our inaugural Parents' Association will be established in 2020. The officers are elected every year at the Parents' Association AGM.

CORE PRINCIPALS

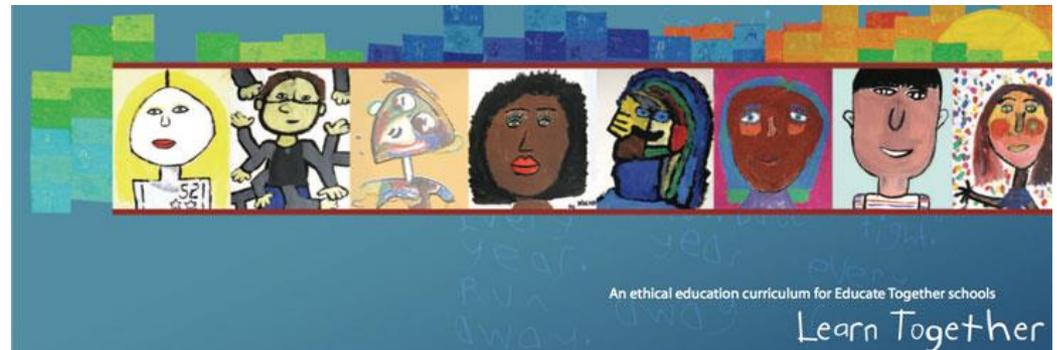
ETHICAL EDUCATION

We provide a programme of ethical education called *Learn Together*. It has four strands:

- 1) Moral and Spiritual;
- 2) Equality and Justice;
- 3) Belief Systems; and
- 4) Ethics and the Environment.

We look at the similarities and the differences between religions. We also provide ethical education programmes based on morality, human rights and responsibilities, and good citizenship.

We do not prepare children for sacraments or religious events but we are committed to making school facilities available to parents who wish to organise doctrinal or religious instruction to their children outside of school hours



At South Lee ETNS, we aim to create an environment where each child is:

Welcomed and Nurtured

Respected

Responsible

Celebrated and Included

Safe

Healthy and Active

Achieving.

At the heart of this we aim that they gain a love for learning and develop a growth mindset with GRIT.



SCHOOL AIMS

SETTLING IN

Day 1

- School starts at 8:30 on Thursday August 27th in 2020.

- Parents will accompany children to the classroom on day 1.

- School will finish at 11:00 on Day 1 and 2.

Week 1 and 2

- Infants will finish at 12:00 for the next two weeks.

Finish

- Infants will finish at 1:10 from September 14th.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE MY CHILD FOR SCHOOL?

Developing Maths Skills

Help your child to identify colours and recognise numbers in the real world

Allow your child to help you sorting e.g. socks, clothes etc.

Activities which involve pouring, stirring, mixing, rolling etc. are of great benefit

Allow your child to play with money



CO-ORDINATION

Give them paper for scribbling and drawing

Strengthen fingers using márla, lego, etc

Allow them to use a safety scissors

Make simple jigsaws

Play ball games



WHAT DOES THE INFANT ROOM LOOK LIKE?



Much of children's early learning and development takes place through play and hands-on experiences. Through these, children explore social, physical and imaginary worlds. These experiences help them manage their feelings, develop as thinkers and language users, develop socially, be creative and imaginative and lay the foundations for becoming effective communicators and learners. Aistear is a programme for early childhood education. It ensures that your child's transition from pre-school to primary school is as seamless as possible.

In our Junior Infants classes much of the children's learning is through structured play and we will have dedicated Aistear sessions. During these sessions children will play, dress up, role play using a variety of resources such as water, play-doh, sand, blocks, junk art etc. At times, we will be asking for parental support to assist the pupils in small groups

AISTEAR- METHODOLOGY

Aistear uses the four
themes of:

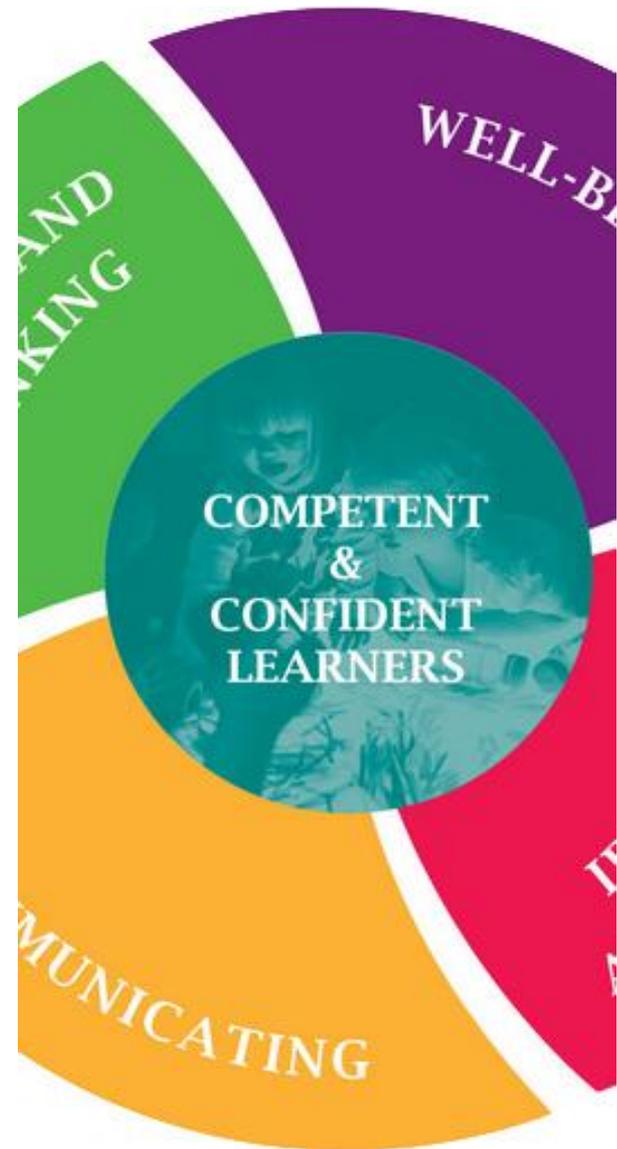
Communicating

Well-Being

Identity & Belonging

Exploring & Thinking

To develop communication
& thinking skills through
meaningful experiences



The children design and create new buildings or objects in response to a question, problem or topic studied.

Children were tasked with designing a new car park to accommodate more cars.



AISTEAR - CONSTRUCTION



As a natural and compelling activity, Outdoor play promotes cognitive, physical, social, and emotional wellbeing offering the necessary conditions for children to thrive and learn.

At South Lee ETNS, we aim to give children an experience of a wide variety of sports and a love for being active. At infant, level we will focus on physical literacy and enjoyment where a child can progress at his/her own level in a child friendly environment.



OUTDOOR LEARNING/SPORTS SKILLS

Children will receive a booklist in May

Parents can pay the school for the books and copies and they will be ready for the first day of school in August

May

August

SCHOOL BOOKS & COPIES

ABSENCES

School attendance is vitally important, please ensure your child attends school every day that he is able.

If your child is absent a note must be sent to the class teacher to ensure absences are recorded accurately for the Department of Education.

Please inform the school of any ongoing medical issue which may lead to increased levels of absenteeism



The school day is short and we want your child to receive the best education possible.

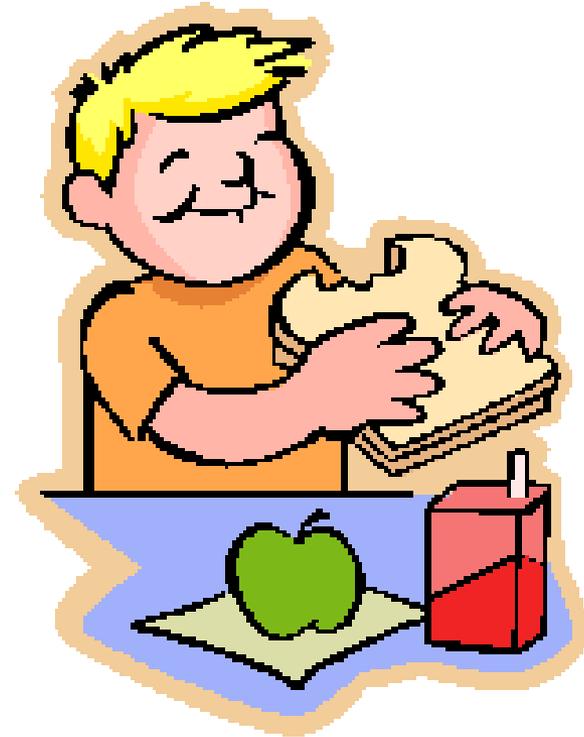
Diet plays a big part on your child's behaviour and readiness to learn.

An example of a healthy lunch:

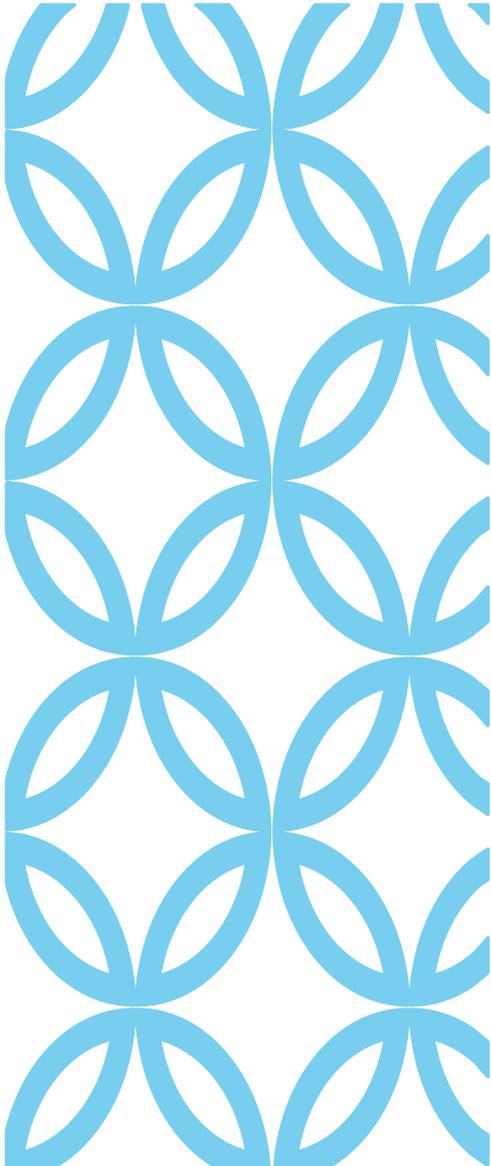
Sandwiches/crackers/breadsticks/wraps/rice cakes/fruit/vegetables/cheese/yoghurts.

Water/milk/smoothies

Please ensure that your child's lunchbox is clearly labelled. If your child does not finish their lunch, it will be sent home.



LUNCHES: *WE PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING IN OUR SCHOOL*



We have no school uniform in South Lee Educate Together National School but would recommend that your child wears comfortable clothing for safe and free movement.

Minimal jewellery such as a watch or stud earrings are permitted. Other items such as bracelets and drop earrings can cause the child injury, or distress when lost or broken.

We ask that you teach your child to take off/on his/her coat and how to open and close zips, buttons, buckles and laces. Zips are preferable to buttons and elasticised clothing is ideal. Velcro shoes are preferable to laces for young children.

Label all coats/jackets/jumpers!

Trolley bags are dangerous and are not permitted in our school.

UNIFORM

HOMWORK

Homework given to Junior Infants will be minimal. Homework should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. Try and encourage your child to complete their homework when they come home from school, as they are still in school mode. Leaving homework until late means that your child may be tired and may learn to resent it.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We welcome all children into our school. In relation to applications for the enrolment of children with special educational needs, we do request a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological report. Where such a report is not available, we request that the child be assessed immediately. The purpose of the assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational needs of the child and to access the support services required. Following the report, the Board of Management assesses how the school could meet the needs specified in the report.

If you notice that your child is struggling with any aspect of schooling, let us know. Likewise, we will inform you if we have any concerns regarding your child's educational, physical or emotional development. If this occurs, please do not panic. It's better to find out concerns at an early stage to provide support.

