



Parteen National School

Parteen

Co. Clare

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Junior Infants 2020/ 2021

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We hope this finds you well. We are writing to you with regard to Junior Infant Classes for September 2020. At this time of year we traditionally have you into the school to meet us where we explain everything you need to know for September. We then have the children visit in June to meet their teachers and classmates and see their classrooms. In September the class teachers call you to the school to discuss homework. We put a lot of effort into transitioning to school – it is a special time. Due to the current school closures, we are unable to organise the above events.

We are taking things one step at a time and the first thing we organise is the class groupings so we write to you now regarding this.

There will be two classes for the 2020/ 2021 school year. We are currently organising the classes. This is what we do to ensure two ‘even’ groups.

1. We start with age and gender. We put the two eldest boys in separate classes. We continue by putting the next two eldest boys in separate classes and so on.
2. We then put the eldest two girls in separate classes. We continue by putting the next two eldest girls in separate classes and so.
3. We then review the registration forms and we look to see who has additional needs. We then may make some swaps between the two classes to ensure they are balanced. For example, if we found that one of our initial classes had five children with speech and language delays and the other class had one child with a speech and language delay, we would swap around to ensure there were three children with speech and language delays in each class.
4. We then look at the preschools the children attended and we try to ensure there are at least two children from the same preschool together.

When carrying out step '3' and '4' above, we are trying to balance this out with points '1' and '2', completing these steps while also trying to ensure an age and gender balance.

Often families are worried that their children will not know somebody – this is why we carry out step 4.

Families sometimes contact us asking us to ensure a certain child is in the same class as their child. We also can get the opposite request. We have also received both requests at the same time – one family asking their child be put with another child and then the other family asking not to be put in the class with that child!

If you are very worried and really want to request your child be with someone they know, please email [parteenoffice@gmail.com](mailto:parteenoffice@gmail.com) by Tuesday evening. However, we encourage you not to do so, as children in each class will be rotated regularly to sit with new friends. The children from both classes will be playing together at break time. Teachers will be observing children closely and encouraging friendship formation.

When we have the classes organised we will be in contact about induction information.

Kind regards,

Ger and Mairéad