

Gaelscoil agus Naíscoil na mBeann

Ceisteanna Coitianta- Lá Oscailte

When do the children start doing English?

- After Hallowe'en in Rang 3- They will stay until 2:30pm and begin working on English as a taught subject..
- Emphasis is on Phonics and literacy skills in Gaeilge up until then, but these skills are transferrable between the two languages. There are obviously some differences in letter sounds etc. but we find that the children can transfer the skills they have acquired to allow them to begin reading/ writing in English almost immediately.
- Clearly every child is different and will learn at different rates, but our objective is to have bilingual learners who are biliteral by the time they leave Gaelscoil na mBeann.
- We encourage parents to **read as much as possible with children at home, in either Irish or English.** Reading in English will not have a detrimental impact on your child's learning. Exposure to text in any language will enhance understanding.

What if they're struggling with English?

- We have several interventions and aids in place, like any other school, to assist children who may be underachieving.
- Reading Partnership- trained classroom assistant works daily with children for 15 minutes practicing and focusing on reading skills in English.
- Toe-by-toe intervention program.
- Rang 3-7 use Accelerated Reader where they are encouraged to read books at their own level which they then complete quizzes on to ensure comprehension.
- Withdrawal groups for underachieving children, focusing on basic literacy skills, and reading based on their individual needs.
- We also have full access to the EA (Education Authority) Literacy Support Services and other EA services for children with identified SEN (Special Educational Needs) via the RFI portal.

Other interventions

- Focus is on the acquisition and improvement of basic skills in the curriculum areas
- Support from External agencies
 - SmallTalk NI for Speech and Language (school funded-we recognised the need + invested)
 - Education Psychology Service (EANI)
 - EA Support services
 - RISE NI
 - Middletown Centre for Autism
 - Autism NI
- Our Maths Coordinator and 1x Classroom Assistant are qualified to provide intervention using the Maths Recovery programme.
- Classroom assistants placed throughout the school- fulltime in Rang 1
- Differentiation- catering the curriculum to the needs of the individual child.

Religious education/ Sacraments


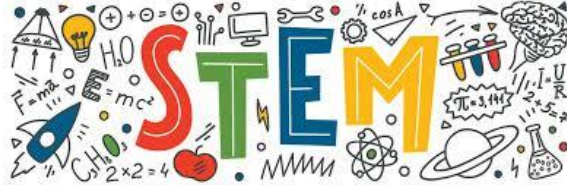







- Gaelscoil na mBeann is a multi-denominational school with families from all sorts of backgrounds currently attending.
- We have a Religious education scheme throughout the school which focuses on aspects of a range of major religions. This varies from year group to year group.
- We also focus on morality and being a good person through PDMU (Personal Development and Mutual Understanding) lessons- using circle time and CCEA produced resources as guidance. Different beliefs are discussed, and children are encouraged to be tolerant of everyone.
- Children are prepared for Roman Catholic sacraments upon request from parents.

What if I don't speak Irish?/ Homework

- At least 98% of our parents have little to no Irish
- You will go on a learning journey with your child, and they will take great delight in teaching you words/ phrases they have learned.
- For Homework, teachers are available to offer support via the Seesaw App within allocated hours.
- Homework club twice a week
- Conradh na Gaeilge offer a Homework text helpline- send a text with a question and get a response.
- From Rang 4-7, all written homework is in English- Literacy and Numeracy.
- All children will have Irish reading to complete at home and Irish spellings to learn. This is a vital part of homework and is essential to support the learning done in school.
- We expect that all parents will be actively involved in their child's education and will support and consolidate the learning done in school.

School hours/ bus

- School starts @ 8:30am
- Rang 1-3= 8:30am- 1:30pm
- Rang 4-7= 8:30am- 2:30pm (Rang 3 after Hallowe'en)
- EA bus to and from school- one goes to Annalong, one to Glasdrumman, and another to Attical, Scrogg Rd, Ballymaderfy (Newry Rd) and Cranfield.
- ONLY children living at least 2 miles from school are eligible (Ballymartin based children aside)- Check your child's eligibility on EA website- <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/home-to-school-transport-0>
- We currently offer after-schools provision 5 days per week (Rang 1 & 2)/ 4 days per week (Rang 3-7) at a cost of £2 per child, per day. See sample timetable overleaf.

| | 1:30pm- 2:30pm | 2:30pm-3:30pm |
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| An Luan/ Monday | Rang 1,2 &3 Club tógála/ Building club  | Rang 4,5,6 & 7 Club STEM  |
| An Mháirt/ Tuesday | Rang 1,2 &3 Cumann Obair Bhaile/ Homework Club  | Rang 4,5,6 & 7 Cumann Obair Bhaile/ Homework Club  |
| An Chéadaoin/ Wednesday | Rang 1,2 &3 Healthy Kidz- Dornálaíocht/ Boxercise  | Rang 4,5,6 & 7 Healthy Kidz- Dornálaíocht/ Boxercise  |
| An Déardaoin/ Thursday | Rang 1,2 &3 Cumann Obair Bhaile/ Homework Club  | Rang 4,5,6 & 7 Cumann Obair Bhaile/ Homework Club  |
| An Aoine/ Friday | Rang 1,2&3 Club súgartha/ free play  | |