

St Mary's National School, Saggart



Junior Infant Welcome Pack

Fáilte rómhat agus roimh do pháiste

Welcome to you and your child



Starting school is recognised by all as a huge step in a child's life. Many children will have experienced separation from their parents in the home by attending playschool, crèche or a child minder. However now he/she is facing the wider world of classroom and school. This may seem a big step for someone so small but most manage it without any great fuss or stress – and in fact take to it like a duck to water.

However, it is also a time when parents and teachers should take special care to ensure that the transition to school is as smooth as possible. If the child's first experience of school is one of happy involvement, a very good foundation will have been laid for fruitful school years ahead.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, thank you for enrolling your child in St Mary's National School, Saggart. We would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family and we hope you have a wonderful year ahead.

Enclosed in your Junior Infant Welcome Pack is the information you will need for, before and after your child's 'Big Day' – their first day of school.

General Information and Contact Details:

On September 1st 2014 we were delighted to open our new school building. It is a 25 classroom school with 4 special classes in our ASD unit, The Lighthouse. We are a three stream school (with the exception of one class level which is four stream).

Opening Times:

Junior & Senior Infants: Drop off 8:50 –
9:10. Class starts at 9:10

School ends at 1:25 and 1:30

1st-6th Class: Drop off 8:50 – 9:10.
Class starts at 9:10

School ends at 2:25 and 2:30

Contact Details:

St. Mary's N.S.,
Saggart,
Co.Dublin

Tel: 01-4589020

E-mail: stmaryssaggart2@gmail.com

principal@saggartns.ie

Website: www.saggartns.ie

Please note, all up to date information can be found on our school website. School policies can also be accessed on our website under the 'Policies' tab.



Mission Statement

St Mary's N.S. Saggart is a co-educational National School under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. The school is an integral part of Saggart Parish and in partnership with parents and the Catholic Church seeks to nurture the Catholic faith through religious education preparation for the sacraments and the reflection of Gospel values.

Historically, St Mary's N.S. is a small village school which is growing in numbers. We strive to maintain the positive qualities of closeness, community and pride; these have been an integral part of school life since the school's foundation.

St. Mary's N.S. seeks to be a warm and welcoming place, respectful and accommodating of diversity in race, culture, religion, gender and ability. We strive to provide an inclusive environment responsive to the needs of all children.

We aim to develop an atmosphere of tolerance, openness, honesty and creativity. All children are nurtured, cherished and encouraged to reach their full potential. It is recognised that they contribute to the wider school community by their uniqueness as individuals.

St. Mary's N.S. seeks to cherish and challenge children in a safe, secure and attractive learning environment. We aim to provide quality learning experiences that are enriching and enjoyable through a broad balanced and relevant curriculum. We strive at all times to provide a peaceful, happy and fun learning environment.

St. Mary's N.S. values its open and welcoming relationship with parents. We will continue to work in partnership with parents to ensure the welfare of each individual child and the school as a whole.

We also value and will continue to develop our links with the local community.

Ní neart go cur le cheile.





Before the Big Day

- Visit the school before the first day. Drive past the school before term starts, taking in your new morning route.
- Make sure your child knows how to use the toilet properly and can manage zips and buttons on trousers. Try to ensure your child knows how to flush the toilet and can wash and dry their hands.
- Teach your child how to use a tissue for their nose and correct coughing and sneezing etiquette.
- When choosing a school bag for your child, please ensure it is big enough to hold an A4 folder, lunch box and drink.
- ☒ When buying such items as a coat, lunch box or school bag, make sure your child can open and close them with ease. Make sure the drinks container does not leak. Little things (like soggy sandwiches) can sometimes upset a child. If your child cannot zip his/her coat take time to teach him/her if this is possible. Footwear with Velcro is preferable.

You know your child best, if you have any concerns or questions talk to the teacher not only on the first day but through the first year and right throughout your child's time in school.

School Uniform

The school uniform for St Mary's N.S. consists of the following:

- Navy V-neck jumper / navy cardigan
- Light blue shirt
- Grey tie
- Grey trousers / Grey pinafore / Grey skirt

The P.E. uniform for St Mary's N.S. consists of the following:

- Navy round neck jumper
- Navy tracksuit bottoms
- Light blue polo shirt

Our school uniform is available from New Generations and other good retailers. A school cresting facility is also available from New Generations. Please see below for their contact information. Please ensure your child's uniform is clearly labelled, particularly school jumpers as items can get mixed up, especially in the first few weeks.

New Generations
7 Tuansgate,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Ph: 01-4528300

Email: contact@newgenerations.ie

In the interest of pupil safety, the only jewelry that pupils are permitted to wear are flat stud earrings and a watch. Please note, smart watches are not permitted.



Schoolbag

Your child's school bag will be home to lots of wonderful work samples over the course of the year. For the first day of school we ask that your child's school bag contains the following:

- Their school books as per their booklist, all clearly labelled with their name(s) on the front cover.
- A change of clothes (underwear, bottoms, top and socks) clearly labelled with your child's name. These will be kept in your child's classroom and returned at the end of the school year.
- A healthy snack and a drink

Where possible, please ensure that your child can open and close their schoolbag, lunchbox and drink with ease.

We ask parents to ensure that all of their children's possessions are clearly labelled with their name, such as their coat, and in the winter months their lovely hats, scarves and gloves. This helps us to ensure that lost items can be returned to pupils promptly.

The school does have a lost property facility. Should you find that your child is missing an item that belongs to him/her please contact the office.

Activities to support your child's learning

Here at St Mary's we recognise and appreciate the valuable learning that takes place at home on a daily basis. Parents continuously provide enriching social, emotional and academic experiences for their child.

Please see the following link from the National Parent's Council for ways in which you can support your child's learning at home.

<https://www.npc.ie/images/uploads/downloads/LearningatHome.PDF>



Your Child's First Day

School day: Infants will start later than the rest of the school and the classes will have staggered start/finishing times for the first week and a half.

Times for 01/09/21 – 10/09/21

Junior Infants A: 9:30 – 11:30

Junior Infants B: 9:40 – 11:40

Junior Infants C: 9:50 – 11:50

Times for 13/09/21 – 24/09/21

Junior Infants A: 8:50 – 9:10 drop off – 11:45

Junior Infants B: 8:50 – 9:10 drop off – 11:45

Junior Infants C: 8:50 – 9:10 drop off – 11:50

Times from 27/09 until end of school year

Junior Infants A: 8:50 – 9:10 drop off – 1:30 finish

Junior Infants B: 8:50 – 9:10 drop off – 1:30 finish

Junior Infants C: 8:50 – 9:10 drop off – 1:35 finish

Schoolbag: Books as per booklist, clearly labelled on the front cover
Change of clothes, clearly labelled
Small healthy snack and a drink

On arrival, please make your way to the basketball court (on your right as you're walking up the driveway). At your child's appointed time, you and your child will make your way to their classroom, we will be operating a one-way system through the school and as we will need to restrict numbers of adults in the building due to Covid 19. Please be prepared for some waiting on the first morning. Saying goodbye can be emotional for you and your child.

Leaving them with a smile and reassurance that they will have a lovely first day really helps. We advise and encourage parents to make their goodbye as brief as possible. This enables all children to settle in well, to play with new friends and to get to know their new teacher. The teacher will phone if they feel your child is very upset and needs you.

Your child's books will be taken from him/her on the first day of school and the teacher will hold on to them until such time as they are needed. This minimises the chance of books getting lost.

Please make your child aware of this fact, in case he/she thinks they will never see their lovely, new books again.

Arriving a little early at the end of the day to collect your child can make a big difference, especially as they settle in to school life. They will be excited to see you and fill you in on their day. Even a few minutes late can seem like a long time to a child.



Daily School Life

This section contains information you may need to refer to over the course of the school year.

School Day

Junior and Senior Infants 8:50 – 1:30/1:35

1st – 6th Class 8:50 – 2:30/2:35

Break: Staggered breaks 10:30 and 10:50am
Children will eat a snack in the classroom before going to the yard

Lunch: Staggered lunchtimes – 12:00 and 12:35pm
Children will eat lunch in the classroom before going to the yard



Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings are scheduled in November. Parents are always welcome to liaise with teachers, unfortunately due to Covid health and safety measures this will usually take place over the phone as in person meetings cannot be accommodated at the moment. Meetings/phone calls with class teachers can be arranged through the Seesaw app or the school office.

Healthy Eating

Lunch is an important meal for school going children. We encourage children to eat a healthy, balanced diet.

Please note, the following foods and drinks are not permitted: crisps, sweets, chocolate, chewing gum, fizzy drinks and sports drinks. We ask that your child does not bring a Capri-Sun style drink to school as they often spill and cause upset in the classroom.

Water or juice in a re-sealable bottle is a preferred alternative.

Your child should not be given any food with nut products or fish as there are a number of children in the school with severe allergies.

Our school's Healthy Eating Policy is available on our website should you require additional information regarding your child's school lunch. All food waste is brought home in lunchboxes.

Late arrival

If your child arrives to school late they will access the school through the main entrance where they will be signed in. We understand that there are times when this may be unavoidable, for example extreme weather conditions or road traffic accidents. However arriving late can result in children feeling anxious and they miss out on valuable morning routines and curriculum time. Some children become very upset if they arrive after their class has started and may be embarrassed or scared of walking into their class late.

Early Collections

Please note that children should only be collected early in exceptional circumstances as it causes disruption to the school day for all children and your child misses out on valuable curriculum time. Should you need to collect your child early, please come to the office to sign your child out and your child will be sent for.

Attendance

As a parent, you must let the school know if your child is absent and the reason why. **It is school policy that reasons for absences must be logged through our Aladdin app.** The school are legally obligated to notify Tusla – Child and Family Agency if a child is absent for 20 days or more or where the absence gives rise to concern.

If your child is absent from school you are required to fill in a return to school form via 'Attendance' on our Aladdin app.

Please note that children should not be taken on family holidays during the school term.



Birthdays

Birthdays are a very special occasion for every child and are recognised in our school in the form of a birthday song or similar activity. **Please note that invitations, party bags or birthday treats are not permitted in school.**

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a number of extra-curricular activities that take place throughout the school year. Parents/Guardians are notified of activities that are suitable for their child's class level. Many of these are postponed this year due to Covid health and safety measures but we hope to resume them once it is safe to do so.

Permissions on Aladdin

Before your child starts school with us you will be asked to download the Aladdin Connect app. This is the app we use for communicating with parents.

You will be asked to give permission for your child for the following things using the Aladdin app. The permissions will last for the eight years that your child is in St Mary's NS. You will always be notified of anything involving your child, we just won't ask you to sign permission every time. You can choose to accept or decline the following:

- School Sports Day
- School tours/outings
- Visits to Tallaght Library
- Photographs can be taken for school website/newsletter
- Lessons/workshops/coaching by outside coaches and tutors
- Visits to church for: Holy Days, Weekly Mass (2nd- 6th Classes), Confessions and Holy Communion practice (2nd Class), Confirmation practice (6th Class)
- Withdrawal from class for 1-1 teaching or small group activities with resource teachers (you will be contacted in advance should the need for this arise)