

**READY FOR P.1**  
**AT**  
**BELLAGHY**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## **INTRODUCTION**

Starting primary school is a big step for all children and at Bellaghy Primary School, we try to make the transition as smooth as possible for your child.

Your child will be in a composite class which is a class with both P1 and P2 children (The Foundation Stage). This can be a real benefit as the P2 children know the classroom routines and rules and very often, they act as role models for the P1 children. While obviously, the P2 curriculum is different from the P1 curriculum, learning together works very well.

## **THE FIRST DAY**

You are welcome to accompany your child into the classroom on the first day and stay for a few minutes until he/she settles. We find that the children settle in very quickly and they love being in school. For the first four weeks, all P1 children will finish at 12 noon.

## **THE FOUNDATION STAGE CLASSROOM**

Our classroom is at the bottom of the school. Children enter and leave the school using the playground door. This is the door you bring your child to in the morning, and you will pick up from this door in the afternoon. This door is locked at 9am so if you require access after this time, there is a doorbell which rings in the classroom.

The classroom is an engaging space with specific play and learning areas. Your child will sit at a desk with usually three other children. All resources i.e. pencils, colouring pencils, scissors etc are provided by the school. We just ask that you supply a Pritt Stick.

## **A TYPICAL P.1 DAY**

8.55 - 10	10 – 10.40	10.45 - 11	11 – 12.15	12.15 - 1	1 – 1.45	1.45 - 2
Playtime	Maths	Break	Literacy	Lunch + Physical Activity	Other area e.g. Music, History, Science, Geography, R.E.	Story time/rhymes

## **WHAT WE DO IN P.1 ...**

In P.1 your child will be engaged in many different activities including:

- *Play both indoor and outdoor*
- *Counting and number activities*
- *Early language and literacy activities*
- *Colouring in, painting, art and craft*
- *Listening to stories and rhymes*
- *Using the computers, ipads & Interactive White Board*
- *P.E.*
- *Music and Drama*
- *Circle Time*
- *Trips*



P.1 is hard work but great fun and much of the learning is play-based and active. This is how young children learn best.

## **WHAT YOU NEED FOR P.1**

- A school bag
- A lunch bag/box
- A water bottle
- A coat
- A Jolly Phonics Song Book and CD (Jolly Songs) (available on Amazon) – please keep at home
- Your child will be given a blue book bag with the school crest on it. He/she will carry this bag to and from school.

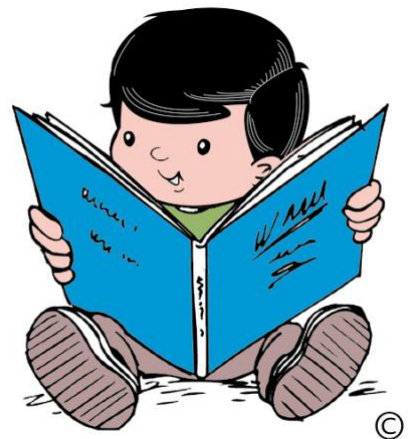


## HOW CAN I PREPARE MY CHILD FOR SCHOOL?

This has to be the most commonly asked question from parents!  
To answer this question, here are a few ideas for you, many of which we are sure you are already doing...

### To develop reading skills:

- *Say Nursery Rhymes together*
- *Sing simple songs together . . .e.g. The Wheels on the Bus*
- *Read stories to your child*
- *Allow your child to follow you, as you point to the words, showing him/her how words move from left to right*
- *Allow your child to retell the story in his/her own words*
- *Ask your child to turn the pages*
- *Talk about the illustrations*
- *Ask your child to guess what may be coming next in the story*
- *Encourage your child to recognise his/her own name*
- *Always write your child's name, beginning with a capital letter, followed by lower case...e.g. Peter*



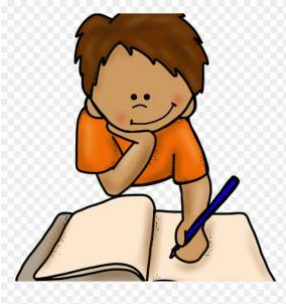
### To develop number skills:

- *Sort household items such as socks, food, cutlery etc*
- *Look for numbers in books, on houses and cars*
- *Count with your child as you are doing your shopping...e.g. count the apples we put in the bag*
- *Play games that involve counting forwards and backwards such as Snakes and Ladders*
- *Allow your child to use money, count pennies*
- *Look for patterns on wallpaper, clothes and tiles*
- *Look for shapes around the house e.g. the clock, the door etc*

12345678910

- *Talk about colours of things*

### To develop writing skills (manipulative ability):



PLEASE NOTE: Many children come to school and they can write their own name, please don't worry if your child can't do this, as only too often, we find that children are making the letters incorrectly and this is a hard habit to break!! If your child has not begun to write, don't panic! We will teach him/her the CORRECT pencil grip and formation of the letters. Rather than using a pencil, it is much better to:

- *Colour in pictures & paint with your child*
- *Do jigsaws together*
- *Allow your child to play with dough or plasticene*
- *Paint with your child, using big brushes*
- *Thread beads*
- *Build towers and encourage play with construction toys such as lego*
- *Allow your child to cut out pictures from a magazine*
- *If your child wants to use a pencil, make sure he/she is holding it correctly and allow him/her to make shapes and patterns*

### HOMework IN P.1

Homework will commence soon after your child starts school. Your child will be given a blue book bag where he/she will keep everything related to homework. This bag must be brought to school every day.

Some homework will be accessed on our online learning platform called Seesaw. You will get your log on details and instructions in September.

The pattern for homework is usually as follows:

Monday – New sound, sing the song related to the new sound/letter

Tuesday – Colour the sheet related to new sound/letter

Wednesday – Draw something beginning with new sound/letter

Thursday – Revise all sounds/letters and words

When your child is ready to read, he/she will get a reading book, so there will be reading homework each night.



## **2 O’CLOCK CLUB AND HUB CLUB**

When your child is staying at school for a full day, i.e. 9am – 2pm, he/she can also stay for 2 o’clock club and Hub Club. Children who stay at 2 o’clock club stay in school until 3pm. The cost is £2 per day. At 2 o’clock club, the children are supervised by a Classroom Assistant and they engage in a variety of activities, including play, craft, outdoor play, watching a movie, playing games etc. This facility ensures you only have one pick up at 3pm if your child has older siblings at the school.

For working parents, we also operate an after-school facility which we call Hub Club. This runs from 3pm to 5.30pm and costs £5 per hour. Children get a snack at 3pm, complete homework and engage in fun activities until they are picked up. Again this facility is supervised by a classroom assistant.

**For both clubs – you will be invoiced monthly.**

Please note – we are registered for the Child care Voucher scheme.

**There are no after school clubs on Friday as we school closes at 2.10pm.**

## **FINALLY**

P1 is a very special year at primary school and we try to make this time at school as memorable and as enjoyable as possible. Remember, if you have any concerns about your child in school, please speak to his/her teacher. We strive to resolve any issues as quickly as possible.