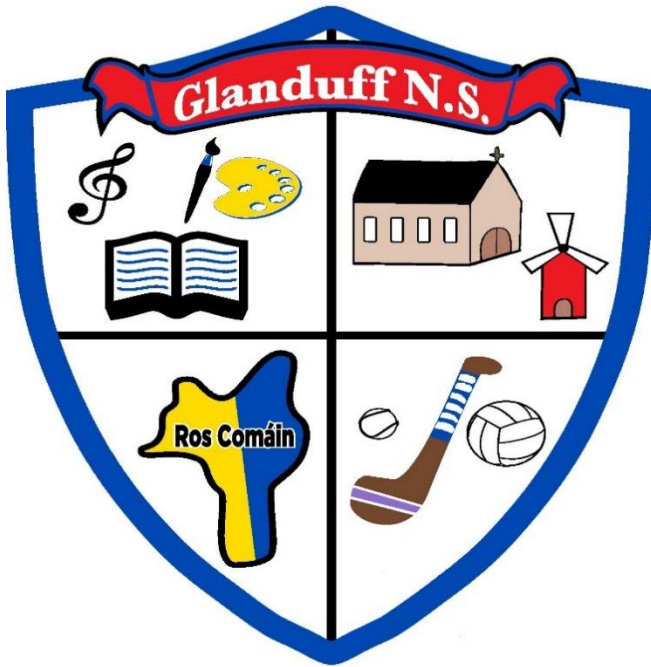


Glanduff N.S.



Booklet for parents of children starting school

Foreword

Fáilte romhat agus roimh do pháiste chuig Scoil Náisiúnta an Gleann Duibh.

This booklet has been created to cater for the smooth transition of your child to primary school. The purpose of this booklet is to give information to parents to assist and guide you in preparing your child to start school.

Starting school will be a significant event for your child. It may seem like a big step for a young boy/girl, but most children make the transition with ease. It is an important time when parents and teachers should take special care to ensure the transition is made as smooth as possible. Being positive with your child about school will help them greatly. If a child's first experience of school is a positive one, a good foundation is laid for a fruitful school year ahead.

We trust you will find this booklet helpful. Should you have any additional queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school at any stage.

Frank Noone & staff of Glanduff National School

Our School



Glanduff National School is a Catholic mixed primary school. In September 2026, our school enrolment is expected to be 147 pupils. We will have 7 mainstream teachers across 6 classrooms, 2 special education teachers, 1 shared special education teacher and 3 special needs assistants. Our school has a part-time secretary.

Our school aims to foster personal and academic development in a caring, secure, challenging environment so that all children can achieve their full potential. The mission statement of our school is that we are a Catholic school, working in partnership with

parents to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils.

The pupils are of utmost importance in our school. As a staff, we work in partnership with the Board of Management, parents, Parents' Association, our parish and our local community.

The curricular subjects taught are

- Languages - English & Gaeilge,
- S.T.E.M. - Math & Science,
- S.P.H.E. - Wellbeing & P.E,
- S.E.E. – History & Geography,
- Arts Education -Music,
- Visual Arts & Drama,
- Religious Education

School Routine

School begins for all pupils at 9.20am. Children can enter the school grounds from 9.10am. We ring the school bell at 9.20am and all pupils proceed directly to their classroom via their designated entry/exit door where

their teacher is waiting for them. The school roll is called between 10am and 10.30am. Please note we can only mark children present who are physically in the building. If your child is going to be late due to an appointment, this will be noted on the roll. We have two supervised break times which are both 20 minutes in duration. School finishes for Junior and Senior Infants at 2pm. Junior Infants finish school at 12 noon for their first days of school. These dates will be confirmed in June. Then their school day will be extended to 2pm. They are brought to their exit gate by their class teacher who will release them to the adult that is collecting them.

If there is someone different collecting your child, the teacher must be notified

School finishes for 1st – 6th class at 3pm.

Uniform



The school uniform is a plain navy V-neck jumper, pale blue polo shirt and navy trousers/skirt/pinafore.

Your child's class teacher will inform you what day your child will have P.E. On this day, children wear a plain navy tracksuit. Please ensure the tracksuit is non-branded.

Children can wear any type of shoe, but we strongly recommend no laces for junior pupils.

Lunches



In our school, we promote healthy eating. Our Healthy Eating Policy is on our school website www.glanduffns.ie. Children eat before each break time in their classroom.

The Lunch Bag is our provider of the school lunch scheme. This subsidized service is available to all our students. Through the use of an app, parents can select a lunch for their child that is delivered to the school daily. Log in details will be supplied to parents at the start of the school year. Visit www.thelunchbag.ie or download the app “The Lunch Bag” for more information.

Parents can opt their children out of the subsidized lunch scheme if they wish.

Foods should be the appropriate size and texture for junior classes. Pupils should be able to easily open and access their food. Chop fruit into bite size pieces and ensure yogurt pots are small and easily opened. If your child needs cutlery, please ensure you provide it. To decrease packaging and litter, all pupils are requested to have a practical lunchbox for their food. Please use reusable/plastic bottles for drinks. No cartons or smoothies/drinks with straws please.

Please ensure your child can easily open and close their lunchbox, drink bottle and food items (Frubes are not practical). Pupils must bring home all of their leftover lunch and/or lunch wrappings.

A number of our pupils have food allergies. In the interest of health and safety, any food that may contain nuts, sesame seeds, hardboiled eggs or kiwi are not allowed. Please note that products that contain cooked eggs are allowed- for example banana bread, scones or pancakes. Mayonnaise on sandwiches or in salads is

allowed. This is subject to change in the future. Children cannot share or swap lunches. Please emphasise the importance of this to your child.

Absences

Our school uses the Aladdin online system to call the roll and to record absences. Good attendance and punctuality is very important. If your child is late, it disrupts their class and can cause your child upset when they are coming in at a later stage to their peers. Similarly, please ensure to collect your child on time. Children can become very upset if they feel they are forgotten. A note is required for all absences. An email to your child's class teacher is best. Your child's teacher will provide you with their email address at the beginning of the school year. An email of explanation can be sent in advance if you know your child will be absent or can be sent when they return to school.

Medical Conditions

Please make the school aware of any medical conditions or allergies that your child has. If any medication needs to be administered on an ongoing basis, the school requires parents to fill in an “Administration of Medicine” form. While we encourage good attendance, we respectfully ask parents not to send children to school if they are unwell or have any contagious illnesses.

If you suspect your child has head-lice, please send an email to your child’s teacher and treat accordingly. This allows the teacher to alert all parents in the classroom to check their child/children’s hair. Confidentiality is always assured.



Getting Ready for Junior Infants

It would be really beneficial if your child can do the following before they start school

- Put on and take off their coat and manage buttons/zips etc.
- Use the toilet independently and manage buttons/zips etc.
- Wash and dry their hands independently
- Open and close their schoolbag/lunchbox/drink
- Recognise his/her own belongings

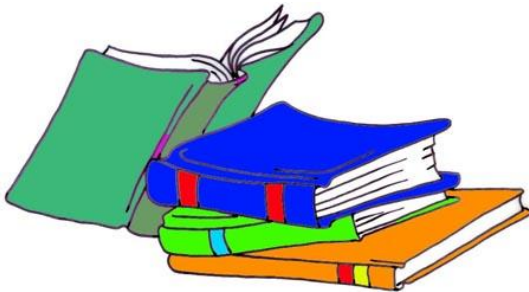


We cannot emphasise enough the importance of labelling all of your child's belongings (coat, jumper, pencil-case, colours, etc.) Please note that labels can wear off as the school year progresses so they may need to be redone.

Books & Requirements

Under the Government free book scheme, books and copies will be purchased by the school. Please note the teacher will hold on to books and copies until such time as they are needed. This minimises books and copies getting lost.

A list of stationery supplies not covered under the book grant, that you will need to purchase will be provided at the infant morning in June.



The Infant Classroom

The infant classroom is a busy classroom! There is a strong emphasis in Junior Infants on settling in, relating to others, making friends, feeling happy and gradually getting used to the routine of the school. The children are getting ready for learning through developing their oral language, developing their physical coordination, extending their concentration span, learning to listen attentively, learning through play, cooperating with their teacher and other children, performing tasks independently, working and sharing with others.



Help for Parents

It is very important to be positive with your child about school. It is a good idea to ask your child what was good about their day or to talk about something fun they did. It would be a good idea to drive by the school so that the children can become familiar with the building and recognise their new school. Children thrive when praised- lots of encouragement and praise will lead to a positive start at school.

It is very important that your child gets sufficient sleep. You will be surprised by how tired they will be for the first few weeks and months of school. For this reason, as mentioned previously, Junior Infants will start school at 9.20am and finish at 12pm for an allotted time at the start of the year.



The First Day

Sometimes, a small number of children (and parents!) can become upset. If this happens to your child, please don't panic. The teacher is experienced and resourceful and is used to coping with all kinds of starting off problems. Try and not show any outward signs of your own distress. Your child will become more upset if they see you being upset. When you have reassured your child, leave promptly. Your child's teacher can distract and humour your child more easily when you're not there.



Communication

The school newsletter is sent home at the end of every month via email. It is also available on our school website www.glanduffns.ie



You will be given your child's teacher email at the start of the year and communications for the teacher should be directed through this.

Useful information for parents, our policies and general information about our school is also available on the website. Emails and texts will be sent home to inform parents about upcoming events/dates etc. Please note you cannot reply to the school text service.

Please follow our school on Instagram: @ glanduffns

Parent teacher meetings are usually held in November. Your child's teacher will communicate a date and time to you in advance of the meeting.

If you have any queries, it is important to communicate with the class teacher by sending an email or phoning the office. Minor issues/queries can be solved quickly and effectively if you act promptly. Your child's teacher

will phone you back once she/he is in a position to do so.

Special Education

Our special education team works collaboratively in all classes in the school. Mary Moore, deputy principal, is the special educational needs coordinator. In our school, we focus on early intervention for all pupils. Special education teachers work in all classes in the school through team teaching, station teaching, paired reading and in-class/out-of-class support.

If you have any concerns regarding your child, please make us aware. It is more beneficial if we know in advance, for example speech and language difficulty, history of dyslexia in the family, toileting difficulties, behavioural difficulties etc.

All matters are treated in the strictest confidence.

The School Bus

The school bus is organised through Bus Éireann School Transport Office, Athlone.

To see if the school bus is an option for your child, you can use the customer contact sheet on:

<https://cs.education.gov.ie/en/customer-contact-form>



or contact

<https://www.buseireann.ie/apply-pay-for-school-transport>



Applications usually close towards the end of April



Before and After School Care

Super Troopers before and after-school care operates on our school grounds. It runs from 8am – 9.20am and from 2pm – 5.30pm.

For further details, contact Anne Gillespie on:

086 8780348.

