



Cartoon Characters painted by the Senior Pupils

.For Parents of Infants.



St. Peter's N.S.
Snugboro,
Castlebar.

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Our School Motto is :-

“Treat others as you would like them to treat you”

Green School Initiative

The school has a long tradition of promotion of conservation in the environment. It has won numerous awards for its work in this area.

Prompted by these former successes the school entered for **Green Flag status**, and was awarded its **First Green Flag award in 2003** by An Taisce for the theme of Litter & Waste. Pupils are encouraged to recycle waste litter and to respect the internal and external school environment. The pupils operate as litter wardens on a rota basis. We often have walk to school days.

We continue to foster positive attitudes in the children towards their environment

Much to our delight and after further review we were again awarded **Green Flag status** for the following projects,

Flag 2. - 2005 - theme - Energy

Flag 3. - 2007 - theme - Water

Flag 4. - 2010 - theme - Travel

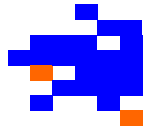
Flag 5. - 2012 - theme - Biodiversity

Flag 6. - theme - Global Citizenship..Litter & Waste.

We are now working towards our 7th Green Flag on the theme “Global Citizenship”. Energy

Taoiseach Enda Kenny celebrated the success of the Green-Schools programme in St. Peter's N.S. on October 8th 2012 when Mr Kenny officially raised St. Peter's N.S. 5th **green flag** from An Taisce to acknowledge our successful completion of the biodiversity theme.

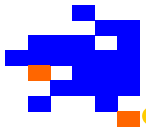
Our 6th Green Flag was raised on October 24th 2014 by our retired Principal Mrs. Marie Loftus.



Accidents

In the event of a serious accident the following steps will be followed:-

- 1) The parent (s) are informed immediately by phone. It is very important that we should have your correct phone numbers - at home, at work and /or mobile phone. *(at least 3 contact numbers)*
- 2) The child will be made as comfortable as possible
- 3) He/she will be reassured. They will be told that their parent(s) has/ have been notified.
- 4) A minimal amount of first-aid will be administered if deemed necessary.
- 5) In some cases it may be necessary to bring the child directly to the hospital. The parent(s) will be informed of this fact.
Your permission to do this has been sought on the enrolment form.



Transport

The school is not involved in the arranging of transport to the school. There is a private bus company which operates a transport system to and from the school. The contact person is:-

Mr. Eugene Deffely (094) 9022662 (086) 2359786



The Board of Management is not responsible for the supervision of pupils who travel on the bus before or after official opening and closing hours.

Congratulations and Welcome.

Your child has reached an important milestone as he/she begins school here in St. Peter's N.S. Snugboro. We look forward to providing their primary Education and we hope that they will have happy and productive days with us as we work together to build a solid foundation for their future lives.



The School Day



Official school hours are 9.20a.m. to 3.00p.m.

1st - 6th (inclusive)

Infants 9.20a.m. to 2.00p.m.

The Board of Management is responsible for the health and safety of the pupils from 9.20a.m. to 3.00p.m./Infants 2.00p.m.

There will be one induction half-day for incoming Junior Infants from 9.20 a.m to 12.Noon.

(Parent's are notified of the date at the information evening)



Lunches



There are two breaks during the day:-

- a) 11.00a.m. to 11.10a.m. b) 12.30p.m. to 1.00p.m.

- ◇ **Children** eat their lunches in the classroom, where they are supervised by a teacher.
- ◇ **In** order to promote good eating habits in accordance with the Department of Health and Education guidelines, lunches/snacks should consist of sandwiches, fruit, yoghurt and a non-fizzy drink. Crisps, bars, sweets and chewing gum are **NOT** allowed in the school.

*Due to a number of pupils with food allergies in the school we request that parents/guardians **refrain** from including nuts, nut products, cereal bars which contain nut or nut traces, food containing nuts and food cooked in nut based oil in your child/children's lunches.*

We thank you for your co-operation.

Uniforms

School uniforms **must** be worn every day, except on P.E. day.



The school uniform consists of :

Boys

Girls

- ◇ Grey - Trousers - Pinafore/Trousers/Skirt
- ◇ Light blue - Shirt - Blouse
- ◇ Navy - Jumper - Cardigan.
- ◇ Both boys and girls wear a navy tie with a light blue stripe.
- ◇ Navy Tights/ White socks
- ◇ Black Shoes
- ◇ School Track suit (crested, navy & saffron top & navy bottoms)



Children **must** wear **school** tracksuits, white T-shirt and runners for P.E on their designated P.E. day(s).

In fine weather children may wear navy or grey knee length shorts

All of the above items may be purchased in any good drapery store in town. The tie & P.E. track suit is available in Prendergast's (Mens & Boys wear) and Fahey's Main St. Castlebar

House shoes or slippers must be worn in the classrooms and hall. A string bag must be provided for the slippers. It is advisable to provide a change of clothes to be kept at school. It is mandatory that all pupils are toilet trained.

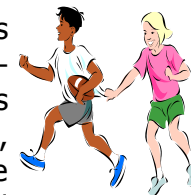
PLEASE HAVE ALL ITEMS (INCLUDING SHOES/SLIPPERS)
CLEARLY LABELLED.



Shoes or runners with a Velcro fastener will enable your child to change quickly and independently.

Extra-Curricular Activities

As St. Peter's is a co-educational school special emphasis is placed on games which promote gender equality. Enjoyment is the desired outcome rather than "winning is all". Games such as basketball, rounders, tennis, volleyball, unihoc, Olympic handball and soccer are enjoyed by both boys and girls. Gaelic football and culaigh are also played by both sexes The school has won many awards at County level in the aforementioned games .



A sports day is held in late May/ early June for the whole school and Parent(s) are most welcome to attend.



The school boasts of a band, and a choir . The Band takes part in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and won the overall award (The Jason King Memorial Cup) in the past. Pupils are taught Tin



whistle from 3rd class up with accordion lessons available to those pupils who choose to play accordion in the school band. Pupils are also given instruction on the other band instruments - drums bellyra etc.

Pupils also participate in school quizzes, Swimming galas and educational tours and workshops in the Linenhall & The Country Museum in Turlough.

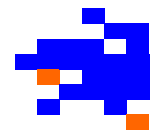
The pupils participate in our annual in-house Carol Service at Christmas. The school is involved each term in a school Mass held in the Parish church in Castlebar, supplying the readings, hymns etc.

Members of the Choir took part in "Atlantic Rhythms" with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. This year Senior pupils took part in workshops with the "Whistle Blast Quartet". The school choir also sang in Mayo General Hospital and raised money for charity in December 2014.

Music lessons are available after school. At present these are:- Traditional music lessons, Classical Flute lessons and Guitar lessons. Pupils are notified of the times of lessons and the cost each term.

Some Golden Rules

- Pupils enter and leave the school building at all times in an orderly fashion. In the interest of safety pupils must walk within the school building and enter and exit the building quietly.
- Pupils are expected to treat all staff members, themselves and each other with due respect and courtesy.
- Bullying is never allowed. Any behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to be safe is unacceptable.
- Bad, inappropriate language is unacceptable.
- Pupils are expected to wear their full school uniform
- Chewing gum, glass bottles, correction fluids, other solvents, matches, cigarettes, alcohol or drugs are not allowed.
- Jewellery is not allowed except for one small stud earring in the bottom of each ear and a watch.
- Make-up is not worn during school times
- Cycling in school grounds is forbidden
- We encourage children to bring healthy lunches (see Healthy Lunch Policy)
- Children are not allowed **Mobile phones** in class or on the school yard. If a child is found with a mobile phone it will be confiscated. In exceptional circumstances arrangements may be made between the principal and parents of the child to hold a mobile phone for a child in the office for use after school hours.
- Hairstyles are expected to be kept neat and conventional -
- For hygiene purposes long hair should be tied back.
- Pupils must respect the school building and property. If any deliberate damage is caused, the parent/guardian will be responsible for the cost of repair/replacement.
- Fighting, rough play or any physical force is never allowed or tolerated.
- In the interests of safety, climbing on the school perimeters is strictly forbidden.
- In the interest of safety when the bell rings during playtimes the children stop playing, stand in their places and move to their class lines. Children do not enter the school building without getting permission from teachers.



Preparation for the First Day

Preparation for the First Day in Junior Infants

Tell your little one about school beforehand, casually, and talk about it as a happy place where there will be a big welcome for him/her and he/she will meet new friends.

It would greatly help if your child is able to :-

- ◇ Button and unbutton his/her coat
- ◇ Put on and take off his/her own shoes
- ◇ Use the toilet without help.
- ◇ Tidy up and put away his/her playthings.

These help to develop manual dexterity and co-ordination, pre-requisites for writing later on.

A Word of Advice

- **Trust the teacher.** She is experienced and resourceful and is used to coping with all kinds of starting-off problems.
- **Try not to show outward signs of your own distress.** Sometimes the parents are more upset than the child and are the main cause of his/her anxiety.
- When you have reassured your child, leave as fast as possible. The teacher can distract and humour him/her more easily when you are not around.

REMEMBER VERY IMPORTANT

Please label **all** books - **all** copies - and **all** clothing (including jackets/coats etc) with the name and class of the child.

Please ensure that your child's teacher has an up-to-date address and phone numbers. It is the parent's responsibility to inform in writing of any changes in name, address or telephone. We also need two further contact numbers for emergencies. We will then be able to contact you immediately if your child is sick.

Parents are asked to inform the school in writing if their child suffers from any allergies, long term or short term illness. Parents of pupils who are on medication or inhalers are asked to fill in a form (available from the school office) for school records.

Car Park. We ask parents to drive with great caution. The Staff Car Park should not be used as a drop off zone for Health and Safety reasons.

All Exits, the School Bus Parking and Disabled Parking areas which are clearly marked must be kept clear at all times.



Pupils are not allowed outside the grounds of the school without permission being granted by the teacher

If a pupil wishes to have permission to leave the grounds, they must have a letter from the parent(s) or guardian(s), formally requesting such permission and they must be signed out by a parent or guardian in the book provided at the Front office.

Teachers are always willing to meet parents to discuss any problems which their child(ren) may have. In order to do this effectively and professionally an appointment is necessary. The teacher will then be able to make provision for the adequate supervision of his/her class.

An annual parent-teacher meeting is held on one afternoon in late November/early December from 3pm to 5.45pm for the parents of pupils in all Standards. Adequate advance notice is given to parents about this private meeting.

Behaviour

Ours is a Catholic school but we also accept and respect the children of other denominations into our school. As a staff our aim is to create a happy, secure environment for our pupils in which there is a sense of good order and a reasonable approach to discipline.

We aim also:

- (a) to create a positive learning ethos in which every pupil can grow and benefit from school.
- (b) to help pupils to become more self-disciplined and to encourage good standards of behaviour.

Our Motto is

“Treat others as you would like them to treat you”

All pupils are expected to behave in a responsible manner both to themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect to other pupils and adults. Respect must be shown to the property of the individual and to that of the school at all times.

School Rules are devised with regard to the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community. There are various sanctions which may be imposed on a child who breaches the “Code of Behaviour”

(A copy of which is distributed to new parent(s)/legal guardian(s) in September).

Bullying

If you suspect that your child is being bullied the first person to contact is the class teacher. We have a school policy for dealing with bullying. The class teacher will then implement that policy and follow the various steps contained therein.

Technology

All pupils are given "hands on" experience of technology. We are very fortunate to have interactive Whiteboards in all of the classrooms throughout the school. These provide a huge choice of mediums through which we can bring the curriculum to life. It is a multi-sensory resource i.e. visual, tactile and audio.

All classrooms are also equipped with sound field systems which provide for children with any hearing difficulties as well as enhancing the learning opportunities for all pupils.

Computers are used in a cross-curricular way to give children confidence in dealing with this modern medium of communication & source of knowledge.

Dedicated enthusiastic staff are constantly updating their skills through in-service courses so as to equip themselves all the more to deal with the pupils in their charge. This creates a happy learning ethos for all.

Outdoor Education

As part of the Curriculum, pupils go on field trips, nature walks and outings throughout the year. Classes from First class upwards get 2 modules of swimming lessons which take place in Castlebar swimming pool. Various coaches from sporting organisations visit the school to enhance training sessions.

All Sports activities are catered for with both boys and girls from the senior classes competing in lunch time leagues. Our indoor sports hall means these activities can take place in all weathers.

Mayo County Council also provide a tutor to facilitate cycling training and Road Safety to the pupils of the senior school.



ACTIVE SCHOOL FLAG

The Active School Flag was launched by the Department of Education in 2009.

It is a non-competitive initiative which highlights the importance of P.E., physical activity and sport in schools & communities. It recognises schools that provide quality P.E., co-curricular physical activity and sports programmes for their pupils.

In the programme the school endeavours to provide Physical Activity in all of the following areas:- Competitive/Non Competitive - Team/Individual - Contact/Non Contact, which are inclusive and differentiated.

In 2011 we were awarded our **First Active Flag** and in March of last year the **Minister for Tourism & Sport Michael Ring** raised the schools first Active School Flag he also planted a tree and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the day.

Books

A book list will be given to the children on the induction day in June. These books and copies can be purchased in local Book Shops. The children will not need to purchase any English Readers. Readers will be given out to the children on a rental basis, see note below.

- **All books and copies to be covered and clearly labelled on the outside.**

Copies : to be distributed during the year as necessary.

* Reading

We would encourage you to read to your child on a regular if not daily basis and to discuss pictures, characters and story. It would be most worthwhile to enrol your child as a member of Mayo County Council Library. Big Books will be read to your child in class and a lot of vocabulary work will take place e.g. Camille and the Sunflowers (Lawrence Anholt), Monkey Puzzle (Julia Donaldson), The Pig in the Pond (Martin Waddell)

* Photocopying /Art and Craft :

It will be necessary to photocopy many worksheets re-inforcing topics / concepts not adequately catered for in their school books.

An Art and Craft contribution to assist in the provision of materials, e.g. paint, paper, brushes etc. will be included on the booklists and is collected each September.

* **Prices are subject to review annually.**

- ♦ After many months of pre-reading activities your child will be given words relating to a reading scheme. It is important that you reinforce the reading of these words each night with your child as this will boost your child's reading ability.

Helping your Child to Learn

CURRICULUM

The What, Why and How of Children's Learning in Primary School is a DVD for parents about the Primary School Curriculum which can be accessed at www.ncca.ie. The DVD provides information for parents about what children learn in school, why they learn with the curriculum and how they learn through different teaching methodologies.

Here in St. Peter's N.S. efforts are made to ensure children taste success regularly. There is a focus on quality learning for all. High standards are achieved in literacy and numeracy.

- ♦ The highly successful Lift Off to Literacy Programme is underway in the school as is the Shared - Reading scheme. They are aimed at the pupils from Senior Infants to 3rd class. This method is explained to the parents at the annual Parent-Teacher meetings which are held in November.
- ♦ By choosing toys carefully (jig-saws, Lego, construction toys etc) you can enhance your child's mathematical and language development and fine motor skills leading to good penmanship and Fine motor co-ordination skills.

Emphasis is placed on identifying children with learning difficulties as early as possible and putting an effective intervention programme in place, in consultation with parents.

Homework:

- ♦ Homework in the first term will mostly be oral work. Handouts/sheets for homework will be clearly dated - and in your child's folder/schoolbag. Homework for infants should only take about 10/15 minutes.
- ♦ Every pupil from First Class upwards must have a homework notebook, into which they write their homework for the coming night. Upon checking the homework, the parents must then sign the notebook, stating that the work has been done. The homework notebook acts as a means of home - school communication.

Curriculum

The School curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education is taught and includes **Languages:- Irish & English**, Maths, **S.E.S.E:- History, Geography, Science**. **Arts Education:- Visual Arts, Music, Drama**. Physical Education, Social, Personal & Health Education and Religious Education.

Because of the rural location of the school much use is made of the environment in the teachings of these latter named subjects. The observation and recording of natural geographical features at first hand is a skill inculcated into the pupils. The knowledge thus gained is incorporated into other subjects such as Art and Creative Writing.

Reading is very much encouraged & we use the shared/paired reading method in the school. Parents read with the child and encourage him/her. The method starts with pupils in Senior Infants class. (Tips and hints are provided by the class teacher.)

Pupils are taught to review a book in a manner appropriate to their age and reading/writing ability. Private research in the form of project work is something the pupils are taught to enjoy. Pupils are taught how to research subject areas using modern forms of technology.

During Lá Gaeilge each class provides some form of entertainment trí ghaeilge. Drama groups visit the school throughout the year to put on various productions. Pupils take part in workshops held in the school and in the general locality e.g. Linenhall Arts Centre, Museum of Country Life T.F. Royal Theatre, G.M.I.T etc.



School Garden

In keeping with our Green Flag the school has recently developed an organic school garden. An out-door polytunnel classroom has been constructed. Pupils are engaged in acquiring basic planting skills. This out door learning environment is becoming an integral part of the S.E.S.E. curriculum.