Grace Park

Educate Together National School

# School Community Information Booklet 2022 – 2023

# Grace Park
## Educate Together National School

**Our address:** **DCU All Hallows Campus,**
**Grace Park Road,**
**Drumcondra,**
**Dublin 9**
**D09 KDW4**

**Telephone:** **01 4826967**
**Please note we will not be using the mobile number from September 2022**

**Email:** **info@graceparketns.com**

**Website:** **www.graceparketns.com**

**Principal:** **Niamh Cullen**

**Deputy Principal:** **Liana Cassin**

# About Our School

Our lovely school, Grace Park ETNS, is located within the DCU All Hallows' campus. We are very lucky to have a brand new, sate of the art building, opened in October 2020.

Our school is an Educate Together School. That means that we are run in accordance with the four principles of Educate Together:

- √ Child-centered
- √ Co-educational
- √ Democratic
- √ Equality Based

We work together to ensure that we all

***Learn Together to Live Together***

and we live by the motto

***'No Child an Outsider'***

This September 2022 we will have grown to more than 20 teaching staff and 9 Additional Needs Assistants (ANAs). We have a full-time secretary who works from 8am-3pm and a part-time caretaker.

# A Typical Day in Grace Park Educate Together

- Children should be in their lines by 8.30 am at the latest.
- If a child is late, they need to report to the school office for a late pass
- The morning reception time is a very important part of your child's school day. This is their chance to socialise with their friends and settle into the classroom ready for their working day.

| | |
|---|---|
| 8.20 | Gates open.<br>Children line up in their class lines in the yard |
| 8.30 | Teachers arrive and reception time begins |
| 8.45 | Teaching and learning time |
| 10.00 | Roll Call and snack |
| 10.10 | First yard |
| 10.25 | Teaching and learning |
| 12.00 | Lunch Break |
| 12.10 | Second Yard |
| 12.35 | Teaching and learning |
| 1.10 | Infant home time |
| 2.10 | 1st-6th class home time |

**We know everyone can be late from time to time, but please don't make a habit of it. Your child learns best when in a routine with all their friends.**

## Attendance and Punctuality

Being on time is an important life skill. Lateness has a detrimental effect on a child's learning and wellbeing, it also disrupts the other students in a class and wastes teaching/learning time. We are now recording lateness on our computerised roll system and this enables us to track punctuality and attendance on a child's record. We ask parents to please make every effort to have their children in their lines by 8.30am at the latest and to encourage the older children to walk into school independently.

We request that parents do not take their children out of school during term time. There are approximately fifteen weeks holidays built into the primary school calendar and we request that parents schedule family holidays during these breaks rather than in term time. If children miss standardised tests, we cannot guarantee that we can accommodate them for testing at a later date.

If, in exceptional circumstances, you have to take your child(ren) out of school during term time, please speak to Niamh.

**Teachers will not schedule additional work for children who are on holidays.**

# Educate Together Schools

Educate Together Schools are governed in the same way as other schools in Ireland. We follow the same national curriculum and are funded in the same way too. We are bound by the rules for primary schools and receive most of our governance updates through Department of Education circulars.

In our school, we believe that ethos is an atmosphere. We like to make sure that our school is a happy place to be as a child, a parent, a staff member or a visitor. Everyone is encouraged to be their true self and is accepted and cherished for who they are. Children do not wear uniforms and all adults and children use first names.

Some people think that Educate Together schools are schools that don't recognize religion. That is not the case! Educate Together schools respect all faiths and none and aim to teach the community about different ways of life so that we can all understand each other and live in harmony. Through our Learn Together Ethical Education Programme, children learn about Justice and Equality, Morality and Spirituality, and Ethics and the Environment as well as Belief Systems.

Overall, we aim, in every interaction to be kind and caring and support each other. We use phrases like "Assume honourable intentions" to remind ourselves that most people act in good faith each day and we should try not to jump to conclusions. We also practice 'Unconditional Positive Regard' for each other.

# Communications

## Aladdin School App

We use the Aladdin Schools Connect app as the primary means of communication. We share student information with parents such as report cards, attendance, noticeboard messages via the Aladdin app. You can also use the app to communicate with your child's teacher – to send messages if they are going to be late or absent or to request a call back or a meeting.
Download the app and we will send you a code to register.

**Please do not use the info account to communicate with class teachers, use Aladdin instead.**

The security of your information is of the utmost importance to Aladdin. Parents are reminded to ensure their accounts and passwords are not shared and to take appropriate measures to keep their account secure. If you'd like to read about data security please visit Aladdin Privacy page. You can find out more about Aladdin on their terms of service page. Should you have any queries about this, please do not hesitate to contact us or Aladdin Schools directly via email parent@aladdin.ie.

## GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25th of May 2018, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive.

As a school we gather and process your child's personal data for the purposes of administering the education of your child. To facilitate this, we input your child's data into the school's Management Information System, Aladdin (as well as keeping a hard copy of the same). Aladdin is a secure software as a service application which is owned and run by Cloudware Ltd. (T/A Aladdin Schools), from where the data is only processed for the above purpose. See our Data Protection Policy on our website.

# Parental Involvement

At Grace Park ETNS we absolutely love when our parents are involved in the school day. There are lots of ways you can become involved, whether you have a little time to give, or a lot!

- √ Volunteer as a reader in the mornings
- √ Arrange to visit to tell us about your job
- √ Come help out in our library
- √ Join us for school tours
- √ Help us organize parent evenings
- √ Volunteer for sports' days
- √ Volunteer for the cycle bus or walking bus.

If you are interested in volunteering during the year, please come talk to us in the school office and we will help to organize it. If you are volunteering on a regular basis, you will need to complete a Garda Vetting application, in line with Child Safeguarding regulations.

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www.graceparketns.com
info@graceparketns.com

# 2022/23 School Calendar

| August 2022 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

| September 2022 | | | | | | |
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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

| October 2022 | | | | | | |
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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

| November 2022 | | | | | | |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

| December 2022 | | | | | | |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| January 2023 | | | | | | |
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| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| February 2023 | | | | | | |
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| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | |

| March 2023 | | | | | | |
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| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| April 2023 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

| May 2023 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

| June 2023 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

| July 2023 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
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| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| | **Return to school** |
| | **School Closure** |
| | **School Closes for Mid-Term – Full Day 1.10/2.10** |
| | **School Closes for End of Term – 11.30am** |

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Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. Roll Number 20486R
www.graceparketns.com
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# School Closures 2022 – 2023

## School opens Wednesday 31st August 2022 @8.30am

| | |
|---|---|
| **Autumn Break:** | Close Friday 28th October 2022 @ 1:10pm/2:10pm (Full Day)<br>Re-Open Monday 7th November 2022 @ 8.30am |
| **Winter Break:** | Close Wednesday 21st December 2022 @11:30am (Half Day)<br>Re-Open Thursday 5th January 2023 @ 8.30am |
| **February Bank Holiday:** | Close Friday 3rd February 2023 @ 1.10pm/2:10pm (Full Day)<br>Re-open Tuesday 07th February 2023 @ 8.30am |
| **February Mid-Term:** | Close Friday 10th February 2023 @ 1.10pm/2:10pm (Full Day)<br>Re-open Monday 20th February 2023 @ 8.30am |
| **St. Patrick's Day:** | Close Thursday 16th March 2023 @ 1.10pm/2:10pm (Full Day)<br>Re-open Monday 20th March 2023 @ 8.30am |
| **Spring Break:** | Close Friday 31st March 2023 @ 11:30am (Half Day)<br>Re-Open Monday 17th April 2023 @ 8.30am |
| **May Bank Holiday:** | Close Friday 28th April 2023 @ 1.10pm/2:10pm (Full Day)<br>Re-open Tuesday 02nd May 2023 @ 8.30am |
| **June Bank Holiday:** | Close Thursday 01st June 2023 @ 1.10pm/2:10pm (Full Day)<br>Re-open Wednesday 07th June 2023 @ 8.30am |
| **Summer Holidays:** | Close Friday 30th June 2023 @11:30am (Half Day) |

# Important Dates in the School Year

## September 2022

| M | T | W | Th | F | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29 | 30<br>Staff Day | 31<br>School Reopens<br>JI 9-11<br>SI – 8.30-1.10<br>1-5– 8.30-2.10 | 1<br>JI – 8.30-11 | 2<br>JI – 8.30-11 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8<br>PTA AGM | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Walk to School Week 12-17 September | | | | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16<br>Sponsored Walk | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Student Council Elections – 26-30 September | | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

# October 2022

| M | T | W | Th | F | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| **Fire Prevention Week 3-7 October** | | | | | **Space Week 4-10 October** | |
| **School Support (IEP) Meetings – In Person** | | | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7<br>**Grandparents' Day** | 8 | 9 |
| **School Support (IEP) Meetings – In Person** | | | | | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| **Maths Week 17-21 October** | | | | | | |
| **School Support (IEP) Meetings – In Person** | | | | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28<br>**Dress up Day**<br>**One Day Together (ET)**<br>**Full Day**<br>**1/2.10 Close** | 29 | 30 |

# November 2022

| M | T | W | Th | F | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mid term Break School Closed 31 October -6 November | | | | | | |
| 31<br>Mid Term Break | 1<br>Mid Term Break | 2<br>Mid Term Break | 3<br>Mid Term Break | 4<br>Mid Term Break | 5 | 6 |
| Science Week 7-14 November | | | | Stay Safe Lessons Begin | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11<br>Science Fair | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16<br>NVRT<br>1-5 Class | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24<br>Thanksgiving | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

**NVRT –** These are Non-Verbal Reasoning (IQ) Tests we conduct for all children in 1st, 2nd and any children new to our school.

# December 2022

| M | T | W | Th | F | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **International Human Rights Month** | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Book Fair Week** | | | | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| **Winter Shows Week** | | | | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14<br>Junior/Senior Infants Show 11.00 | 15<br>1st and 2nd Class Show 11.00 | 16<br>3rd/4th/5th Class Show 11.00 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21<br>Winter Holidays 11.30 Close | 22<br>Winter Holidays | 23<br>Winter Holidays | 24<br>Winter Holidays | 25<br>Winter Holidays |
| 26<br>Winter Holidays | 27<br>Winter Holidays | 28<br>Winter Holidays | 29<br>Winter Holidays | 30<br>Winter Holidays | 31<br>Winter Holidays | |

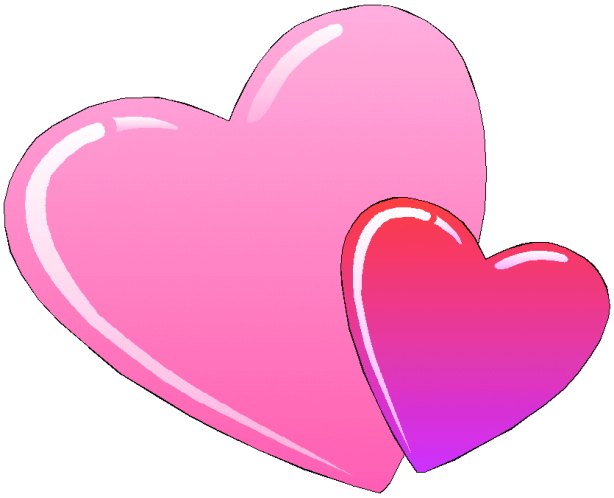
# January 2023

| M | T | W | Th | F | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 Winter Holidays |
| 2 Winter Holidays | 3 Winter Holidays | 4 Winter Holidays | 5 School Reopens World Braille Day | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 BT Young Scientist | 13 BT Young Scientist | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Parent - Teacher Meeting Day | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

**Parent Teacher Meetings will be back in person and will run from 3pm.**

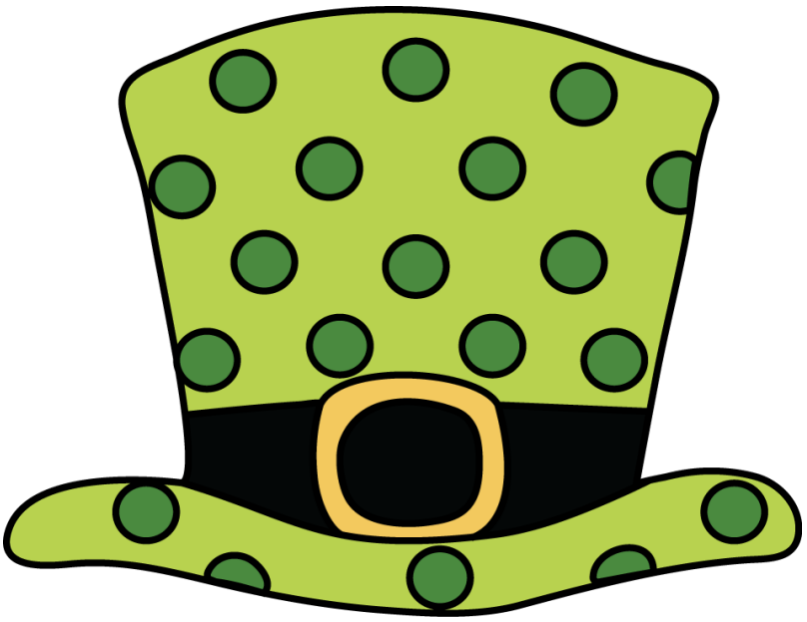
# February 2023

| M | T | W | Th | F | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| School Support (IEP) Review Phone Calls | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| School Support (IEP) Review Phone Calls | | | | | | |
| 6 Bank Holiday – No School | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Safer Internet Day<br><br>Full day – Close 1.10/2.10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Mid-Term Break | 14 Mid-Term Break | 15 Mid-Term Break | 16 Mid-Term Break | 17 Mid-Term Break | 18 | 19 |
| Fairtrade Fortnight | | | | | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Open Night- new students | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | | | | | |



# March 2023

| M | T | W | Th | F | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RSE Lessons Begin | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 World Book Day | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Engineers' Week | | | | Seachtain na Gaeilge | | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Seachtain na Gaeilge | | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Céilí Mór | 17 Bank Holiday - No School | 18 | 19 |
| Tree Week | | | | | | |
| 20 | 21 World Poetry & Down Syndrome Day | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Half Day 11.30 Close | | |



# April 2023

| M | T | W | Th | F | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Spring Holidays | 4 Spring Holidays | 5 Spring Holidays | 6 Spring Holidays | 7 Spring Holidays | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Spring Holidays | 11 Spring Holidays | 12 Spring Holidays | 13 Spring Holidays | 14 Spring Holidays | 15 | 16 |
| Autism Acceptance Month | | | | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Earth Day | 22 | 23 |
| Autism Acceptance Month | | | | | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

# May 2023

| M | T | W | Th | F | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Different Families Same Love Competition | | | | | | |
| 1<br>Bank Holiday No School | 2 | 3<br>Drumcondra Spelling Tests | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10<br>Drumcondra Literacy Tests | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Bike Week | | | | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17<br>Drumcondra Maths Tests | 18 | 19<br>Bike and Breakfast (PTA)<br><br>Bee Day | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 29 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

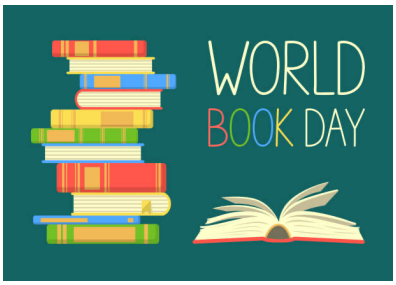
# June 2023

| M | T | W | Th | F | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| School Tours Month | | | | | | |
| | | | Pride Month | | | |
| | | | 1 | 2 School Closed | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Bank Holiday No School | 6 No School | 7 | 8 New Autism Class Children Visit | 9 New Junior Infants Visit | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Rehearsals for Official Opening | 13 Rehearsals for Official Opening | 14 Rehearsals for Official Opening | 15 Official Opening of the School Building | 16 Golden Day | 17 | 18 |
| Active Week | | | | | | |
| 19 Shake and Wake 8.30am | 20 Shake and Wake 8.30am | 21 Shake and Wake 8.30am | 22 Sports' Day | 23 Pride Parade | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Summer Holidays 11.30am | | |

# Important Dates in the School Year

## Halloween

Friday the 28th of October is a costume day for the school in celebration of Halloween. Children are invited to dress up if they wish. We always love to see homemade costumes, but there is no pressure to be creative, shop bought costumes or indeed no costumes at all are all perfectly acceptable. Watch out for the staff who love to get creative on this day!




## World Book Day

The 2nd of March 2023 is World Book Day. Children are invited to dress as their favourite literary character on this day, if they would like to, and to bring in their favourite book. We usually have some buddy reading and paired reading – if you would like to get involved, please contact Liana!

## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge runs from the 1st of March to the 17th of March (St. Patrick's Day). During this time parents are invited in for events such as reading to the children as Gaeilge, ceol agus craic (music and fun) and even a céilí mór! (Big dance)

## World Down Syndrome Day

21st March 2023 is World Down Syndrome Day. Children are asked to wear crazy socks to school to recognize and highlight the day

## World Autism Day

2nd of April 2023 is World Autism Acceptance Day.

We celebrate Autism acceptance for the whole month of April. We have lots of activities to celebrate neurodiversity, friendship, and superbility!

## Pride

Dublin pride takes place from the 22nd June to the 26th of June 2023.

Children are invited to wear rainbow clothing for their parade on the 23rd June.

# Class Teachers 2022-2023

| Class | Room | Room |
|---|---|---|
| Ground Floor | | |
| Junior Infants | | |
| Room 1 Tulip<br>Claire O' Leary | Room 2 Sunflower<br>Yvonne Comaskey Cleary | Support Teacher: New<br>ANA: Stevie |
| Senior Infants | | |
| Room 3 Daisy<br>Aisling Coleman<br>(Claire's Old Class) | Room 4 Daffodil<br>New Teacher<br>(Seán's Old Class) | Support Teacher: New<br>ANA: Kathy |
| Autism Classes | | |
| Room 5 Bluebell<br>New Teacher<br>ANA: Rebecca , Valerie | | Room 6 Snowdrop<br>New Teacher<br>ANA: Lisa W, Lisa C, Gráinne |
| Middle Floor | | |
| First Class | | |
| Room 7 Primrose<br>Sara Downey<br>(Gillian's Old Class) | Room 8 Lily<br>New Teacher<br>(Judith's Old Class) | Support Teacher: Liana<br>ANA: TBC |
| Second Class | | |
| Room 9 Iris<br>New Teacher<br>(Andy's Old Class) | Room 10 Orchid<br>Sineád Counihan<br>(Yvonne's Old Class) | Support Teacher: Liana<br>Mary |
| Top Floor | | |
| Third Class | | |
| Room 17 Sycamore<br>New Teacher | Room 18 Bonsai<br>New Teacher | Support Teacher: Liana/Niall<br>ANA: Sineád /Stevie |
| Fourth Class | | |
| Room 13 Cherry Blossom<br>Gillian Whelan<br>(Niall's Old Class) | Room 14 Willow<br>Dave Flynn<br>(Sara's Old Class) | Support Teacher: Niall<br>ANA: Angela |
| Fifth Class | | |
| Room 11 Redwood<br>Seán Hegarty | Room 12 Oak<br>New Teacher | Support Teacher: Niall |
| | | |

# Booklists

**Every class has their own booklist, Part A, listed below that parents should buy and label clearly (on the outside!) for the first day back.**

**This booklist will be supplemented by the book rental items, through the school. The children will rent most of their textbooks for the year, which saves a considerable amount compared to buying all of the books new.**

**Part B of the booklist are the school costs, and these are payable via an Aladdin link which will be sent out in August to you.**

**For 2022/23, bearing in mind the increases in cost of living in Ireland we have significantly reduced this cost to parents. The fee which was formally 165 has been reduced to 140 and includes more items than before.**

# Part B – School Costs

| | |
|---|---|
| **Stationery** | **€15** |
| **Photocopying** | **€20** |
| **Art and Craft Supplies** | **€25** |
| **Book Rental** | **€25** |
| **Public Personal Insurance** | **€8.00** |
| **Digital Learning** | **€7.00** |
| **School Trips** | **€25.00** |

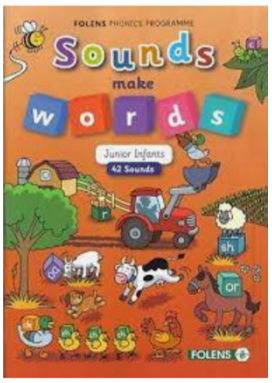
- This will cover all scheduled termly school tours, workshops, transport and visiting organisations. Guardians will be contacted if any additional costs for school buses arise during the year.

**Educate Together Membership** **€15.00**

- The School covered the full cost of the Educate Together Membership since we opened in 2016. However with our school growing fast we can no longer cover the full cost and must now depend on the pupil contribution to fund the Patron's National Office. As an Educate Together School we depend on the support and advice of the patron to manage this school and to remain part of the Educate Together network.

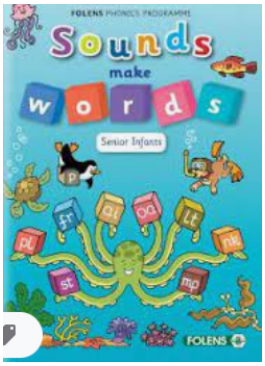
**Total annual cost**: **€140.00**

# Junior Infants

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| English | Sounds Make Words Junior Infants<br>**42 Sounds**<br>(Folens) €7.75 |  |
| Gaeilge | Abair Liom A for Junior Infants<br>(Folens) €11.10 | |

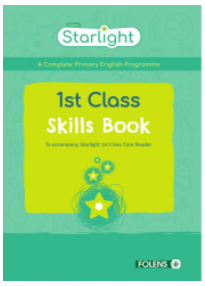
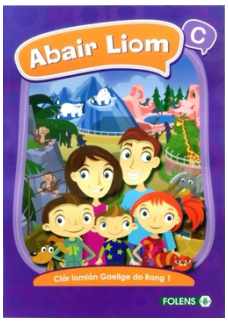
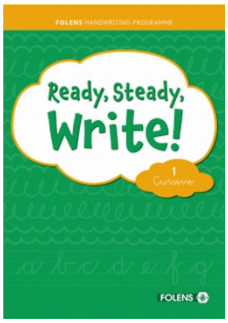
- Please make sure that books purchased by your child are marked with the child's first and last name on the **outside cover** and on the first page
- The school will provide stationery including copies, scrapbooks, crayons and pencils. There is no need to send in pencil cases for infants
- Please use a school bag **without wheels**. These can be a hazard in school.

# Senior Infants

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| English | Sounds Make Words Senior Infants<br><br>(Folens) €7.75 |  |
| Gaeilge | Abair Liom B for Senior Infants<br>(Folens) €11.10 | |

- Please make sure that books purchased by your child are marked with the child's first and last name on the **outside cover** and on the first page
- The school will provide stationery including copies, scrapbooks, crayons and pencils. There is no need to send in pencil cases for infants
- Please use a school bag **without wheels**. These can be a hazard in school.

# First Class

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| English | Starlight Skills Book 1st Class<br><br>(Folens) €9.60 |  |
| Gaeilge | Abair Liom C for First Class<br><br>(Folens) €13.90 |  |
| Handwriting | Ready, Steady, Write! 1 Cursive<br><br>(Folens) €6.30 |  |

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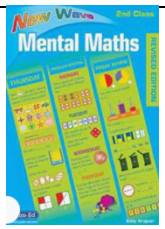
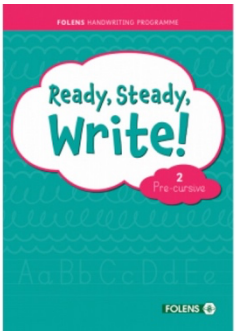
- Please ensure your child has a clearly labelled pencil case with a supply of pencils, colouring pencils, erasers, a sharpener, a 30cm ruler (not the bendy type please!) and a red pen.

# Second Class

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Maths | New Wave Mental Maths 2nd Class<br>€7.99 (Prim-Ed)<br><br>Tip Top Tables<br>€3.99 (Folens) |  <br> |
| Handwriting | Ready, Steady, Write! 2 Cursive |  |

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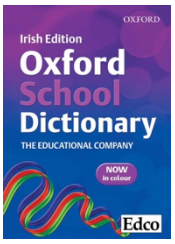
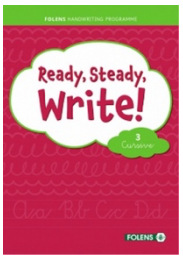
- Please ensure your child has a clearly labelled pencil case with a supply of pencils, colouring pencils, erasers, a sharpener, a 30cm ruler (not the bendy type please!) and a red pen.

# Third Class

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Maths | **New Wave Mental Maths 3rd Class**<br>€7.99 (Prim-Ed)<br>**Tip Top Tables**<br>Retain from 2nd Class | |
| English | **Oxford School Dictionary**<br>€10.95 (EDCO)<br>Used from 3rd-6th class |  |
| Handwriting | **Ready, Steady, Write! 3 Cursive**<br>€6.95 (Folens) |  |

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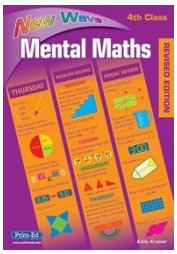
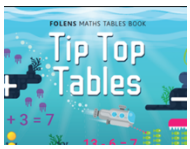
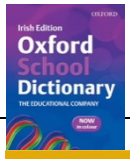
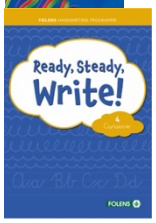
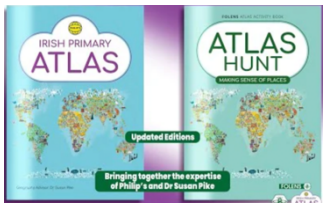
- Book rental books will be provided to your child in September. Your child's **name should not be written on Book Rental books**.
- The school will provide stationery including copies, scrapbooks, crayons and pencils. There is no need to send in pencil cases for infants
- Please ensure your child has a clearly labelled pencil case with a supply of pencils, colouring pencils, erasers, a sharpener, a 30cm ruler (not the bendy type please!), 4 blue and 2 red pens.

# Fourth Class

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Maths | **New Wave Mental Maths 4th Class**<br>€7.99 (Prim-Ed)<br>**Tip Top Tables**<br>Retain From 2nd Class<br>**Maths Geometry Set**<br>**Digital Calculator** |  <br>  |
| English | **Oxford School Dictionary**<br>Retain from 3rd Class |  |
| Handwriting | **Ready, Steady, Write! 4 Cursive**<br>€6.95 (Folens) |  |
| SESE | **Philips Irish Primary Atlas Set (New Edition)**<br>€20.15 (Folens)<br>**This set incudes an Atlas Hunt activity book which is also needed. |  |

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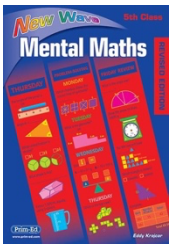
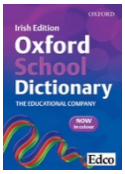
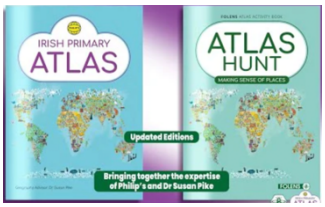
# Fifth Class

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Maths | **New Wave Mental Maths 5th Class**<br>€7.99 (Prim-Ed)<br>**Tip Top Tables**<br>(Retain from 2nd Class)<br>**Maths Geometry Set**<br>**Digital Calculator** |  <br> |
| English | **Oxford School Dictionary**<br>(Retain from 3rd class) |  |
| SESE | **Philips Irish Primary Atlas Set (New Edition)**<br>Retain from 4th Class |  |

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# Clothing

## Physical Education (PE)

Please ensure your child has a pair of runners with a light coloured sole and suitable clothes for P.E. We will let you know what day(s) for P.E. in September.

## Coat and Change of Clothes

Please ensure your child has a raincoat with them each day for playtime and nature walks.

Junior/Senior Infants and children in the Autism Classes should have a change of clothes such as underwear, tracksuit bottoms, socks and top (in case of accidents or being splashed by puddles in the playground). Each child's clothes should be clearly labelled and bagged. They will be kept in the classroom. Please remember to replace spare clothes after use.

We have a small supply of spare clothes if children in the older classes have an accident of any sort.

It's a good idea to make sure your child wears appropriate footwear every day. If the sun shines – we are likely to go outside!

We love Velcro runners rather than laces for the younger children. If your child has laces, please try to teach them to tie these over the summer!

# Child Safeguarding

Child safeguarding is of utmost importance at GPETNS. Our Child safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is available at the school reception.

The Designated Liaison Person with responsibility for Child Protection is the Principal, Niamh Cullen. In her absence, the Deputy Designated Liaison Person is the Deputy Principal, Liana Cassin.

Every year we review our child safeguarding statement. If you have any suggestions to improve our procedures, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

# In Case of Emergency Contacts

In Case of Emergency (ICE) contacts can be entered into your child's information section in the Aladdin app. (see Communications section). Please ensure the people listed on your ICE form are available during school hours to collect your child in case of your absence. If someone else is collecting your child from school for whatever reason on a particular day please send a message to your child's teacher in the Aladdin app advising us of this, and letting us know the person's name who is collecting your child.

# Medications

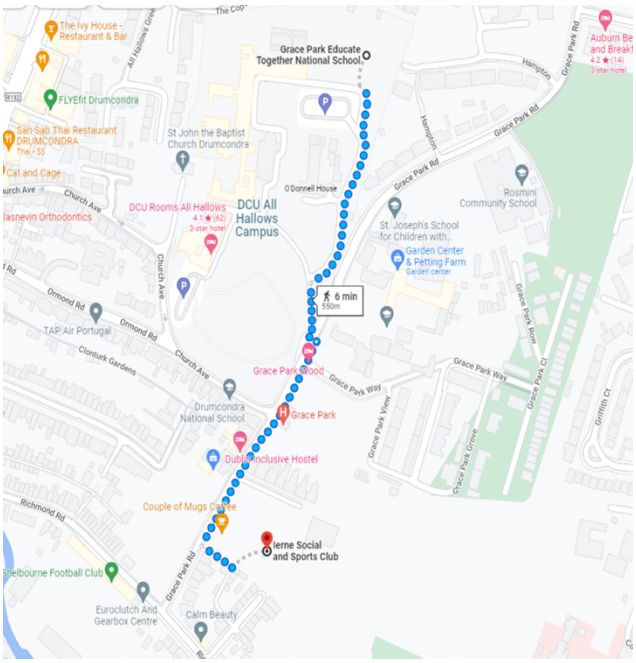
Medications **cannot** be administered by the class teacher or any member of staff without written consent from parent(s)/guardian(s) supported by a medical practitioner's request. (Administration of Medicine Policy). If your child has prescribed medications that may need to be administered at school, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible. The consent forms for the administration of medicine are available from the office.

# Travel

## Parking

Entry onto school grounds by car is strictly reserved for holders of a parking pass. Parking passes are issued to adults and children with restricted mobility. There are 13 passes available for morning, infant home-time and senior home time. Applications can be made to niamh@graceparketns.com. We ask all parents/carers to respect this policy, so as to allow access to our most vulnerable families. Please also inform childminders and other family members who may be transporting children of the parking pass system.

## Park and Stride




The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) have organised a park and stride arrangement with Ierne Sports and Social Club on Grace Park Road. Ierne allow us to use their carpark for drop off and collection times and while we walk our children the 550m to and from the school. This is a great way to work a little bit of exercise in and is in keeping with our school's "active school" ethos. As a token of our appreciation to Ierne we ask all parents to supervise their children in Ierne's carpark and to use the footpaths at all times. It is very generous of Ierne to allow us the use of their carpark and we appreciate it.

# Walking Bus

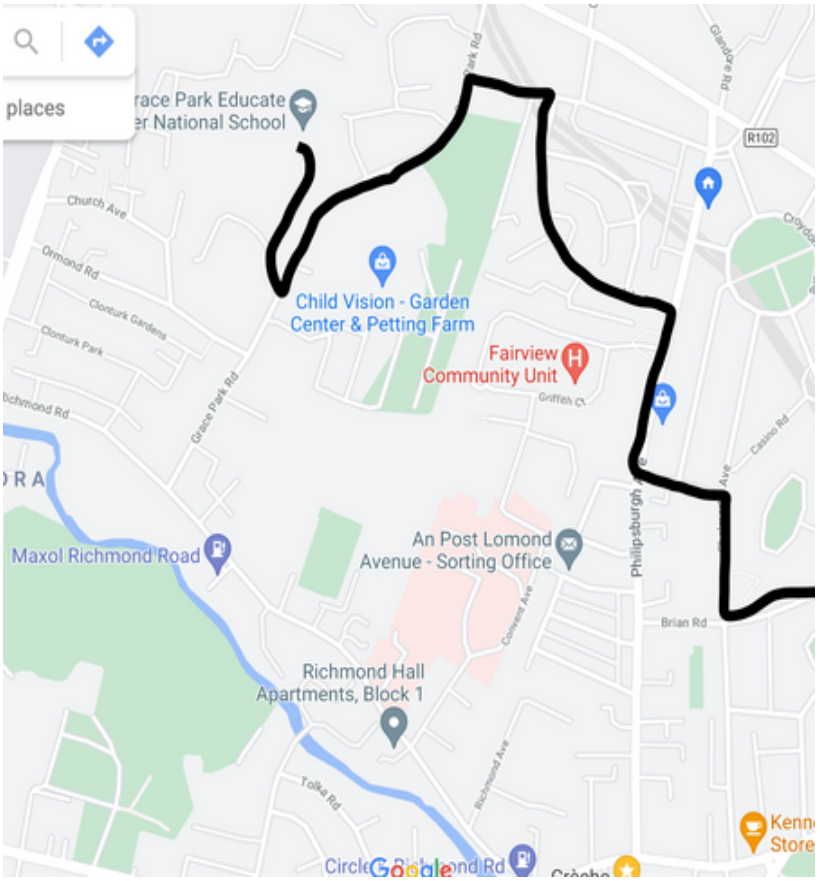
The PTA are looking into a walking bus to support parents who are parking in the IERNE Club. They have engaged with Dublin City Council and are hoping to have something in place for the new school year. Watch this space!!!

# Cycle Bus

Parents in the school run a cycle bus. It departs from Fairview Green in Marino every morning at 8.05am. It follows the route shown in the map below and families cycling to school are welcome to join the bus at any point on the route.

The Cyclebus initiative is about giving primary school children the opportunity to cycle to school in a safe, healthy, social, and enjoyable environment.  Grace Park Road is a  narrow, busy road. The footpaths are narrow, with no cycling infrastructure.  It is not very accessible or safe for young children to cycle. By cycling together, we're enabling families to cycle to school. The kids love it and we've become a great little cycling community.

See the Grace Park Cycle Bus changex page for more information: [https://www.changex.org/ie/cycle-bus/dublin-ireland](https://www.changex.org/ie/cycle-bus/dublin-ireland)
Contact the PTA (pta@graceparketns.com) if you would like more information on joining the bus.



"You always know when you're going to arrive. If you go by car, you don't. Apart from anything else, I prefer cycling. It puts you in a good mood, I find."

— *Alan Bennett, British playwright*

# School Lunch

There are two short eating times in the school day.
They are 10:00am – 10:10am and 12:00pm – 12:10pm.
Please make sure lunches are manageable and cut into small pieces.

We are a nut-free school, and it is very important that every family abides by this rule. We have a number of children who have serious allergies, and we want the school to be a safe place for them and their parents too. Please do not send any nuts or nut products, e.g. (peanut butter, Nutella, Coconut etc.)
Some classes may need to observe an egg-free classroom. If your child is in this room, you will be notified.

## Healthy Eating

Good food habits set early in childhood can last a lifetime. As lunches provide around one third of our daily nutritional needs, it's important to put some thought and planning into them. A leaflet entitled Safefood Healthy Lunchboxes which supports the school's healthy eating policy can be found on the Safefood website here: https://www.safefood.net/education/healthy-lunchboxes.

## Lunch Bag Ordering Service.

Our school is registered with Lunchbag. This is an optional lunch ordering service, that some parents may choose to avail of. Parents can order lunches for their children as often as they would like, which will be delivered to the school. The menu, pricing, registration and additional information can be found at: www.thelunchbag.ie

## School Milk

We are hoping to offer parents the opportunity to order milk from September. More information on this will be available soon.

# Afterschool Care

## On-site afterschool Care:

### First Steps

First Steps Afterschool provide afterschool care in the school Monday to Friday from 1.10pm to 6pm. They cater for full-time and part-time children. They are signed up to the National Childcare Scheme (NCS), which is a government subsidy for parents. The fee is €30 per day and the price stays the same when the children are with First Steps from 9am to 6pm on midterm and summer holidays. Food can be provided each day. First Steps are Tusla registered.

### Sibling Hour

First Steps also provides a sibling hour service in the school. This is for the junior and senior infant children who finish at 1.10pm and have older siblings finishing at 2.10pm. The infant children are collected from class at 1.10pm by First Steps and their parents can collect them at the same time as the older children. This service is also available for junior and senior infant children who will be attending extracurricular activities in the school that commence at 2.10pm. First Steps will collect them from their classrooms at 1.10pm on the day of their extracurricular activity, look after them for an hour and then drop them to their activity.
For information on Afterschool and Sibling Hour please contact First Steps on 086 6683344 or you can email Lisa at lisak.kendellen@gmail.com

**The following afterschool providers collect children from the school and transport them to off-site afterschool care facilities:**

**The Learning Tree – Grace Park Road**
info@thelearningtree.ie

**Little Learners – Drumcondra**
Nessa: 085 144 9610, or leave a message on
www.littlelearners.ie

**Meadows Montessori – Celtic Park Avenue**
dolanjennifer1@gmail.com

**Clever Cloggs**
01 8511134

# Parent Teacher Association

The school has an active and engaged Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The purpose of the PTA is to provide a structure through which the parents and guardians of children attending Grace Park Educate Together National School can work together for the best possible education for their children.
The Parent Teacher Association works with the Principal, staff and Board of Management to build effective partnership between home and school.
The PTA is a support for parents in the school.
The PTA suggests and/organizes extra-curricular activities – while these events are aimed at developing the school community they are also used to raise money for the school (e.g. Bake Sale). The PTA can invite speakers to address the parents on issues which are topical or relevant e.g. talks on internet safety.
All parents or guardians of children attending Grace Park Educate Together National School will be deemed to be members of the Parent Teacher Association.

At the AGM each year a PTA Committee is elected – the Committee comprises:

- Representatives from each class
- Parent nominees who have elected to the Board of Management
- Teachers' representative
- Chair, Secretary and Treasurer (who may also be class reps)

## Contacting the PTA

The PTA can be contacted at pta@graceparketns.com, we welcome all suggestions, input and offers of help.
The PTA maintain a mailing list to pass on info, NPC communications, minutes and event information.

## Grace Park Exchange

There is a parent run exchange group where parent's swap and exchange items and children's items that they may no longer need. If you would like to be part of this WhatsApp group please contact your class rep.

## Lone Parent Group

There is a WhatsApp group for lone parents in the school. If you would like to join this WhatsApp group please contact your class rep.

# Grace Park Educate Together N.S.

# Birthday Party Policy

As discussed at the Parents Association (PA) meeting November 2016, the members of the PA drafted a Policy on birthday party guidelines.

The PA are conscious that one rule will not fit all when it comes to birthday parties and each parent/ guardian will have their own ideas on how to celebrate their child's birthday.

The PA have drafted the following points to serve as guidelines only but ask that all parents/ guardians adhere to invites not being handed out on school grounds.

- Invites – Birthday invitations are prohibited from being handed out on school premises even if you are inviting everyone. It's best to either to send an email to parents or send a social media message via 'What's App', 'Messenger', 'Signal' etc. The school will not provide a directory of parent's phone numbers due to confidentiality issues. *This rule exists to save hurt feelings when one kid notices that invitations are being handed out and he/she didn't get one.*

- Who to invite – There is no minimum or maximum on who to invite to your child's party. Some people invite the class, the children sitting at their child's table, none at all or simply those that they have formed friendships with. This is the parents/ guardians and child's choice.

- Presents – It is not assumed that all parents may want their child to receive birthday presents or give a birthday present but the following serve as guidelines only.

  - Second Hand books
  - Card Only
  - €5 in a card
  - Handmade goods

  *This suggestion exists to take any financial pressure off parents, so they are not put under pressure to purchase a particular type of gift.*

  Parents felt that their own children received far too many gifts and know their child does not appreciate 10 to 20 boxes of the latest toy. So the above list while not restrictive aims to help children appreciate the thought.

- **Car Pooling** – Car pooling must be arranged by parents separate from the school. This can be done by making arrangements via email or social media, What's App, Messenger, Signal etc . Please ensure that if you are car pooling that under EU child safety protection laws it is compulsory for all children to travel in the correct child seat or booster seat.

- **Shhhh! Keep it secret!**
  Again, the premise of this rule is to avoid hurting the feelings of the kids who didn't get invited. Enforcing this rule seems tricky at best, but if you're planning a smallish party, talk to your child about this issue. It's a good lesson in empathy and it's the polite thing to do, school policy or not.

  Whatever your celebration plans are, double-check the school policy and stick to them the best you can. You can rest easier knowing your fellow parents are doing the same, which could one day spare the feelings of a little child — even yours!

# GPETNS Parents Pact: Smartphone Ownership & Social Media Use

The Parents of GPETNS are invited to enter into this pact as one measure available to parents to embed CyberSafe Ireland's online safety guidance in our school community. That guidance includes: doing fun stuff online but making sure parents do it together with their children, keeping a close eye on kids when they are online and introducing technology gradually (with delayed ownership being best practice) See www.cybersafeireland.org.

As parents we value communicating with and supporting each other in keeping our children safe online. Whether you choose to participate in this Pact or not, parents are encouraged to talk to each other about ensuring online safety for our children and championing best practice in applying parental controls and creating healthy habits. In 2019 it came to the attention of the PTA that many parents were concerned about the wider risks and pressures involved in (1) owning a smart phone and (2) accessing social media sites from any device. CyberSafe Ireland's 4th Annual Report (Sept 2019) highlights that 43% of 8 to 13 year olds surveyed speak to strangers online, with a third speaking to strangers every day or at least once a week and 36% of 8-year olds boys and 43% of 10 year old boys are playing over-18s games and being exposed to violent and sexual content that is not appropriate for their age. Parents' concerns also include the extent to which bullying happens online. A survey was conducted to ascertain support for a pact of this nature which attracted responses from 117 parents and over 80% support for the pact.

**This Pact is supported by the PTA. It is separate to the school's own mobile phone policy on how mobile phone use and ownership is managed *during school time*. If you opt into this Pact (which is voluntary) you agree: (1) not to buy your child his/her own smartphone; and (2) not to allow your child to access their own social media account from any device. You are free to opt out of the Pact. The Pact will be reviewed by the PTA annually and GPETNS will consult with the children on the Pact in the senior cycle of the school.**

| What the pact is about | What the pact is not about |
|---|---|
| **Choice** parents often feel like they have to buy their child his/her own smartphone, despite concerns, just because other children have one. This Pact seeks to give parents in this school a chance to say no to that pressure, while the kids are very young. | **Banning anything**. This is a *pact* not a ban. Parents can if they wish agree to participate in this Pact if it works for them. There is no judgment of any parent for opting out of the Pact and it is recognised some parents may have good reason to do so. |
| **Appropriate Supervision** Getting the internet out of children's pockets and into shared family spaces. There is no restriction in this Pact on access to shared devices, which tend to be supervised in an open shared family space. | **"dumb phones"** that only access phone calls and SMS/text messages. These can be owned by the children and used for arranging picks ups, drop offs, extra-curricular activities and childcare without any need to opt out of this Pact. |
| **Education**. As parents who have taken up this Pact we commit to educating ourselves and the children about the wonders and benefits of modern technology as well as the potential dangers and downsides. | **Ownership of a games consoles or Tablet** Parents can discuss if they want to extend the pact to sole ownership/use of a tablet, for example, on a per class basis, separate to this Pact. |
| **Consultation** The PTA will consult parents on this Pact on an annual basis recognising that technology evolves and so do the requirements of the schoolchildren. Parents are encouraged to talk about the Pact on a per class basis and discuss what works for them. | **Discouraging access to technology** We encourage computer literacy and the amazing access to learning that smart devices can bring with them when used wisely; but we also recognise that scrolling is not coding. |

# WhatsApp

**Please note that WhatsApp groups are run and maintained by the parents. The school and the PTA bear no responsibility for the content or management of the WhatsApp groups.**

## Class WhatsApp groups

Most classes have a WhatsApp group for parents to communicate with each other. If you are not in your class group and would like to be you can contact your class rep directly or email the PTA at pta@graceparketns.com and we will pass your phone number to the class reps who can add you to the group.

PTA Class reps often use the WhatsApp groups to share minutes of PTA meetings and pass on information about events.

Please be aware that these groups are for infomrtion sharing and are not a forum on which to discuss complaints. Our door is always open if you need something clarified, so please call us or email instead.

Thanks!!

Looking forward to a great year!
Niamh

Grace Park
Educate Together National School
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