

Scoil Uí Riada

**Cumann na
d'Guismitheoirí**



**Parent Handbook
2020 -21**



Cumann na dTuismitheoirí Scoil Uí Riada

Parents Association

On behalf of the Cumann na dTuismitheoirí (Parents Association), we would like to welcome you to Scoil Uí Riada. We hope this booklet will prove useful to you, particularly if this is your first year at the school. It is intended as a quick reference guide and to provide general information about the school.

Cumann na dTuismitheoirí

The Cumann na dTuismitheoirí consists of all parents/guardians of children at the school.

The Cumann na dTuismitheoirí provides a collaborative forum through which parents/guardians in the school can work together, for the best possible education for their children. The CnT works with the Principal, Staff and the Board of Management to build effective partnership between home and school.

This is your opportunity to get involved and take an active role in your children's education. Research has shown that children achieve better outcomes from school when parents and school work closely together.



Where does the Cumann na dTusimitheoirí (Parents Association) fit into the school structure?

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS		
The Patron		
The Board of Management (BOM)		
Teachers & Principal		
Parents Association Representatives	PARENTS	Parents Board of Management

The CnT AGM is held usually in September. At this, parents elect a committee to work on their behalf. The Chairperson meets regularly with the Principal to discuss issues and ideas which arise at the monthly committee meetings or which have been brought to his/her attention by parents.

Please contact the committee with any queries you may have. If we can't answer them, we can hopefully direct you to someone who can. Also, any suggestions and offers of help are very welcome. Contact details of the committee members are included in the booklet. We can also be contacted on the Cumann na dTuismitheoirí e-mail:- scoiluiriadapa@gmail.com

The e-mail is checked weekly so you may not receive an immediate response. Should you feel the matter is urgent please contact a committee member by phone, details are at the back of this handbook.



Junior Infants

Clárú Páistí Ráiteas Scoile

Cláraítear ainm an pháiste as Gaeilge ar Aladdin agus úsáidtear an leagan Ghaeilge don ainm sa rang, sa chlós agus in imeachtaí eile a bhaineann leis an scoil.

Déantar gach iarracht leagan Ghaeilge a chur ar na h-ainmneacha dúchasacha go léir.

All pupils' names are registered 'As Gaeilge' on Aladdin, the school online database system. The Gaeilge version of Irish indigenous names and surnames will be used in class, on the yard and in all school related activities where possible.

In preparation for school, encourage your child to become independent by, e.g. teaching them how to take off and put on their coat, store gloves and hat, fasten shoes, open & close bag, lunch box and drinks bottle. Choose a practical bag and give lunches that can be managed easily.

On the first day, if you are upset, try not to show it. It's best not to stay too long. Leave, even if your child is upset: trust the teacher. The

teacher is very experienced and will know how to reassure an anxious child.

It's important to collect your child on time. They may become upset if they feel they are being left behind. It can take some children longer than others to adapt to the routine of school: they'll settle in their own time.

In the infant classes, a lot of the work is activity based and the children are not conscious of "learning" as adults understand it. They may tell you, when asked, that they did "nothing" that day! You'll probably have more success if you ask them what they drew/sang/story they heard/ what teacher said etc.



PARENTS COFFEE MORNING

The Cumann na dTuismitheoirí host a coffee morning at the beginning of term for parents of Junior Infants. It's a nice way to break the ice with other parents, please come along. No need to bring anything so come along and enjoy!



SCHOOL HOURS

9.10 School opens. Pupils are requested not to enter school premises before this time.

9.20 First bell, all children must go to their classrooms.

9.30 Second bell, all classes start promptly.

11.00 - 11.15 First break. All pupils have a small snack in their classrooms and go out to the yard for a short time, weather depending.

12.50 - 1.15 Lunch. Pupils have lunch in the classroom and go out to the yard, weather depending.

2.00 School finishes for Junior * & Senior Infants

3.00 School finishes for rest of pupils.

NB Junior Infants.

Parents will be advised in advance but, normally for the first week children are let out to play at a different time to other pupils and finish at 12.00pm.



Lunch Box Ideas

Scoil Uí Riada has a healthy lunch/drinks policy. A copy of the policy is available from the school or you can find it on the school website www.scoiluiriada.ie.

Lunches can be a dilemma. What we would like them to eat versus what they are likely to eat! Below are a few suggestions for varying the lunches and encouraging healthy eating which is school policy.

- Sandwiches, the mainstay of most lunches. Not terribly exciting but can be varied by using, for example, bagels, pitta bread, rolls, wraps, crackers, using wholemeal varieties if possible.
- Lean meats like ham, turkey, chicken, salmon, tuna, cheese.
- Fresh fruit and/or dried fruit like raisins or apricots etc.
- Carrot sticks, pepper slices or celery.
- Yoghurt.
- Scones, fruit bread & currant buns
- Water, unsweetened fruit juice or smoothies are a good option for drinks.

In keeping with the school's healthy eating policy, the following foods are not acceptable lunch options

- *Crisps–Peanuts–Nutella*
- *Popcorn*
- *Fizzy drinks*
- *Chocolate*
- *Biscuits*
- *Sweets of any kind*



The school also asks parents not to include YOP drinks or Baby Bell cheese for housekeeping reasons.

The children can have a small treat in their lunch box on Fridays!



Time Available for Lunch

The school day is laid out by the Department of Education and Science , with very little room for maneuver by individual schools. With most children, especially the younger ones, it can be a challenge for them to eat within the allotted time when there are so many new distractions and friends to spend their time on!

To try and counter this:

- If possible make some lunch items bite size so they can just pop them in and carry on.
- Use cookie cutters to shape their sandwiches and make them more interesting.
- Make sure your child can easily open and close their school bag & lunch box.
- If you include fruit like a Satsuma, peel it before hand.
- Include easy to open drinks or drinks bottles.
- Never add peanuts or Nutella to your child's lunch box.

Curriculum

The diagram below shows how the curriculum is organised for Primary School pupils. The curriculum followed is the standard one set down by the Department of Education and Skills.

LANGUAGE		
Gaeilge		English
MATHEMATICS		
Social, Environmental & Scientific Education		
History	Geography	Science
ARTS EDUCATION		
Visual arts	Music	Drama
PHYSICAL EDUCATION		
Social, Personal & Health Education		
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION		

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) is an excellent resource for parents who would like to know more about the curriculum and how children learn. e.g.

- Booklet: Helping your child in Junior and Senior Infants.
- Booklet: The What, Why and How of Children's Learning in Primary School.
- Overview of the structure and methods of the Primary School Curriculum

If it's difficult to find the time to go online or print off the above resources, the Cumann na dTuismitheoirí have a number of copies we are happy to make available to parents.

As you have made the decision to educate your child through Irish, using a Cupla Focail at home can be a great encouragement to them. The school runs classes for parents who would like to refresh their Irish or, would like to begin learning. Information on these will be provided during the school year. There are many online resources too which you may like to have a look at. Some of these are listed at the back of this booklet.

Polasaithe Scoile/School Policies

Many examples of school policy are to be found on our website www.scoiluriada.ie.

Parents should familiarise themselves with all school policies and practices. Bord Bainistíocht expects parents to support school policies to ensure the smooth running of the school on a daily basis for the good of all.



Book Lists

Book lists are issued, prior to the summer holidays and will also be available on the school website.

Books may be purchased at:

- **Books & Gifts, Church St., Kilcock.**

Tel: 01 6287106

booksandgifts@ymail.com

Books can be ordered via email and collected. Alternatively, drop your list in and pick up at a time convenient to you.

A book covering service is available at €1.00 per book.

- **Maynooth Bookshop, Main St., Maynooth**

Tel: 01 6286720

www.schoolbooksmaynooth.com

Books can be ordered via the above website and can either be collected or delivered. You can also drop your list in for collection at a later date.

A book covering service is available at €1.00 per book.

- www.easons.schoolshop.com

- www.schoolbooks.ie

Sceim Leabhair/School Book Scheme

Scoil Uí Riada have a school book scheme from Senior Infants to Sixth Class.

NB Books should be covered in clear plastic and clearly marked with your child's name.

School Uniforms

Girls

- Pinafore / Kilt (pinafores are more suitable for juniors starting school)
- Crested Cardigan / Jumper
- White blouse
- Green/white/navy/red socks & tights
- Tie
- Crested Track suit & Polo shirt

Boys

- Navy trousers
- Crested Jumper
- White Shirt
- Tie
- Crested Track suit & Polo shirt
- Fleece/Reversible jacket with school crest is optional for both.

UNIFORM SUPPLIERS

Books & Gifts, Kilcock

Tel: 016287106

Books & Gifts supply the full Scoil Uí Riada Uniform.

Uniform Warehouse, Maynooth

Tel: 01 6289758

Uniform Warehouse offer a web ordering service

www.uniformwarehouse.ie

All items can be delivered to your home.

Navy trousers, white shirts/blouses, tights & socks, spare track suit bottoms are also available from Dunnes, Tescos or Marks & Spencers.

Please ensure all uniform items are clearly labelled. Iron on name tags can be purchased from the above suppliers and we recommend, if possible, to sew the labels on.



Bus Transport

There are a number of School buses in operation to and from Scoil Uí Riada. The buses operate from Clane, Donadea, Enfield, Summerhill and Newtown. Parents need to contact the Primary School Transport Scheme on www.buseireann.ie for further details. The collection points and pick up times for each bus can be provided by the individual bus drivers. The buses drop the children and collect the children from the front door of the school.



Access To School

There is no vehicular access to the school permitted at School Drop Off and Collection times. This is in the interest of safety of our pupils. The children may be dropped off at school every morning from 9.10am. Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class enter the school via the gate to the left of the main door for the first week and may be accompanied to the classroom during this introductory period. Junior & Senior infants are collected from the Junior yard area each day at 2pm. On rainy days parents can collect the Junior Infants from their classrooms and the Senior Infants from the School Hall.



Car Parking

There is a designated car park which is situated across the road from the school, to the left of the Primary Care Centre. A path leads from there to the pedestrian lights opposite the school. We would ask all parents to refrain from parking in the Primary Care Centre, that is not a public car park. Parking should be restricted to the playground area parking only. There is a disabled parking space located opposite the vehicular entrance gate within the school. This may be used if a valid disabled parking permit is displayed. Otherwise parents should use the car parking spaces provided on the road and the designated car park.



Pedestrian Lights

The pedestrian lights are in place thanks to much lobbying of local representatives. Please make sure that your child/children use the pedestrian lights and await the 'green man' in order to cross the road safely. The 'safe cross code' is taught in the school and therefore the children will be familiar with road safety.



Please do not park or set down on double yellow lines

Please do not perform U-turns in front of school gates



SCHOOL EVENTS

A number of events are held throughout the school year:



An Bonn (Medal)

At intervals throughout the school year the staff and pupils gather for a ceremony in the school at which a child from each class is presented with the bonn for overall effort in speaking Gaeilge.

Non Uniform Days

The last Friday of each school month is Non Uniform Day. This is usually themed. Reminders will be sent by text message. This day is to generate income for the school and the cost €2 per child or €5 per family

Christmas Fair

Most years sixth class(es), supported by the Cumann na dTuismitheorí, host a Christmas Fair - a great social event! It's usually held early December and is a nice start to the festive season. Parents are asked to contribute to the day by providing cakes for the cake stall, bric a brac, toys, DVDs and books. On top of all that, Santa usually makes an appearance! If any parents have ideas for stalls or would like to lend a hand with preparations or on the day, the CnT would love to hear from you.

Sponsored Walk

For the past couple of years the school has organised a sponsored walk to raise funds for the school. This takes place during school hours and parents may be asked to come along for the walk if they're available. This happens just before Halloween, all the children dress up and it's great fun.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Cumann na dTuismitheorí hold a second hand uniform sale every June, this proves very successful and we hope to continue running this in coming years. Date will be notified to you later.

Family Fun Run/Walk

This is a 5k fun run/walk, which usually takes place in the Summer term. The aim is to give everybody a fun day out from the very young to the older crowd, a small fee is charged and it is open to everyone! The Run/Walk element also encourages everyone to get out and get active.

Halloween Party/Summer Disco

A fancy dress party takes place each Halloween or Summer term. There is a small entrance fee for this event which has always proved to be extremely popular. The event is open to children attending other schools.

Sports Day

Parents are welcome to attend the school sports day, always enjoyable whatever the weather!

Parents may also be invited to participate in events such as Science Week. Scientific knowledge not necessary! Assisting the múinteoirí is all that's required. This year, the school also invited any parents who wished to, to do an activity or give a short talk on a scientific subject. Something to keep in mind for future years.

Throughout the year the Cumann na dTuismitheoirí will send notes home or email you about upcoming events. We will also put information up on the school website www.scoiluiriada.ie under the Parents section. We always welcome new ideas and new members.

School Website

www.scoiluiriada.ie

Information about the school and upcoming activities is available on the website and can be a useful resource throughout the year. Sample school policies are also on the website. Book lists are available also in case the hardcopy is mislaid. Have a look, there's lots of information and if you have any ideas of things we could add or change please contact us.

School App: Important and up to date information tool to have handy. Download from 'App Store' or 'Play Store'.

Twitter: Follow Scoil Ui Riada on twitter [@sur_cillchoca](https://twitter.com/sur_cillchoca).

Class Websites

Some teachers may have their own class websites or may use Class Dojo as a way to update parents on upcoming events in their child's class. Group photos will also be available for viewing. No individual photos will be posted.

Ref: Social Media

Scoil Uí Riada is a no phone zone for all students.

Many parents join 'Social Media' groups based around their child's school, class or social activities.

When used responsibly and appropriately Social Media can offer several benefits to parents. When Social Media is used irresponsibly or inappropriately it may cause offence, hurt, discrimination or worse.

When posting comments in relation to your child's school on social media sites like Facebook, What's App, Instagram, Snapchat etc parents are advised to:

- Be informed Think before you post
- Act responsibly and maturely at all times
- Post only appropriate comments Never post derogatory comments about individuals, even as a joke.
- Do not use social media to complain or vent your frustrations.
- Avoid the personal Avoid mentioning names.
- Remember your post is there forever more to be seen by all.
- Treat people with kindness, respect and compassion.
- Be a good example to your children.
- If you wouldn't say it to someone's face in a public place, don't say it online.

Remember if you have any query in relation to school policy or practice, it is best discussed with an múinteoir ranga or school management.

Irish Language On-line Resources

<http://www.gaeloideachas.ie>

<http://talkirish.com>

<http://m.conradh.ie>

<http://www.oideas-gael.com>

<http://www.gaeilge.ie>

http://comhaltas.ie/locations/detail/craobh_naomh_choca/ (Irish Music & Dance)

There are many more, we hope you find a website that suits you. If you have some Irish please use it, it might give other parents the encouragement and confidence to use theirs. The children will very quickly learn basic Irish commands in Junior infants and it can be reassuring for parents to use some basic sentences in Irish with their child at home. You can probably remember lots of Gaeilge from your own school days!!

Dia dhuit:

Hello

Slán:

Goodbye

Le do thoil :

Please

Go raibh maith agat:

Thank you

Éist liom:

Listen to me

Fan sa Líne:

Wait in line

Ná Rith:

Do not run!

Dún an doras:

Close the door

Ith do Dhinnéar:

Eat your dinner

Téigh a chodladh:

Go to sleep

Cairde:

Friends

Cá bhfuil do chóta?

Where is your coat?

Clós:

Yard

Tar anseo:

Come here

Deán d'obair bhaile!:

Do your homework!

Bí go maith ar scoil!:

Be good in school.

Feicfidh mé tú ag a dó a chlog:

I will see you at two o'clock.

Activities

There are a number of great after-school activities available to pupils. In junior and senior infants they have the option of doing Irish dancing. From first class onwards, there are a range of activities from which they can choose including GAA football, hurling, camogie, soccer, athletics, basketball, gymnastics, violin, guitar, tin whistle, computers, speech and drama, art, cookery, sean nós dancing and more.

Activities list in Kilcock Area

On the following page there is a table listing activities that are currently available in the Kilcock Area. Contact details etc are included.

ACTIVITY	NAME	ACTIVITIES INCLUDED	CONTACT	PRACTICE LOCATION
SPORT	Kilcock GAA Club	Gaelic Football/Hurling/Camogie (Junior Academy & U8 to Senior Team	www.kilcockgaa.com info@kilcockgaa.com	Kilcock GAA Club
	North Kildare Club (Multisports)	Rugby/Hockey/Tennis/Cricket	See details on website www.northkildareclub.ie	North Kildare Sports Complex, Maynooth Road, Kilcock
	Kilcock Tigers Basketball Club	Junior Basketball/Academy/u11-u18 teams	Karl Finn and Hannah Haastrup kilcockbasketball@gmail.com www.kilcockbasketball.com	Scoil Dara, Kilcock
	St Cocas Athletic Club	Running/Hurdles/Long Jump/High Jump/Javlin	Camel and Larry Kelly stcocas.ac.7@facebook.com	Bawnogues Athletics Track, Brayton Road, Kilcock
	Kilcock Canoe Club	Canoe Polo	secretarykilcockcanoepolo@gmail.com	Kilcock Scout Hall
MUSIC	SpeakUp SingOut Music School	Children & Adult choirs/ singing/ piano and guitar lessons	Eimear Crehan—086 1757636 www.speakupsingout.ie	Wellness Centre, Kilcock
	Comhaltas Ceoltóirí	Traditional Music (Violin, tin whistle, banjo, guitar etc) and Sean Nós Dancing	Millie—086 1780700	Scoil Dara, Kilcock
DANCING	McDermottSchool of Dance	Ballet and modern dance (Age 3 plus)	Ruth—090 8827033 www.mcdermottshalletschool.com	Scoil Choca Naofa, Kilcock
	Tara School of Dance	Irish Dancing	Linda—087 2074559	Scoil Uí Riada, Kilcock
PERFORMING ARTS	Theatreworx	Drama/Dance and Singing (Tots, Juniors, Seniors)	Claire— info@theatreworx.com	St Josephs School, Kilcock
SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES	Kilcock Girl Guides	Cygnets/Bridgins/Guides/Rangers (Girls Age 5 –18 years)	Lisa Dempsey—086 3406255	Scoil Uí Riada, Kilcock
	16th Kildare Scout Group	Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Venturers (Boys & Girls Age 6 –18 years)	Aoife Fagan—087 9199403	Kilcock Scout Den, Bridge Street, Kilcock
MARTIAL ARTS	Kilcock Tae Kwon-do Club	Tae-kwan-do (Age 5 plus)	Lennon Doyle—086 8507075	Scoil Uí Riada, Kilcock
GYMNASTICS	Reveal Gymnastics	Rhythmic Gymnastics	www.revealgymnastics.ie	Scoil Uí Riada, Kilcock
CHILDRENS FITNESS	Ninja Fitness	Mix of gymnastics, movement skill and fun	Michell Reidy - www.ninjafitness.ie	Scoil Uí Riada, Kilcock/ Leixlip & Maynooth
PLAYGROUPS	Naiomra Siamsa	Irish Language Montessori	Lisa—087 2811669	Kilcock GAA Club
	Happy Steps	Montessori and Creche	(01) 651 9980	Happy Steps, Brayton Road
	Tir na nÓg	Montessori	(01) 628 7891	Boycetown, Kilcock
	Kilcock Toddler Group	Free play for babies and toddlers, organized by parents	Sabrina—Facebook Page	Kilcock GAA Club
	SoulChild Play Classes	Organised play for babies and toddlers	Trish - 086 3953610	Wellness Centre, Kilcock

We wish your children
the best of luck in
Scoil Uí Riada,
we have no doubt they will
be very happy.

We look forward to seeing you
at our events during their
time within
Scoil Uí Riada.



Seoladh:

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