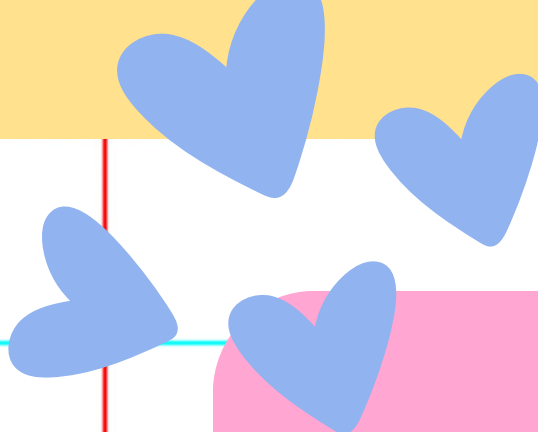


Our Lady's Girls School, Rathdrum



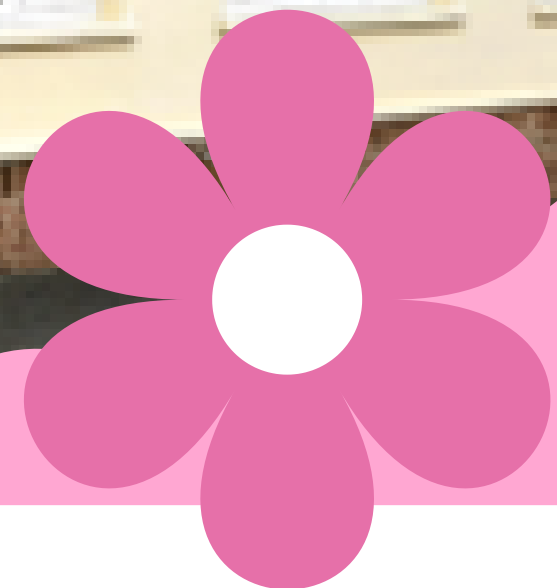
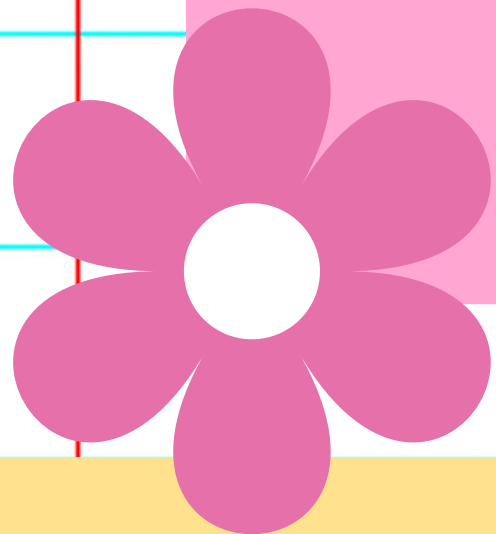
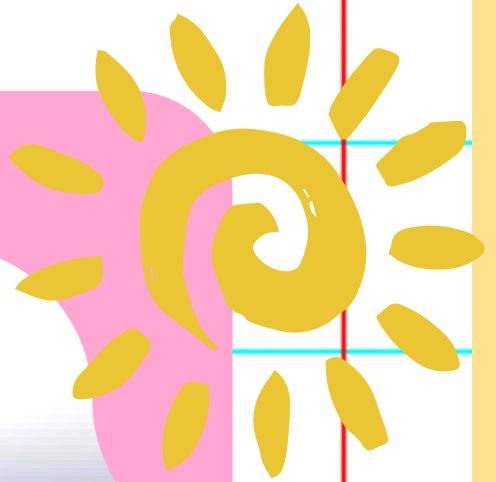


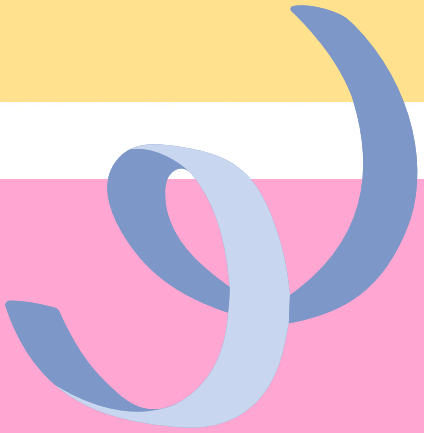
Introduction

You are very welcome to Our Lady's School. We hope your child will be very happy here. We include some information to help familiarise you with the routines of the school; this will help your child to settle in.

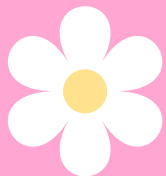
While Our Lady's School is a Catholic School, under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, we welcome all children, regardless of their families' religious beliefs.

Our aim is to offer unlimited expectations for all children, in a safe and happy environment. To encourage all children to flourish, academically, artistically, socially and holistically.

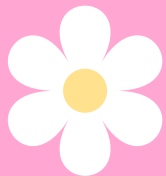




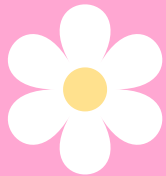
The School Day



9.00a.m.	Doors open
	Supervised morning play
9.10a.m.	Classes Start
Little Break	Mid-morning 10 minutes
Lunch	10 minutes Eating 20 minutes Play

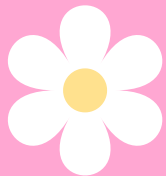


1.50p.m. Infants go home

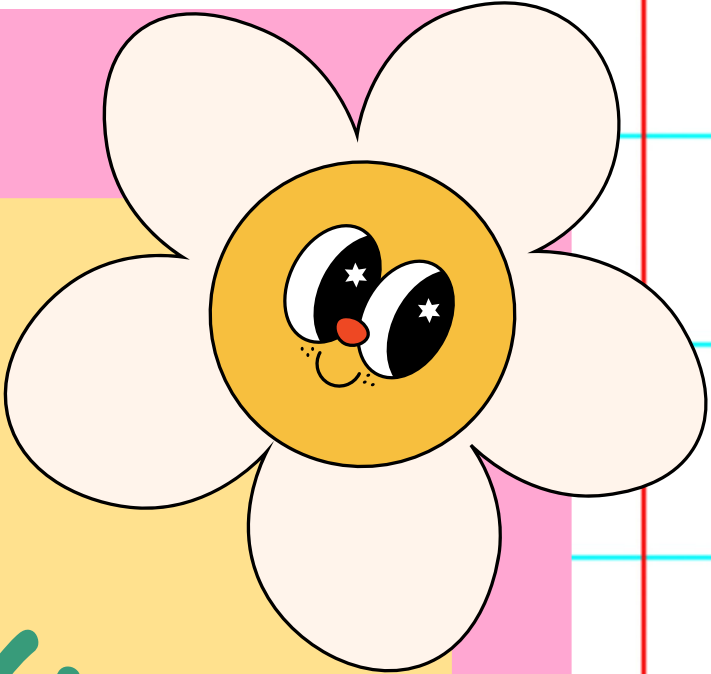


2.50p.m. 1st –6th class go home

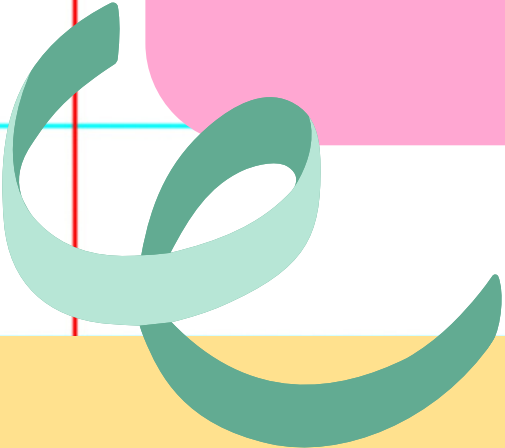
When your child comes to school in the early weeks, you can bring her into her classroom, and help her to put away her bag beside her chair, and hang up her coat. Gradually encourage her to do this by herself. After the 3rd week, we encourage children to enter the school independently, where possible. Children can enter the building from 9.00. They leave their bags at their tables and go to the yard for supervised morning play. The bell rings at 9.10. Formal teaching starts at 9.10. Please ensure that your child arrives on time, to avoid disruption. At home time, junior infants, senior infants 1st and 2nd class are collected from the back door of the school. Teachers will bring classes to the back door where parents/guardians are encouraged to wait. Older siblings can collect 1st/2nd class children at 2.50. All other classes are encouraged to walk down the lane and meet parents/guardians near the carpark.



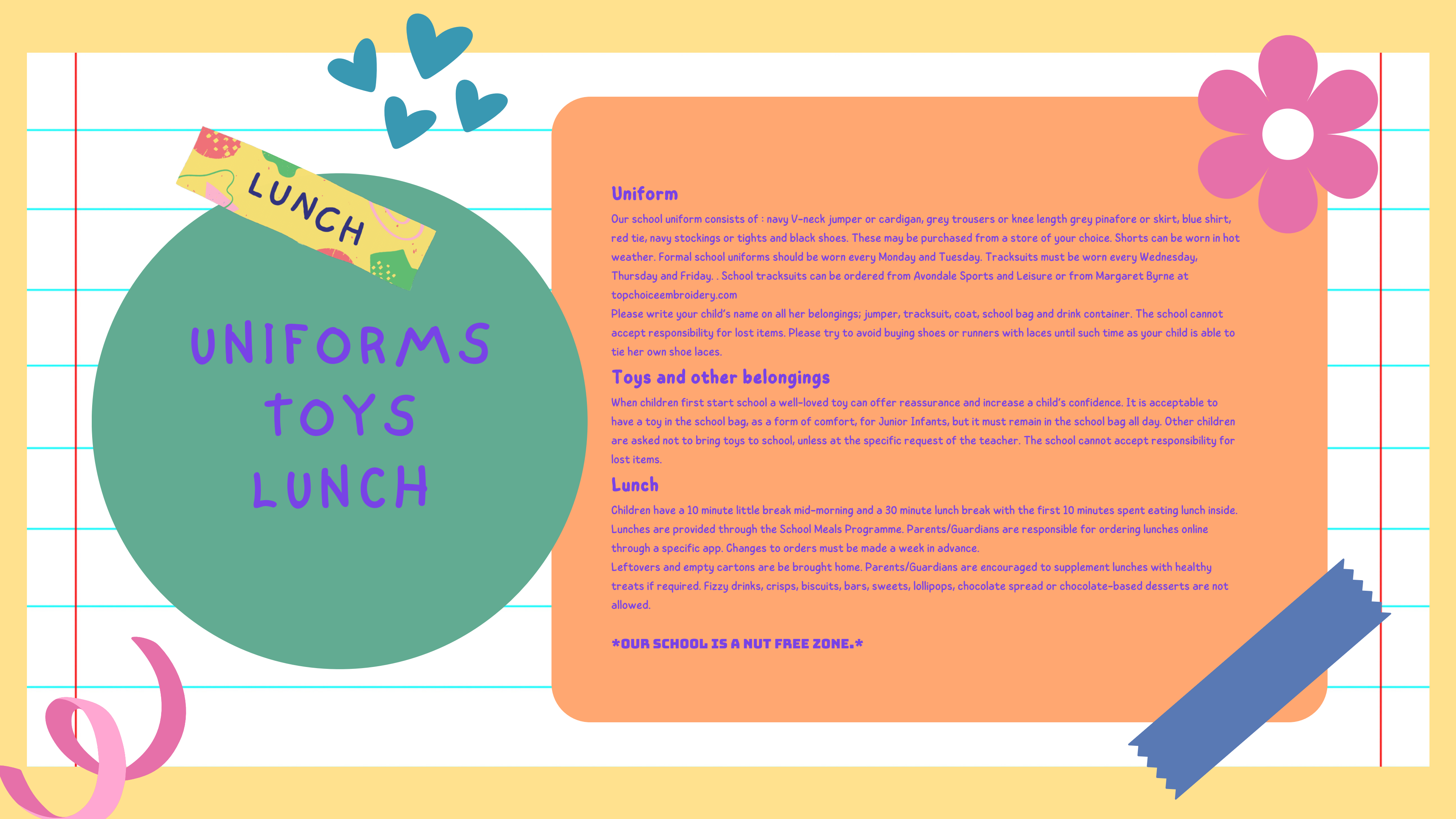
*Junior children who avail of the school transport scheme will be facilitated from 1.50-2.50.



SCHOOL
OUR
DAY



You can
do it!



LUNCH

UNIFORMS
TOYS
LUNCH

Uniform

Our school uniform consists of : navy V-neck jumper or cardigan, grey trousers or knee length grey pinafore or skirt, blue shirt, red tie, navy stockings or tights and black shoes. These may be purchased from a store of your choice. Shorts can be worn in hot weather. Formal school uniforms should be worn every Monday and Tuesday. Tracksuits must be worn every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. . School tracksuits can be ordered from Avondale Sports and Leisure or from Margaret Byrne at topchoiceembroidery.com

Please write your child's name on all her belongings; jumper, tracksuit, coat, school bag and drink container. The school cannot accept responsibility for lost items. Please try to avoid buying shoes or runners with laces until such time as your child is able to tie her own shoe laces.

Toys and other belongings

When children first start school a well-loved toy can offer reassurance and increase a child's confidence. It is acceptable to have a toy in the school bag, as a form of comfort, for Junior Infants, but it must remain in the school bag all day. Other children are asked not to bring toys to school, unless at the specific request of the teacher. The school cannot accept responsibility for lost items.

Lunch

Children have a 10 minute little break mid-morning and a 30 minute lunch break with the first 10 minutes spent eating lunch inside. Lunches are provided through the School Meals Programme. Parents/Guardians are responsible for ordering lunches online through a specific app. Changes to orders must be made a week in advance.

Leftovers and empty cartons are be brought home. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to supplement lunches with healthy treats if required. Fizzy drinks, crisps, biscuits, bars, sweets, lollipops, chocolate spread or chocolate-based desserts are not allowed.

OUR SCHOOL IS A NUT FREE ZONE.

Contact with School

The Aladdin Connect App is used within our school. If a child is absent a reason can be entered online through the app. If you have any concerns about your child, please feel free to discuss it with the teacher. However, it is necessary to make an appointment with your child's teacher to ensure that class work is not disrupted. We want your child to enjoy school and we promise to do all we can to ensure this.

Appointments can be made by phoning the school or through email.

School reports are issued on Aladdin in June.

Settling In

You can prepare your child for this major change which is about to take place in her life by encouraging her to do things for herself whenever possible. The more confident your child is, the happier she will be when first coming to school. Talk to your daughter about school before she starts and encourage her to discuss any worries that she may have. Tell her what will happen in school : new playmates, listening to stories and rhymes, singing songs, colouring in and playing with toys, etc.

When a child first starts school it is helpful if she can:

Dress unaided, included fastenings

Put on her own coat

Hang up her coat

Go to the toilet alone

Know her colours

Mix well with other children

Enjoy using child friendly scissors, pencils etc.

Enjoy listening to stories and nursery rhymes

Talk about things which she has done, with some confidence

Open and close her school bag

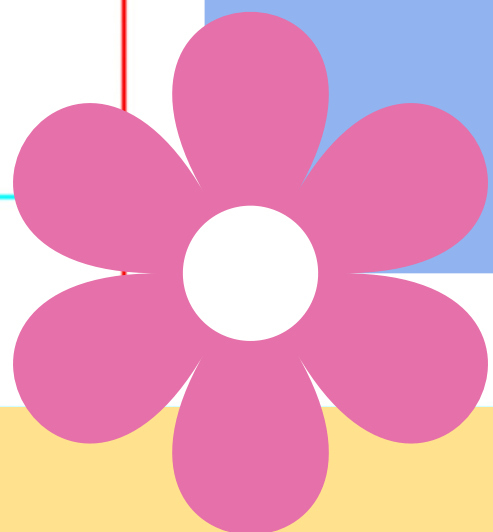
CONTACT:

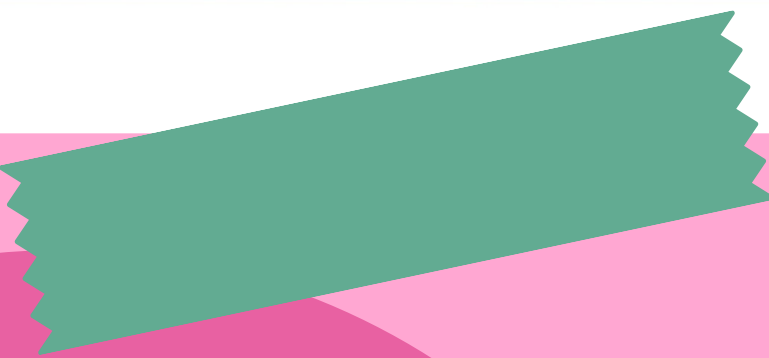
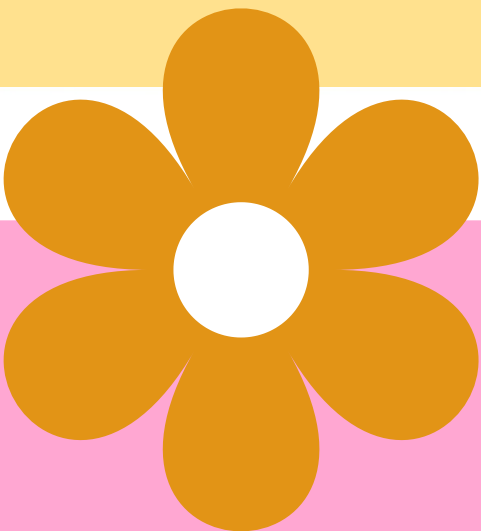
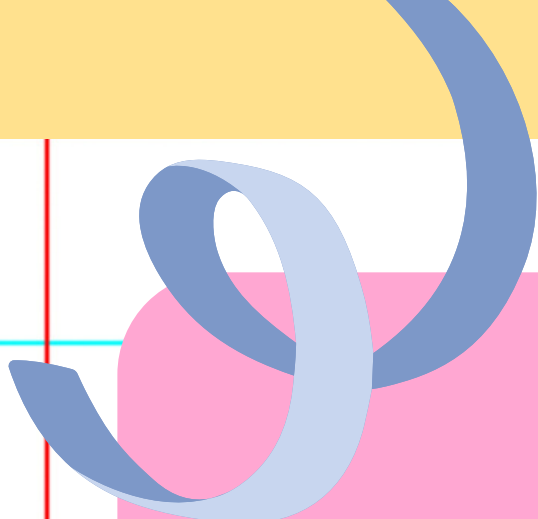
OFFICE:

OFFICE@OURLADYSGIRLS.COM

PHONE:

0404 46256





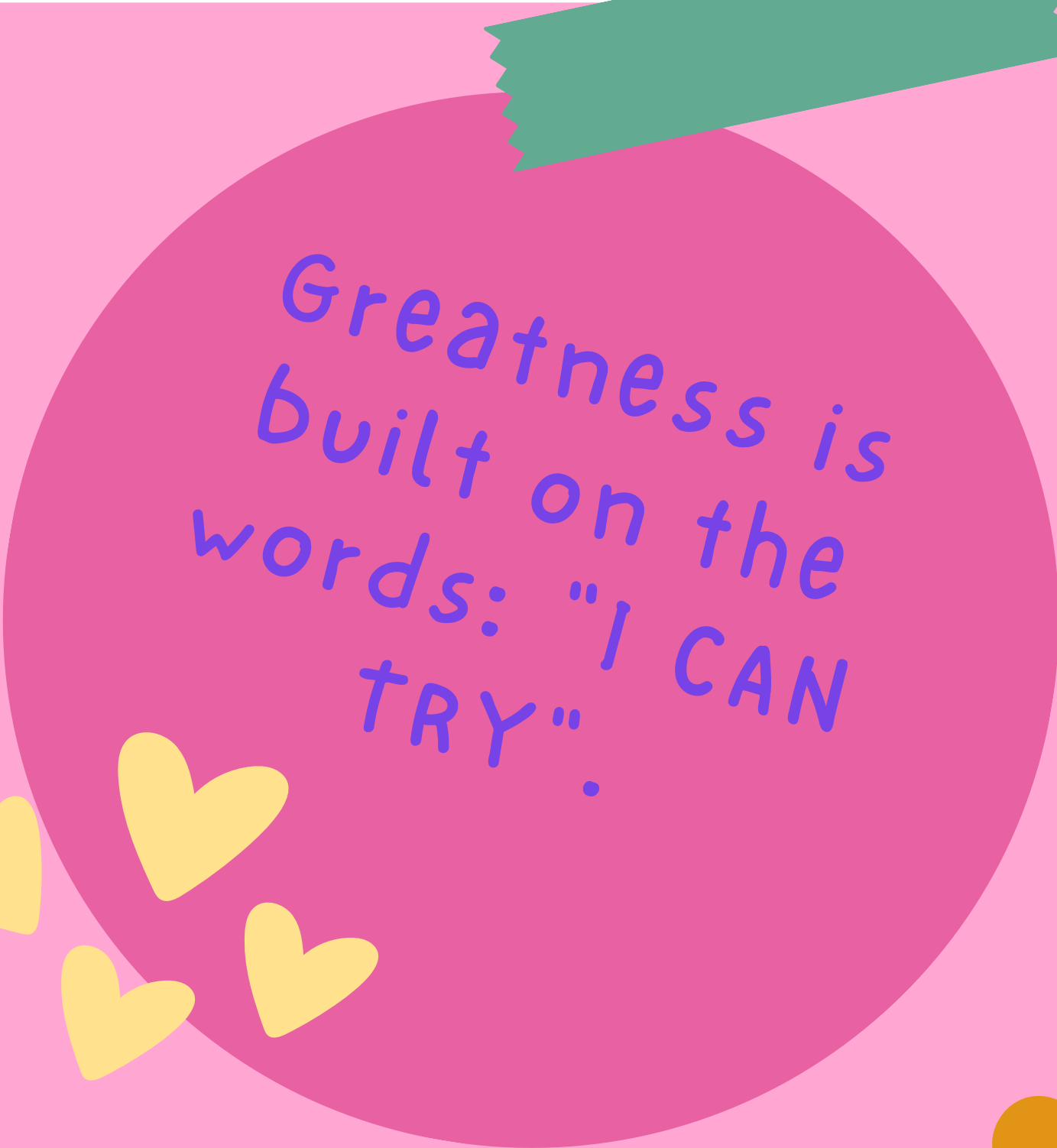
Classroom Rules & Discipline

Here is a list of some of the general rules adhered to by all children:

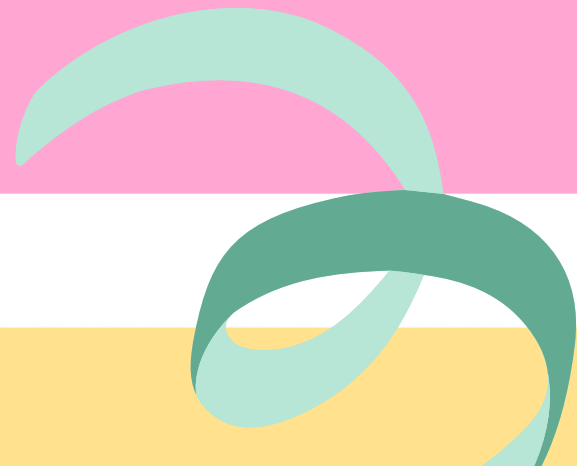
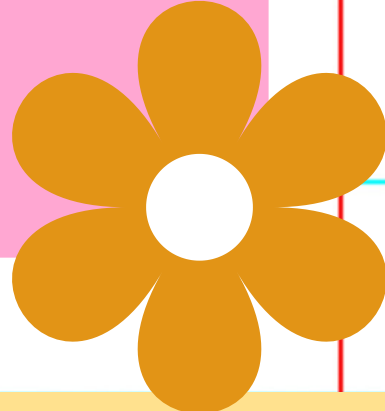
- Know when to talk
- Know when to listen
- Speak in a quiet voice, in a respectful manner at the right time.
- Move quietly when, where and how you are asked
- Work to the best of your ability at all times.
- Co-operate respectfully with all members of staff and visitors to the school.
- Treat every pupil well.
- Keep unhelpful hands, feet, objects and comments to yourself.

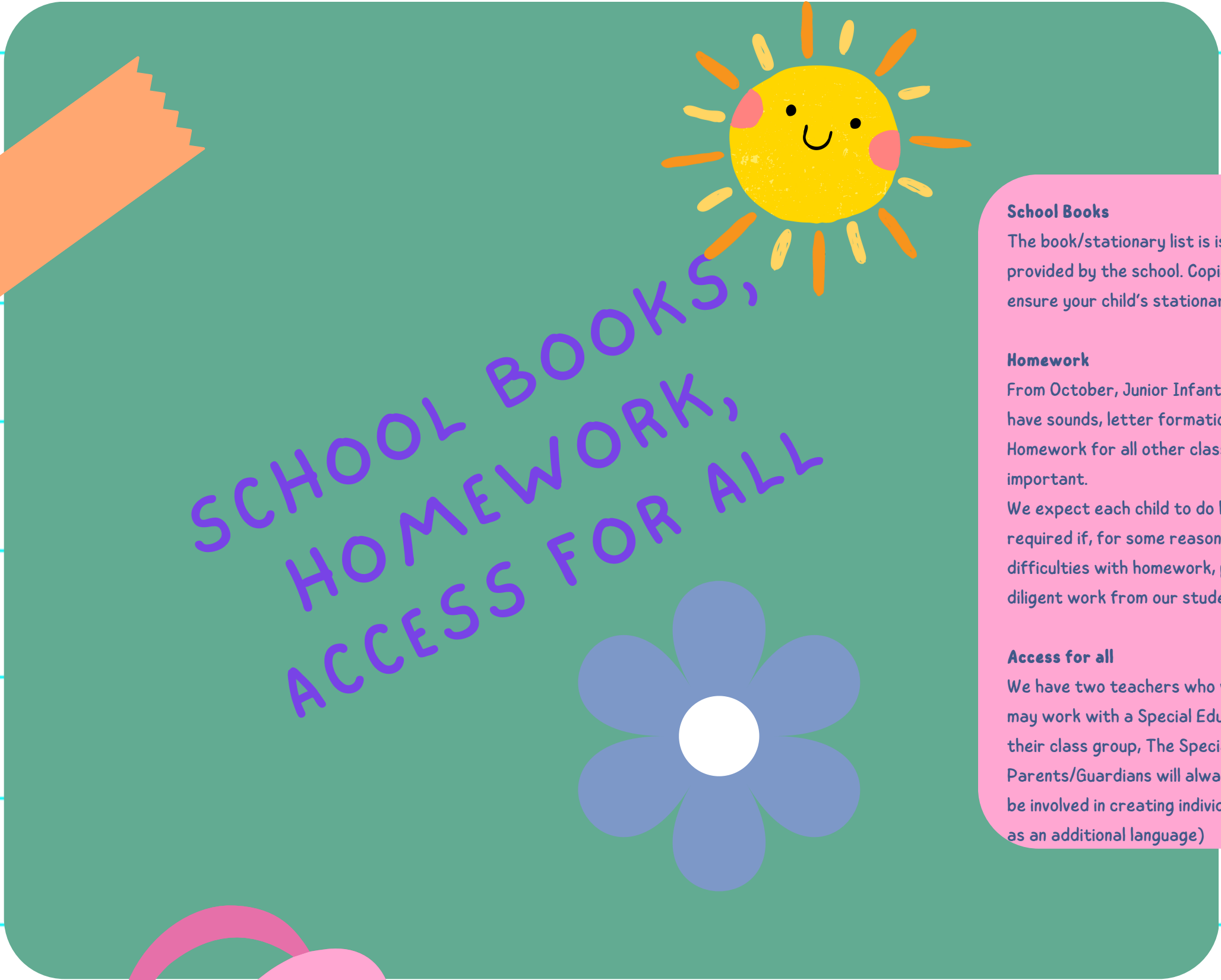
A Code of Behaviour has been drafted in the school, which can be viewed, upon request, from the office. Children learn best by positive reinforcement. Children in our school are always encouraged to do their best and will be praised for their hard work and kindness to others.

The policy also includes methods of dealing with unacceptable behaviour. There are a number of steps that teachers follow when dealing with such behaviour, e.g. a chat with the child to find out the cause of behaviour; a sanction for on-going or undesirable behaviour; recording of pupil's behaviour on a short-term basis to enable parents/guardians to realise the extent of behaviour; a private chat with parents to inform them of the problem. We encourage close links with home and school if the code of behaviour is evoked.



Greatness is
built on the
words: "I CAN
TRY".





SCHOOL BOOKS, HOMEWORK, ACCESS FOR ALL

School Books

The book/stationary list is issued in June for the following September. All books and workbooks will be provided by the school. Copies and stationary must be sourced by the parents/guardians. Please ensure your child's stationary is labelled.

Homework

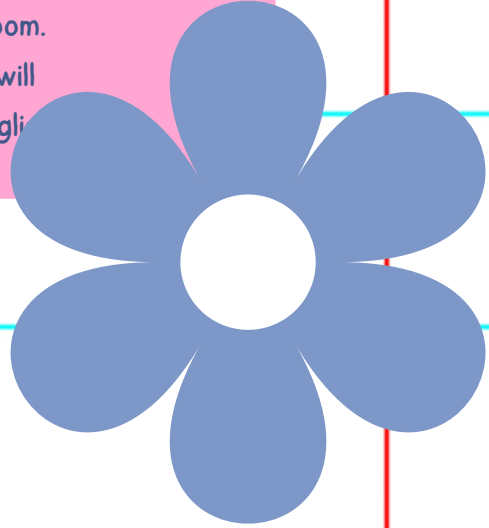
From October, Junior Infants will get pre-writing, sounds and maths homework. Senior Infants will have sounds, letter formation, reading and maths.

Homework for all other classes consists of writing, reading and memorisation tasks—which are equally important.

We expect each child to do her homework to the best of her ability. A written note from home is required if, for some reason, homework has not been completed. If your child is experiencing on-going difficulties with homework, please arrange to see her teacher to discuss the matter. Following diligent work from our student focus group, there will be no homework in June.

Access for all

We have two teachers who work with children who have a difficulty with their class work. Children may work with a Special Education Teacher for a period of time each day and then they return to their class group. The Special Education Teacher may work with a group of children in the classroom. Parents/Guardians will always be informed if extra support is recommended. Parents/Guardians will be involved in creating individual support programmes. We also have access to an EAL teacher. (English as an additional language)





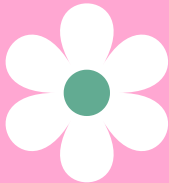
MOBILE PHONES



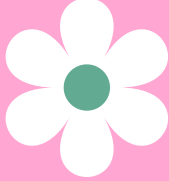
Mobile Phones

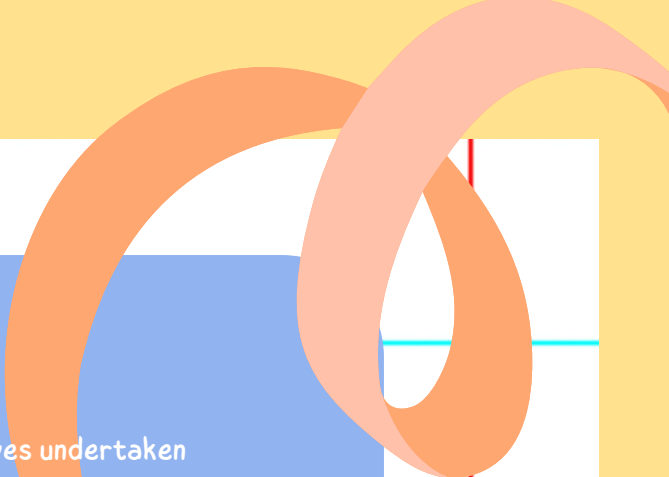
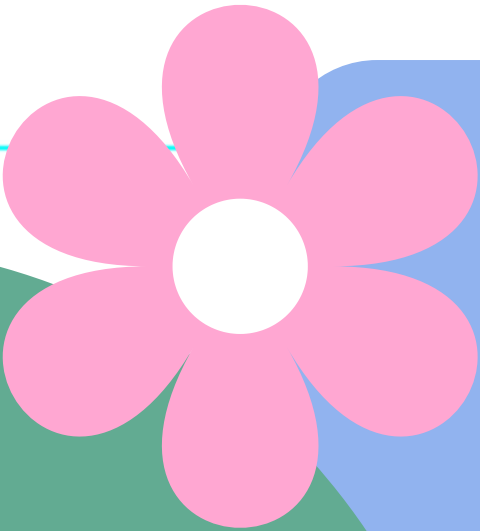


Children do not need to have a mobile phone/device in school. The school has a telephone should anyone need to contact their child during school hours. Senior children sign an Acceptable Use agreement with their parents/guardians.

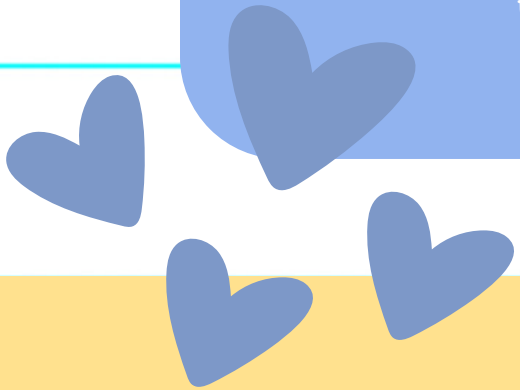
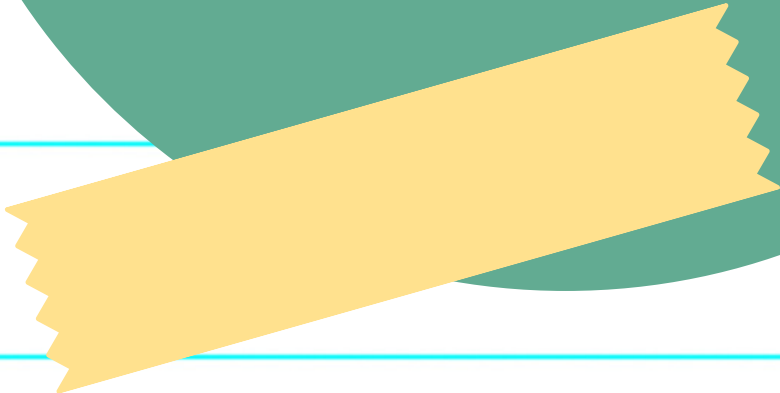


Any breach of these conditions will result in immediate confiscation of device and the parent/guardian of that child will have to collect the phone/device from the Principal.





Our Community



Parents' Association;

There is an active Parents' Association working in co-operation with and supporting the school. Among the initiatives undertaken are: coffee mornings, refreshments after Sacraments, organising the albs for Confirmation, craft activities with children, planting trees and bulbs in school grounds, reading and numeracy activities and fund raising. Our Parents' Association plays a central role in policy development. Their AGM is held early in the school year and all parents/guardians are welcome to be involved. The current chairperson of the Parents' Association is Carol Byrne. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you would like to be further involved.

Home School and Community Liaison Teacher:

In Our Lady's school, we are lucky to have a Home School and Community Liaison Teacher (HSCL). Ms. Monica Byrne currently holds this position. Our HSCL is shared with Rathdrum BNS. The HSCL helps create links between the parents/guardians and the school. She supports parents/guardians, helping to make the transition from pre-school to primary school as seamless as possible. Home visits are conducted to foster links and offer support.

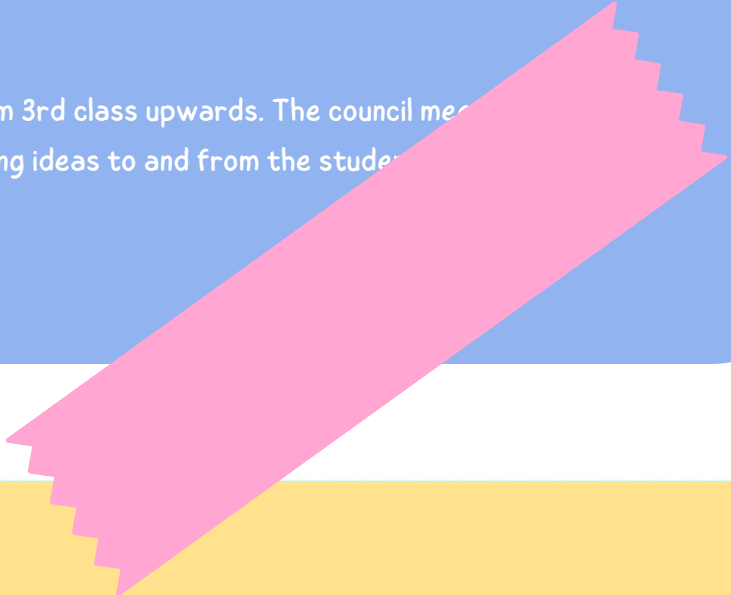
Our HSCL organises events throughout the year such as cooking classes, literacy sessions, yoga, walking groups, book clubs etc. to encourage parental participation.

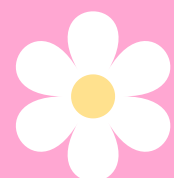
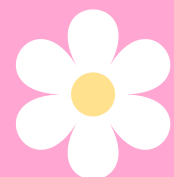
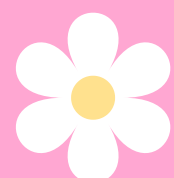
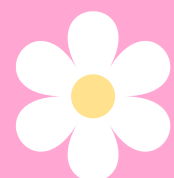
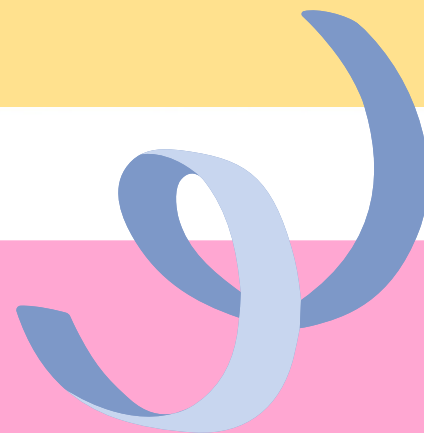
Board of Management:

The Board of Management of Our Lady's Girls School is central to the success of the school. The Board work with the whole school community to ensure best practise at all times. Members of the current Board of Management include: Mr.Rory Wilson (Chairperson), Ms. Marie Mullin (Treasurer), Fr. D.Doyle, Ms.Donna Quinn, Mr. Cormac Doyle, Ms.Caitriona Walshe, Mr.Stephen Oscan and Ms.Helena Cassidy.

Student Participation:

A Student council is elected annually. The student council consist of students from 3rd class upwards. The council meet regularly to propose changes within our school. The student council are responsible for feeding ideas to and from the students through focus groups and creating plans to adapt change.





Green Schools:

"Keep clean, let the beauty be seen."

Our school is proud to have achieved Green Flag status. This flag represents an environmentally-friendly school. The children and staff work together to compost, recycle and maintain a clean, litter-free school. The Green Flag is reviewed every second year, to ensure a high standard of environmental friendliness is maintained. Our Green school Committee work hard to guide us on this journey

Junior Entrepreneur Programme:

In the past, classes have received the flag for participating in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. For our most recent entry, the students set up a sweet business, working closely with local shops. Our flag flies proudly.

Science Blast:

Recently, our school participated in the non-competitive programme, Science Blast. Students investigated "Can slime move?". The students represented our school at the RDS and shared their findings there.

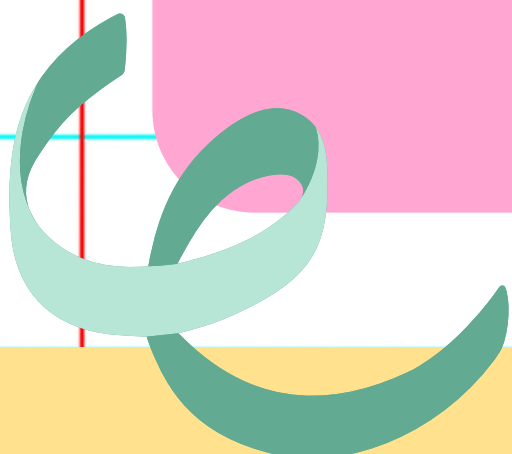
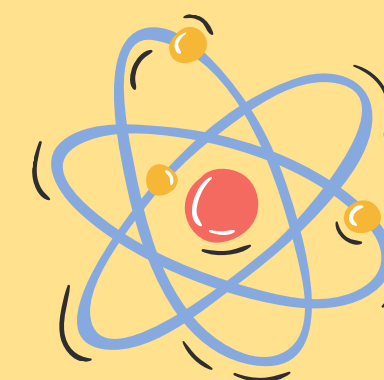
Sports:

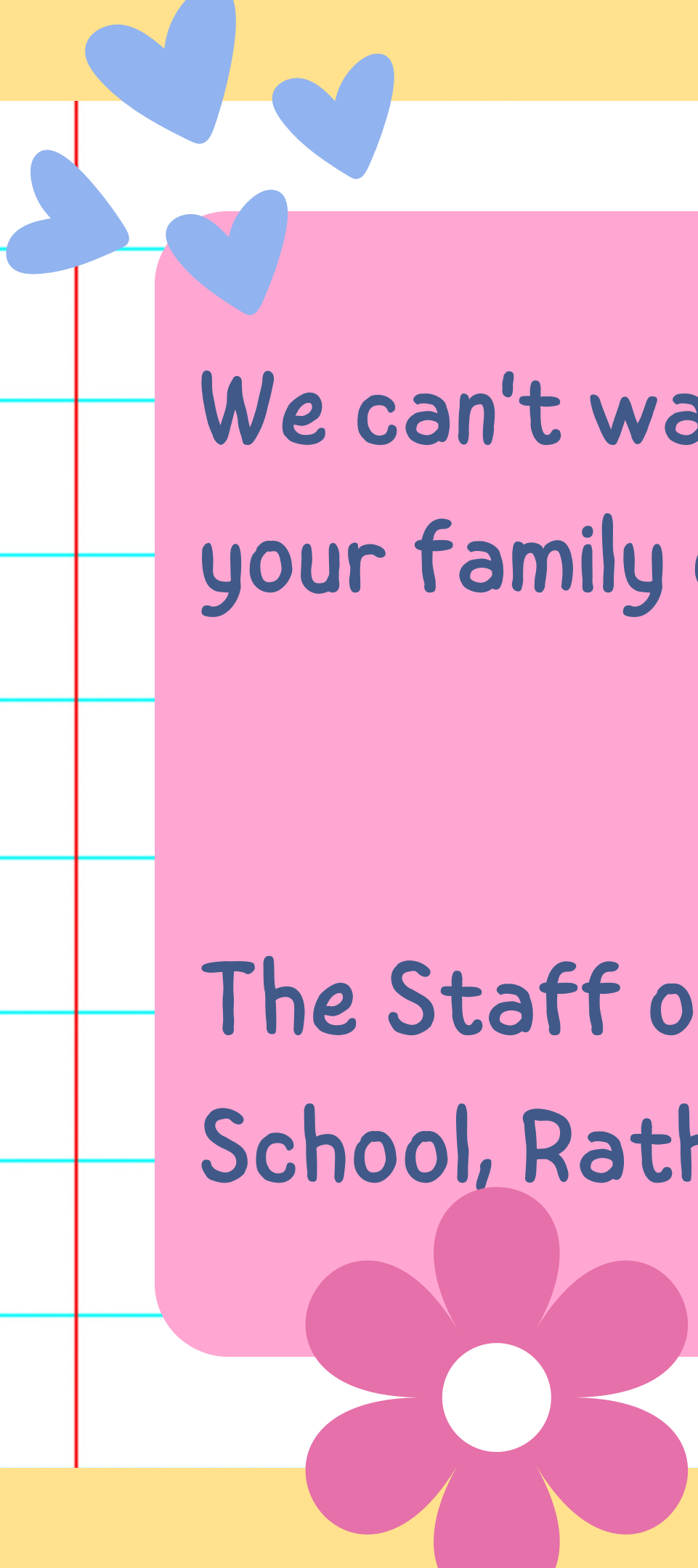
At Our Lady's we encourage all students to try as many new sports as possible with emphasis on participation over competition. Throughout the year our students take part in GAA, rugby, Athletics, Dance, Swimming, Walking and Camogie. The importance of team work and turn taking are central.

Music:

Our Lady's school has a proud tradition of music. Some students gain the opportunity to learn how to play the tin whistle. Our senior classes also perform in the school choir. In the past, classes have participated in The Arklow Music Festival. Our most recent entry, Junior Infants, winning first prize in the action poem category. Recently, we had our first onsite music festival, the brain child of our second class students. We had an amazing day with acts providing entertainment all day. This year, for the first time ever, Our Lady's School will welcome Creative Keyboards to teach music lessons after school. These lessons take place on Mondays after school. All bookings are through the Creative Keyboards website.

SAMPLES OF SOME OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS





We can't wait to join you and
your family on this journey.

The Staff of Our Lady's Girls
School, Rathdrum.

