

Primary 1 in Ballynure Primary School



What will my child's first school days be like?



The children each get a start date and time. With children arriving in small groups of 3 or 4. This enables us to focus on a few children at a time and let them settle in, before the next group of children arrive.

Initial activities - play, tour of the school, getting to know their classmates, exploring the playground, story time, games together, school and classroom rules and routines.



What is a typical day in P1?

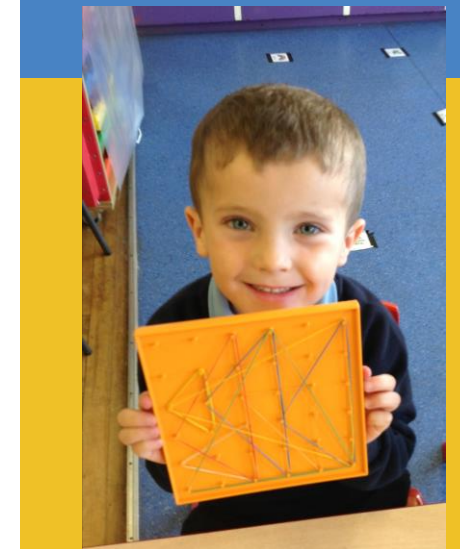


- Carpet time - we talk about what we will do that day and find out who the class helpers are.
- Play Based Learning (either indoor or outdoors) - see the next few slides for information on play.
- Break time - time to eat and time to play in the playground



After break...

- Literacy and Numeracy – the children are taught new concepts and then rotate around different tasks and activities to develop their knowledge and understanding. The teacher and classroom assistant spend time with each child though especially designed small group activities.
- These may include
 - Reading groups
 - Literacy and Numeracy games
 - Practical teaching activities
 - Exploring concepts using I.C.T
 - Worksheets



The children eat their lunch and play in the playground at lunchtime. Then...

The children normally participate in at least one of the following lessons:

- P.E. and Mutual Understanding)
- Topic Work (World Around Us)
- Music, Art or Drama
- Circle Time (Personal Development)
- R.E.
- Spanish

We often finish our day with a story or song before home time.



Why Play?

Play Based Learning - the children are encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding in a fun way.

The children's learning can be put in an everyday context.

The teacher and Classroom Assistant can extend and support all areas of your child's learning.



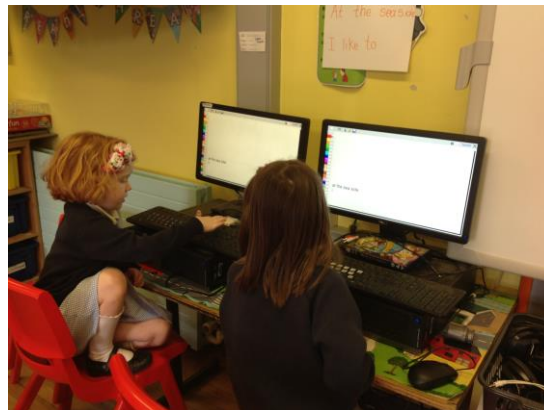
An example of Play Based Learning activities in P1:



Role play area:
Developing their number skills using money.



ICT area:
Typing a sentence.
At the beach I like to ...



Creative area:
Create self-portraits.



Water area:
Developing the language of capacity.



Writing area:
Writing lists of what to take to the beach.



Outdoor play:
Exploring number.
Creating autumn wreaths.



Special Days in Ballynure



Alongside our daily program. The children experience a range of different activities and special celebrations. These include:



- Fit Friday
- Harvest Assembly
- P1 Nativity Play
- School Trips
- Charity days e.g. Children in Need
- Visits from Ballynure Play group
- Sports Day
- Topic related visitors



What homework will my child get?



Initially - a book to share or a rhyme to learn or a simple activity to complete.



Moving towards:

- Reading books
- Key Words
- A literacy or numeracy activity



How can I prepare my child for school?



- Encourage independence.
- Develop their vocabulary by talking to your child about anything and everything.
- Encourage them to concentrate on activities.
- Read to them.
- Encourage imaginative play.
- Encourage mark making, cutting, playing with dough.
- Count with your child.

