

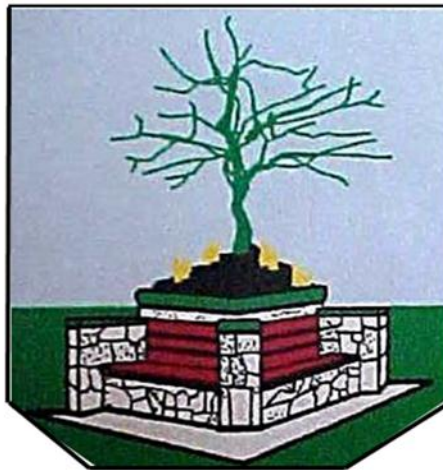
Scoil an Athar Tadhg

Carraig na bhFear,
Co. Cork

Phone: 021 4884509

Fax: 021 4884697

e-mail: office@athartadhg.ie
principal@athartadhg.ie



Information Booklet
For
Parents

Contents

		Page
Welcome to Scoil an Athar Tadhg	<i>Background</i>	4
	<i>Our Mission</i>	5
	<i>Our Ethos</i>	5
	<i>Board of Management</i>	6
	<i>Parents Association</i>	6
	<i>An Neidín</i>	6
	<i>Child Protection Procedures</i>	6
School Routines	<i>The School Uniform</i>	7
	<i>The School Day</i>	7
	<i>Assembly</i>	8
	<i>Lining Up Each Day</i>	8
	<i>Dismissal</i>	8
	<i>Punctuality and Attendance</i>	8
	<i>Early Going Home</i>	9
	<i>Visitors to the School</i>	9
	<i>Siopa na Scoile</i>	9
	<i>Traffic</i>	10
Communication	<i>Home School Communication</i>	11
	<i>Cards</i>	12
	<i>Parental Concerns</i>	12
	<i>Procedures for Complaints</i>	12
	<i>Policies</i>	12
	<i>Mobile Phones</i>	13
Health and Hygiene	<i>Lunches</i>	13
	<i>Litter</i>	13
	<i>Environmentally Friendly Practices</i>	13
	<i>Medication</i>	14
	<i>Disabilities/Severe Allergies</i>	14
	<i>Children unwell in school</i>	14
	<i>Infectious Disease</i>	14

	<i>Head Lice</i>	14
	<i>Absence and Sickness</i>	15
Contact Information	<i>Contact Information</i>	15
	<i>Text-a-Parent</i>	15
	<i>Emergency Closing</i>	15
The Curriculum	<i>Curricular Subjects</i>	16
	<i>Homework</i>	16
	<i>Book Lists</i>	16
	<i>Book Rental Scheme</i>	16
	<i>Extra Curricular Activities Costs</i>	17
	<i>Special Education Needs & Resource Teaching</i>	18
	<i>Learning Support</i>	18
	<i>Standardised Testing of Pupils</i>	19
The First Year	<i>September Induction Period</i>	20
	<i>Getting Ready for School</i>	21
	<i>School Courtesy</i>	21
The First Day	<i>What you should do for your Child</i>	22
	<i>Your child will need the following:</i>	22
	<i>Junior Infant Homework</i>	22
	<i>Birthday Invitation / Cards</i>	22
	<i>Poem</i>	23
Appendix 1	<i>Staff List</i>	24
Appendix 2	<i>Consent Form</i>	25

Welcome to Scoil an Athar Tadhg

Background

Scoil an Athar Tadhg is a mixed rural school situated approximately 6 miles from Cork City in the village of Carraig na bhFear. There are currently 337 students in the school. It was built in 1974 and named after a local former parish priest, an t-Athar Tadhg O’Murchú. He was the man responsible for the building of the monument in the village dedicated to the local poets, called Faiche na bhFilí. At the start of the 20th century, Irish was the spoken language in parts of Carraig na bhFear. An t-Athar Tadhg fostered a great love of Irish in the parish during his time here (1960-1972) and the school continues with this tradition today.

Our school is guided by a highly trained staff of 13 Class Teachers, 11 Support Teachers, 5 Special Class teachers, 21 Special Needs Assistants an Administrative Deputy Principal and an Administrative Principal, all with special skills and interests. The work in all the classes is progressively developed to provide a holistic, inclusive, child-centered education. This contributes to a very thorough academic and social preparation for Secondary School.

Parents who wish to enrol their children in Scoil an Athar Tadhg National School are required to return a completed Enrolment Form (available in the office and all local pre-schools) to the school by Easter of each year.

Our Vision is that of a caring, loving Catholic School where all children, whatever their ability, race or creed are cherished for their uniqueness.

Our school seeks to give equal opportunity to all children to reach their full potential – academically, spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally.

We endeavour to achieve this goal in a climate of positive co-operation, supported by the entire school community of pupils, teachers, support staff, parents/guardians, Board of Management and Parish.

<p>Our Mission</p>	<p>We envisage our School to be a safe, friendly, caring community, tolerant of difference and respectful of individuals, where we can all grow and learn in a positive, nurturing environment.</p> <p>The school seeks to provide a climate in which pupils are encouraged to develop spiritual and moral values, personal and social skills and physical, intellectual and aesthetic abilities. We aspire towards the highest standards of excellence of which each child is capable</p> <p>We aim to achieve this in a calm, respectful, well ordered happy environment. We endeavour to provide the children with life skills to enable them to become proud fulfilled citizens of the world.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The aim is to create an ordered and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development and every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in school.</p>
<p>Our Ethos</p>	<p>A positive school ethos is based on the quality of relationships between staff members and the ways in which pupils and staff treat each other. This positive ethos permeates all the activities of the school. In Scoil an Athar Tadhg there is a strong sense of community and co-operation among staff, pupils and parents and all are agreed that our primary focus is on the promotion and recognition of good behaviour. The school recognizes the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to be accepting of these differences.</p>
<p>Board of Management</p>	<p>The Board of Management has legal responsibility for the overall running of the school. It runs for a term of four years and a new Board was formed in December 2011. The term of the current board will run till 30/11/2015. The members of the current board are:</p> <p>Patron Representatives: Fr. Michael Regan: Chairperson Carmel O’Keeffe: Treasurer</p> <p>Principal: Marc Ó Síocháin: Secretary</p> <p>Teachers’ Representatives Michael White: Recording Secretary</p> <p>Parents’ Representatives: Lorraine Collins Tony O’Mahony</p> <p>Community Representatives Marie Murphy Jim Crotty</p>

<p>Parents Association</p>	<p>The Parents Association hold their AGM in late September. Your ideas and support will be crucial in helping to make the Parents Association a success. From time to time during the year the Parents Association run meetings, talks, events and fundraisers. These contribute greatly to the social life of the school. They are also a means of getting to know new people while at the same time making a real contribution to your child's education.</p>
<p>An Neidín</p>	<p>An Neidín is an Autism Spectrum Disorder (A.S.D.) Unit which is attached to our School. It comprises of a Pre- School Early Intervention Class and three other classes. Children from An Neidín are included in various classes throughout the Mainstream School for varying lengths of time each day. They are always accompanied by an S.N.A.</p>
<p>Child Protection Procedures</p>	<p>Designated Liaison Person: Marc Ó Síocháin Deputy Designated Liaison Person: Mary Gilley All concerns/disclosures involving Child Protection or child welfare issues are to be reported to the DLP. In the absence of the DLP, the Deputy DLP will be informed. The Stay Safe Programme is taught in compliance with Child Protection Guidelines.</p>

School Routines

<p>School Uniform</p>	<p>Junior and Senior Infants: Junior Infants and Senior Infants wear wine crested school tracksuit and a white polo shirt as their school attire each day.</p> <p>First Class – Sixth Class: Our school uniform consists of the following:</p> <p>White shirt/blouse.</p> <p>Wine tie with grey stripes.</p> <p>Wine jumper with school crest.</p> <p>Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore.</p> <p>Wine crested school tracksuit (a white polo shirt is worn inside)</p> <p>Children from first to sixth class are expected to wear their complete uniform Monday – Wednesday (this includes the school tie). Tracksuits are worn on Thursday and Friday only – or as directed by class teacher.</p> <p>School Uniforms may be purchased at Buckley’s Drapery in Shandon Street, Cork.</p>
<p>The School Day</p>	<p>Junior and Senior Infants 9. a.m. – 1.40 p.m. *</p> <p>1st – 6th class 9. a.m. – 2.40p.m.</p> <p>Morning Breaks: 10.30 a.m. – 10.40 a.m. or 10.45 a.m. – 10.55 a.m.</p> <p>Afternoon Breaks: 12.05 p.m. – 12.35 p.m. or 12.40 p.m. – 1.10 p.m.</p> <p><i>*During the induction period for Junior Infants in September, different finishing school times apply – see Page 14.</i></p>
<p>Assembly & Lining up each morning</p>	<p>Morning Assembly: Children are collected from the gate at 8.40am by the supervising teacher/SNA. Children assemble in class lines in the back yard and are supervised by teacher and SNAs. Children are collected by class teacher at 9.00am.</p> <p>Wet Weather: Doors open at 8.40am. Children are allowed into the school hall under supervision by teacher on duty and SNAs.</p>
<p>Dismissal</p>	<p>At 1.40 pm, Junior and Senior Infants are brought to the front playground for collection by parents/guardians. On wet days, children are collected from their classrooms. Parents are not allowed to take the children through the staff car park for health and safety reasons. To avoid congestion at prefab side of school classes in Rooms 7 & 8 in the main building will enter and exit the school (morning and evening) via the back door. The children are not allowed to walk through the staff car park.</p>

<p>Punctuality and Attendance</p>	<p>The children are expected to be punctual and to attend school every day. Good school attendance is crucial to your child’s progress.</p> <p>It should be noted that your child may not enter the school before 8.40 a.m. unless they are directed to do so by a member of staff. Children remain the responsibility of their parents/guardians until that time.</p> <p>We ask that you are on time picking up your child daily. Infant Teachers have other duties to perform and it is unpleasant for small children if they are left waiting when every child has been collected.</p> <p>Children who are dropped to school after 9.05am must be brought directly to their classrooms by an adult. This is to ensure the safety of the child.</p>
<p>Early Going Home</p>	<p>A permission card is necessary if a child has to leave the school during the school day, dental appointment cards etc will not suffice. A parent/guardian is required to call to the office and sign a card. This card must then be taken to the classroom. Children will NOT be allowed out of the classroom without this card.</p> <p>We would urge you not to collect your child early, as it reduces their learning time. Children will not be released into the care of another juvenile.</p> <p>Children must be collected by an adult if they are leaving school early.</p> <p>No child may leave school unaccompanied during school time.</p>
<p>Visitors to the School</p>	<p>All visitors to the School, parents /guardians outside professionals etc. must report to the office and sign a log in/log out register.</p>
<p>Safety Underpins Everything</p>	<p>The corridors are narrow and cannot accommodate the large volume of traffic that would be involved if all parents/guardians, who accompany their children to school, came inside with their children. In the interests of safety and the fostering of independence children are encouraged to say “goodbye” to parents / guardians at the school gate.</p>
<p>Siopa na Scoile</p>	<p>Children are afforded the opportunity to purchase school supplies (copies, pens, pencils etc.) at the school shop between 8.55am and 9.00am each morning. School shop is situated beside Staff room adjacent to the back door of the school</p>

Traffic

Parents / Guardians are urged to be extra vigilant in their driving outside the school premises. We would urge you to always cross your child at the Zebra Crossing.

DO NOT PARK on the double yellow lines, they are there to ensure visibility and for your child's safety – even if it is only for 2 minutes, it only takes 1 second for an accident to happen. Take extra care when you are dropping off children outside the school gate that they do not run in front of the car of another parent. Be extra vigilant yourself that you look twice before taking off and drive SLOWLY.

- Children should always use the designated walking paths to access the school. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should a child walk through the staff car park. Your child's safety is of paramount importance to us, so please abide by these simple rules.
- If your child is dropped to school by car before 9.00m please use the waiting area outside of Bus Shelter. Children may not sit on, swing off, or climb in between the barriers.
- To facilitate parents who pull in at the **Set Down Area Only for Drop Off and Collection** there is a pathway for children outside the front of School. Children then can walk on pathway into school by means of Upper Pedestrian Gate.

NOTE: THIS PARKING AREA IS SET DOWN ONLY DRIVERS MUST NOT LEAVE THE CAR.

- Parents or/Pupils wishing to enter school coming up the village (Cork Side) please use lower pedestrian gate to avoid crossing in front of Staff Car Park.
- Pupils wishing to wait in Waiting Area in the morning can then proceed through the School Front Yard and out Upper Pedestrian Gate to Waiting Area.
- Parents/Pupils coming to the school down the village from (Co-Op Creamery Side) School Side use Footpath at point 1 and continue to point 2 keeping at left side of Barriers around Waiting Area.
- Parents/ Pupils coming to school that are parked on Finneran's Side of Road (Farm across from school) please use footpath and proceed down to Pedestrian Crossing.
- **Do not block the Farm Entrance at any time during the day as this is a working farm with lorries and tractors needing access on school side. Please use foot path and cross into school behind barrier and passing in front of bus shelter.**

<p>Home/ School Communication</p>	<p>It is natural that issues of concern will arise from time to time. It is in the best interest of the child that matters are amicably resolved as quickly as possible. It is school policy that teachers facilitate good home/school relations by promoting good communication between parents and school and facilitating concerned parents by arranging appointments when requested.</p> <p>Frequent communication is of vital importance in developing and nurturing co-operation between home and school. In our school, communication between parents and teachers may take one of the following forms:</p> <p>Individual consultation: This occurs where a parent has asked for an appointment with a teacher or has been invited to visit the school to exchange information or to discuss matters of concern. A note to the class teacher requesting such an appointment is always essential. It is also necessary that the purpose of the visit be stated so that the teacher may undertake whatever preparation is necessary with regard to information and records</p> <p>Appointment with the Principal: Parents should contact the School Secretary Caitriona at 021-4884509 if they wish to make an appointment to meet the Principal.</p> <p>Formal Parent/Teacher meeting are held in November to January. Teachers maintain open communication with parents regarding children’s progress and informal parent/teacher meetings may be arranged by parents ringing the office to agree an appointment with class teacher.</p> <p>Meetings are held in connection with preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.</p> <p>A meeting is held in June and October of each year with parents of the new Junior Infant pupils.</p> <p>In addition to the above home/school links, the following means of communication are also utilised:</p> <p>Notes in pupil’s homework notebook</p> <p>School reports are issued at the end of the school year.</p> <p>Details of school holidays or early school closures are always communicated in writing.</p> <p>Emergency notes and reminders are sent through ‘text a parent’.</p>
--	---

Cards	Christmas Cards: Children are only allowed to bring in a class card. No individual cards to be distributed. Communion/Confirmation Cards: Distributed on day of Communion/Confirmation or other time but not in school. Birthday Invitations: In classrooms, teachers will only distribute birthday invitations if all girls/boys are invited.																										
Parental Concerns	It is natural that issues of concern may arise from time to time. It is in the best interest of the child that matters are amicably resolved as quickly as possible. It is school policy that teachers facilitate good home/school relations by promoting good communications between parents and school and facilitating concerned parents by arranging appointments when requested. Communications between all parties, parents/guardians, teachers and pupils, should be conducted in a mutually respectful manner.																										
Procedure for Complaints	A parent who wishes to voice a concern should meet with the class teacher with a view to resolving the matter. If the matter is not resolved, the parent should meet with the Principal. If the matter is still not resolved, the parent should contact the Board of Management by letter.																										
Policies	<p>Listed below is a sample from our extensive list of School Policies. All of our policies can be obtained by calling to the school office.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="391 869 1487 1562"> <tr> <td>Anti bullying policy</td> <td>School Attendance Policy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child Protection Policy</td> <td>Tours & Outings Policy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enrolment Policy</td> <td>Assessment and Reporting Policy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enrolment Policy – An Neidín</td> <td>Code of Behaviour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils</td> <td>Homework Policy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthy Eating Policy</td> <td>Policy on Equality of Access and Participation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ICT Policy</td> <td>Mobile Phone Policy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)</td> <td>Record Keeping & Data Protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leave of Absence Policy</td> <td>Sports Code of Conduct</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accident and Injury Policy</td> <td>Equality of Access and Participation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Administration of Medication Policy</td> <td>Special Educational Needs Policy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Critical Incident Policy</td> <td>Accident and Injury Policy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Substance Use Policy</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Anti bullying policy	School Attendance Policy	Child Protection Policy	Tours & Outings Policy	Enrolment Policy	Assessment and Reporting Policy	Enrolment Policy – An Neidín	Code of Behaviour	Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils	Homework Policy	Healthy Eating Policy	Policy on Equality of Access and Participation	ICT Policy	Mobile Phone Policy	Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)	Record Keeping & Data Protection	Leave of Absence Policy	Sports Code of Conduct	Accident and Injury Policy	Equality of Access and Participation	Administration of Medication Policy	Special Educational Needs Policy	Critical Incident Policy	Accident and Injury Policy	Substance Use Policy	
Anti bullying policy	School Attendance Policy																										
Child Protection Policy	Tours & Outings Policy																										
Enrolment Policy	Assessment and Reporting Policy																										
Enrolment Policy – An Neidín	Code of Behaviour																										
Arrival and Dismissal of Pupils	Homework Policy																										
Healthy Eating Policy	Policy on Equality of Access and Participation																										
ICT Policy	Mobile Phone Policy																										
Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)	Record Keeping & Data Protection																										
Leave of Absence Policy	Sports Code of Conduct																										
Accident and Injury Policy	Equality of Access and Participation																										
Administration of Medication Policy	Special Educational Needs Policy																										
Critical Incident Policy	Accident and Injury Policy																										
Substance Use Policy																											
Mobile Phones	Mobile phones are not allowed in the school. However, If parents wish their child to have a mobile phone in school a written application may be made to the principal. Mobile phones must not be turned on while on school grounds. Any breach in this regard will lead to phones being confiscated and only returned when collected by a parent/guardian.																										

Health and Hygiene

<p>Lunches</p>	<p>Choose a lunch box and bottle/beaker that can be easily opened by your child. Please label both. As part of our SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) Programme we have a Healthy Eating Policy. We encourage children to bring a healthy lunch i.e. sandwich, cheese, fruit, yogurt, milk, water or fruit juice. Nourishing foods are encouraged. Treats are permitted on Fridays only. Fizzy drinks, chewing gum, lollipops and chewy/sticky bars are NOT ALLOWED. For safety reasons glass bottles are forbidden. See web site listed below for more information www.safefood.eu/en/Publication/Consumer-Information/Healthy-lunchboxes/</p>
<p>Litter</p>	<p>We encourage the children to take responsibility for their environment and to be litter conscious. This is a great help in keeping their school tidy. We work towards heightening in them a sense of respect towards the environment.</p> <p>NOTE: In order that you know what your child has eaten, each child brings home the remains of their lunch box.</p>
<p>Environmentally Friendly Practices</p>	<p>The motto is: Reduce, Reuse, And Recycle. All teachers promote good practice in relation to reducing waste. All classrooms are supplied with a recycling bin and general rubbish bin. Children are constantly reminded to separate waste. Paper should be reused as much as possible. Emphasis on energy saving by turning off lights, closing doors to keep heat indoors etc. All lunch wrappings are to be taken home. No food to be taken onto yard except for an apple.</p>

<p>Medication</p>	<p>If your child requires prescribed medication you (the parent /guardian) and your G.P. are required to fill out an Administration of Medication Form. A copy of the Administration of Medication Policy is available from the teacher and the school office. Failure to fill out this form will result in your child not being administered their prescribed medication.</p> <p>See Policy on Administration of Medicines.</p> <p>Parents are responsible for ensuring that the medication is delivered to the school and handed over to the authorised staff member and for ensuring that an adequate supply is available. Children are <i>not</i> permitted to carry medication in to school or to retain medication in their possession during school hours.</p> <p>Prescribed medicine will be kept in a secure cupboard in the office out of reach of pupils.</p> <p>Certain medicines, such as inhalers used by asthmatic children, which must be readily accessible at all times of the school day shall be retained and administered by the class teacher or other authorised staff member. Alternatively, the medication may be administered by the child under supervision of an authorised staff member. Inhalers may be retained by children from 4th class up. Non-prescription medicines shall neither be stored nor administered to pupils in school.</p>
<p>Disabilities/ Severe Allergies</p>	<p>If a child has any disability, severe allergies or life threatening medical conditions the Principal should be informed when the child is being enrolled. Should a problem develop the Principal should be told immediately. In this way appropriate provisions can be put in place. The information disclosed will be treated with respect and confidence.</p>
<p>Children unwell in school</p>	<p>In the best interest of your child we would encourage parents not to send a sick child to school. If a child becomes unwell at school or has an accident the Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately. (This highlights the importance of having current contact details in the school office at all times).</p>
<p>Infectious Disease</p>	<p>Please notify the school (in confidence) if your child is diagnosed with an infectious disease.</p>
<p>Head Lice</p>	<p>Head lice are regular visitors in all schools! So check your child's hair regularly for head lice. Please report it to the school (in confidence) so that we can alert other parents. Lotions and shampoos are readily available from your local pharmacy.</p>

<p>Absence and Sickness</p>	<p>Regular attendance is crucial to your child’s progress. However, children do, from time to time, get sick.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All student absences must be explained in writing. • Written explanations are retained in a designated folder • All absences are recorded daily in the roll book and also at the end of each month in a designated file sent from the office. <p>In accordance with the Educational Welfare Act the school has a duty to report any child who has missed 20 days or more in one academic year. The Principal has no discretion in this. Parents/Guardians are now obliged by law to provide a written explanation for their child’s absence to the school. A phone call to the school office does not suffice.</p> <p>DO NOT SEND A SICK CHILD TO SCHOOL</p> <p>If your child is too sick to go to yard he/she is too sick to come to school. Exceptions are made in the case of ongoing or chronic illness and limb injuries. Otherwise all children are expected to go to the yard as it is a vital part of social interaction.</p>
------------------------------------	---

Contact Information

<p>Contact Information</p>	<p>It is essential that the school has current contact information for you. If your address or phone number changes please notify the school so we can update our records.</p>
<p>Text-a-Parent</p>	<p>Text a Parent will be used to communicate messages from the school. An up-to-date-text message will be sent to keep you informed of developments, to remind parents of important upcoming events etc. Please notify school if your mobile number changes or if both parents need to be sent Text a Parent.</p>
<p>Emergency Closing</p>	<p>The safety of children is of primary importance at all times. Should an emergency closing be appropriate (e.g. in the event of no heat, snow etc) the decision to close the school will be taken by the Board of Management at the earliest possible time so as to maximise notice to Parents/Guardians.</p> <p><u>We ask that you ensure the school always has an up-to-date and immediate contact number for you.</u></p>

The Curriculum

<p>Curricular Subjects</p>	<p>The Primary School Curriculum consists of 6 curricular areas.</p> <p>Language: English & Gaeilge</p> <p>Mathematics</p> <p>Social, Environmental & Scientific Education (S.E.S.E.): History, Geography & Science.</p> <p>Arts Education: Music, Visual Arts and Drama</p> <p>Physical Education (P.E.)</p> <p>Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.)</p> <p>Each Mainstream Classroom has an interactive white board and at least one class computer</p>								
<p>Homework</p>	<p>Homework is given Monday to Thursday inclusive. A note is required if homework is not done. The following are recommended homework times:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="337 863 1307 940"> <tr> <td>Infants</td> <td>15 - 20 minutes</td> <td>1st and 2nd</td> <td>20 - 30 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd and 4th</td> <td>30 - 45 minutes</td> <td>5th and 6th</td> <td>45 - 60 minutes</td> </tr> </table>	Infants	15 - 20 minutes	1 st and 2 nd	20 - 30 minutes	3 rd and 4 th	30 - 45 minutes	5 th and 6 th	45 - 60 minutes
Infants	15 - 20 minutes	1 st and 2 nd	20 - 30 minutes						
3 rd and 4 th	30 - 45 minutes	5 th and 6 th	45 - 60 minutes						
<p>Book Lists</p>	<p>A copy of all class book lists is available in the school office. At the start of each school year we ask that your child has their full complement of books, covered and labelled clearly with their names.</p> <p>Your child will use a number of workbooks during the year. These cannot be passed on as they are written into. These books are generally kept in school.</p>								
<p>Book Rental Scheme</p>	<p>Our school operates a Book Rental Scheme. The scheme is voluntary. Book lists are supplied to parents in the normal way. If books are lost or damaged to the extent that they need to be replaced the family will be asked to replace the book. Purchase of workbooks, disposable materials and stationery remain outside the scope of this scheme and remain the responsibility of the parents. Each pupil/parent will be required to sign a receipt for the books supplied which will be retained in the school. The books supplied under the scheme will remain the property of the school and may be subject to inspection at any time by a member of the teaching staff. Books supplied under the scheme may be new or second hand at the discretion of the Principal. The books will be covered by the school.</p>								

<p>Extra Curricular Activities</p>	<p>Our philosophy is based on the concept that children have ‘multiple intelligences’. In order to develop these and discover their strengths, every child needs a chance to be exposed to a wide range of educational experiences. Specialist classes are taught by specially trained outside teachers. These include Speech and Drama, Irish Dancing (Juniors -2nd), Recorder (3rd – 6th), Tennis, Swimming.</p> <p>Pupils also participate in competitions in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scór • Basketball • Gaelic Football / Girls Football • Hurling (Indoor & Outdoor) • Camogie(indoor and Outdoor) • Athletics <p>PARENTAL INPUT IS WELCOME AT ALL TIMES AND WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOK OUT FOR NEW IDEAS AND AREAS TO EXPLORE.</p>
<p>Testing of Pupils</p>	<p>Infant teachers are constantly monitoring their pupils progress in learning e.g. letter names, letter-sound correspondence, phonological and phonemic awareness, sight vocabulary, early number skills, conservation of number, letter formation, fine motor and gross motor skills, social skills, organisation skills and self-care skills.</p> <p>The class teachers and/or support teachers also administer tests that help to identify potential areas of difficulty for children in respect of Literacy, Numeracy, Language and Movement Skills. If there are <i>any</i> concerns the parents are contacted to discuss the concerns and how we propose to support the child in school and ways in which the parent may support the child at home.</p> <p>Screening tests and standardised tests are carried out in Senior Infants from January onwards and from 1st to 6th in last term. The results of the tests are used to guide teaching and learning throughout the school. Class teachers and support teachers analyse the scores and if there are concerns regarding progress you will be contacted and the area of potential concern will be discussed with you and a plan to support your child’s learning will be outlined.</p>
<p>WebSite</p>	<p>Our web address is www.athartadhg.ie you will find out all the latest information on what is happening in our school and you can also pay school fees, book rental, school tours etc in either instalments or in full for your convenience.</p>



The First Year

Starting school is a milestone in the life of your child.

You can help to make this transition easier for your child by providing safe opportunities for him/her to spend time away from you and with other children in order to learn how to share and take turns. All children are different. In school we encourage each child to do his/ her best through individual, group and whole class activities. All children learn at their own pace. Just as children walk and talk at different stages, they also read and write when they are ready

September Induction Period	<p>For the first few weeks your child will have a short day, so give a small healthy lunch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week 1 : 9.00 – 11.45(1 lunch)• Week 2 : 9.00 – 11.45(1 lunch) <p><u>By week 4 all Junior Infants MUST be coming to the classroom by themselves.</u></p> <p>New Infants are usually very tired when they start school first, so please help them by making sure they go to bed early.</p> <p>On their first day of school, parents/guardians and families are invited into the classroom at the end of the day for a photo opportunity. From the second day of school, the teachers will bring the children to the front yard where they can be collected, unless it is raining when parents can collect their children from the classroom.</p> <p>From week 3 on the children will be in school for the full infant day 9.00am – 1.40pm. Please ensure you are on time. Your child’s ability to separate from you will be enhanced if they know you will be there on time. Please enter and exit the school using the small pedestrian gates and zebra crossing if appropriate.</p> <p>All children <u>must</u> be collected at 1.40pm as 1.40 – 2.40pm is preparation/planning time for infant teachers. Please respect this.</p>
---	--

<p>Getting Ready for School</p>	<p>When chatting about School remember the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about school in a positive Manner • Teacher doesn't just teach- if you have a problem you talk to the teacher • The need for rules in the classroom • Classroom language: Playtime, break time, lunchtime, home time. • Don't hype up school life, this can put unnecessary stress on the child. <p>What your child can practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the toilet independently –flushing and washing and drying hands • Handling his/her clothes – buttons, zips, jumpers • Opening / closing lunchbox, school bag etc. • Using a tissue • Recognising own belongings • Tidying up and putting away toys • Sharing toys and play things with others and taking turns • Read stories – talk about the story, the pictures, characters • Rhymes • Colouring – naming colours, colouring neatly, correct pencil grip • Drawing pictures • Patterns – dot to dot etc.
<p>School Courtesy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be punctual • All coats must be labelled to enable the children to identify their own coat (key ring) • Velcro shoes must be worn <p>Money must be brought into school in labelled envelope.</p>

The First Day

<p>What you should do for your child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with a good breakfast • Come to class on time • Give assurance that you will collect him/her at the proper time • Take child to their classroom and say goodbye at the door. • Then please leave as quickly as possible.
<p>Your child will need the following</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child’s set of school books in a labelled plastic bag • Zip Pencil Case • Colours – labelled twistables • Books from booklist labelled and covered (copies, folders will be provided) • School bag large enough for A4 folder • A photograph of your child <p>There will be a photo opportunity at 11.45 a.m. on the first day. Families and relations are welcome at this time. On the first Day children can be collected from the classroom. From the second day on children are collected from outside the front of the school. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated in this matter</p>
<p>Junior Infant Homework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework begins in October and will be explained to the Junior Infants
<p>Birthday Invitation/ Cards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you want to distribute birthday invitations etc. through the class teacher, this will only be done if all girls/boys are invited to the parties. • No individual Christmas cards to be given out. This is school policy.

Education is a life long journey.

Join us as we walk the path of learning together.

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,

He learns to find love in the world.

*We hope your child's years spent in Scoil an Athar Tadhg will be extremely happy
and will help him/her to grow in all that is positive and good!*

