

WELCOME PACK



Dear Parents!

Thank you very much for choosing the Really Cool Montessori School as your childcare provider. We strive to provide the highest quality childcare possible.

We are here to help and we want to make sure that your child has a very happy experience while attending our service.

The information attached in this booklet should answer some of your questions but please do not hesitate to talk to us if you are unsure about anything.

We will email you our policy manual. Please read it carefully to make sure you understand how we work and that you are happy with everything.

BASIC INFORMATION:

Important phone numbers: Marge Smith: 0838021855

Flemington Community Centre: 018415070 Our email address: reallycoolafterschool@gmail.com

Our facebook page: really cool afterschool (don't forget to give us a like! ☺)

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER IS ALWAYS UP TO DATE- we will send you a copy of our policy booklet and other important information. Please make sure you read them all carefully especially the accident and incident policy, sun protection policy, birthday celebration policy and data protection policy and use of mobile phones policy, infection control policy, drop off and collection policy

UNIFORMS:

Our pre school is a uniform preschool. The cost of a Tshirt is 6e and they will be available in the first weeks of September. Please let your teacher know how many Tshirts would you like to buy.

OUR SERVICES AND LOCATIONS:

Flemington Community Centre Hamlet Lane: Pre-school age only ECCE,CCSP, morning sessions, maximum stay 5hours

Millfield Shopping Centre: Pre-school age only ECCE,CCSP morning and afternoon sessions available, maximum stay up to 5 hours

Georges Hill: ages from 1 to 4.5, ECCE, CCSP part time and full time hours available

We also offer after school care for school age children in all our centers

What to bring for the first day

1. A **cereal box** that can hold A4 pages- decorated by the child (and you) with a child's name clearly labelled on the **NARROW** side of the box. The box will stay with us in the school and we will use it for storing you child's art work.
2. A **photograph** for the birthday caterpillar- each child's birthday are marked on our birthday caterpillar. Please bring a photo 4x6 or 5x7
3. A change of **clothes**- please do not bring bags of clothes to be left at school as we don't have space to keep them. Please put a **FULL** change of clothes including tshirt, socks, pants, bottoms in your child's school bag and keep it there at all times. Please bring the change of clothes even if your child is fully toilet trained.
4. Labelled **lunchbox** and lunch - not just a first day, for every day- please pack your child a healthy lunch and a drink that we will eat at 11.15. Please avoid crisps, chocolate, sweets. Pack: fruit, yoghurts, sandwiches, raisins, crackers. (please see our healthy eating policy)
5. A **toy**- children are welcome to bring toys from home- just one toy- to give them a sense of security and a piece of home. We put toys in the toy bag during circle time so they don't get damaged and give them back before the kids go home.
6. Please mark your child's bag, coat and other belongings with your child's name in a visible place

HOW TO SURVIVE THE FIRST DAY

We understand that seeing your child walking off to school for the first time is very emotional and could be stressful for the parent. We want to make it as easy as possible for both- you and your child. That is why please trust us –we do it every year and we will take a good care of your little one.

The first week might be hard as the children have to adapt from being at home to a completely new routine. They may cry. But don't worry we will make sure they feel safe and secure here and will look after them the best we can.

On reaching the door, smile and let the child know that you're confident that they can manage. Remember that your child is alert to the emotional messages you send out, so don't panic and don't let the child see you crying.

Please dear parent when you drop your child in the morning say a quick goodbye and go- staying around only makes things worse and I promise you I will call you or txt you to let you know how things are going.

Prepare your child before going to preschool for the first time. Explain that you will be back at 12 o'clock. That will give the child a sense of security. Tell them it's ok to miss you but you will be back- every day at the same time- after we sit in the circle. Talk to them about meeting new friends and making beautiful art, learning songs and having fun. They will settle. I promise. It takes time but if we work together it will be much easier. Good luck and don't hesitate to talk to us if you have any doubts or worries. We are here to help

Marge, Marzena and the team x

Really Cool Montessori School

HEALTHY IRELAND SMART START

We are happy to let you know that our preschools are participating in the Healthy Ireland Smart Start Programme (HI).

The development and delivery of the programme is supported by the Health Promotion and Improvement Department of the HSE. The work of this section is focused on helping people to stay healthy and well, reduce health inequalities and protect people from health threats beginning in their earliest years.

The programme promotes health, oral hygiene, nutrition, physical activity, safety, emotional well-being and literacy.

Our preschool setting will provide the children with many different opportunities to develop healthy life style habits and we are hoping to work with the families as well to make sure that the healthy life style is also promoted at home. We will work closely with the parents to ensure that everybody gets involved and together we will try to create healthy habits in our children.

There will be displays, leaflets, activities and some events throughout the year to help us to achieve this goal.

If you want to know more about the programme please visit: www.ncn.ie and watch our parents board.



Healthy Lunchbox

Healthy ideas	Not allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fruit such as bananas, apples, strawberries, pears, oranges etc• Vegetable slices such as carrot sticks, cucumbers, sweet peppers, tomatoes, celery sticks etc• Raisins, prunes, dried apricots etc• Crackers• Rice cakes• Sandwiches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sweets• Fizzy drinks• Chocolate bars, cereal bars etc• Nuts !!! (as they may cause a severe allergy for children who are in the same room)• Crisps

When choosing yoghurts and drinks please read the label carefully and consider the amount of sugar they contain.

For more information about bringing up healthy kids please visit:

www.hse.ie/healthyeating

www.fooddudes.ie

www.safefood.eu

We are also getting ready for the GREEN SCHOOLS award so when packing your child's lunch try to be conscious about the packaging. Try to use re-usable containers.

REALLY COOL AFTERSCHOOL & MONTESSORI SCHOOL LTD

Flemington Community Centre, Hamlet Lane, Balbriggan, Dublin

DCYA Ref: 17FL0600

ECCE 2018 CALENDAR

This Programme is open from 27 August 2018 to 28 June 2019.

Our Service will begin to provide this Programme on the **29 August** 2018 and will finish on the **28 June** 2019.

We will be closed on the following dates:

- 20 August 2018 - 24 August 2018
- 27 August 2018 - 28 August 2018
- 29 October 2018 - 02 November 2018
- 24 December 2018 - 28 December 2018
- 31 December 2018 - 04 January 2019
- 18 February 2019 - 22 February 2019
- 18 March 2019 - 19 March 2019
- 15 April 2019 - 19 April 2019
- 22 April 2019 - 26 April 2019
- 06 May 2019
- 03 June 2019 - 04 June 2019
- 01 July 2019 - 05 July 2019
- 08 July 2019 - 12 July 2019

This Calendar has been registered on the PIP system.

Other important dates for your diary:

Christmas Show: 21.12.2018 @10am

Graduation: 21.06.2019 @10am

Your child's day in our pre-school: what to expect?

Children learn through play. Pre-schools and infant classes in primary schools recognise the importance of play for children. The curriculum framework Aistear (which means 'journey') helps teachers plan and provide appropriate experiences for each child. Play helps the children to learn through exploration and discovery. Play also develops their natural creativity and curiosity while simultaneously helping them to make friends and develop their social skills. While playing young children also develop their problem solving and decision-making abilities.

In the Really Cool Montessori school children are given an opportunity to develop on individual basis, following each child's individual needs. Children are encouraged to learn about the world through play in a fun a stimulating environment. In our centres every month is a different theme and all activities are connected to that theme making sure that the child learns about the subject in many different ways. We also use a Montessori Method of teaching so each child is busy with a different activity until it masters it to perfection and then moves on to the next stage. Those activities are designed to promote independence, self confidence, self help skills, fine motor skills and eye and hand coordination- all of which will help the children to make a smooth transition into a primary school.

We will do everything to make sure that all the children are properly prepared for school. The skills that the children should gain include:

- **social and emotional skills** such as: making friends easily, being able to speak for themselves, solve problems, be confident and independent, understand their emotions
- **language and communication skills** : children will be able to communicate easily and they will have a good understanding of the English language
- **fine motor skills**: children will have a pencil grip, will be able to use scissors and will be ready to start learning how to write
- **cognitive**: the children will have basic knowledge about the world, how things work, they will understand the concept of counting and they will know sounds (children will learn numbers and letters in the junior infant class)
- **self-help skills**: children will be able to clean up after themselves, open their own lunch box and bag, put a coat on and off, be able to hang the coat up, put the toys away etc

To achieve all that your child will be provided with plenty of activities such as: cutting, gluing, exploring, painting, messy play, sensorial play, cleaning, eating independently etc, therefore your child's clothes will get dirty 😊 please dear parent see all those stains as a fantastic learning experience! Make sure that the clothes you dress your child in can get dirty. Our uniform /tshirt is there to protect your child's clothes and its ok for it to be messy 😊 during our day we also move a lot- jump, dance, run and play- so please make sure that your child is wearing comfortable shoes that are not slippery and that allow your child to move freely (not crocks or flipflops)

We will keep you informed on what your child is learning and what projects we are doing. We will be going on trips and organising family events and we would like you all to get involved. When we work together it helps us to achieve our goals faster! Please feel free to talk to us if you have any ideas, suggestions or concerns.

Really Cool Afterschool and Montessori School LTD

Fee structure 2018/2019

Preschool children: age 2.8-4.5 years old



	No scheme	ECCE	CCSP Band A (Medical card plus social welfare payment)	CCSP Band B (Medical card only)
3 hour session	65e per week/ 15e per day	Free	20e per week (no daily option)	40e per week (no daily option)
Part time – up to 5 hours	90e per week/ 20e per day	25e per week	10e per week (no daily option)	55e per week (no daily option)
Full time (Georges Hill only)	170e per week 35e per day	100e per week	25e per week/ 5e per day	100 per week/ 20e per day
1 hour	5e			

Toddlers: age 2-2.8 years old

	No scheme	CCSP Band A (Medical card plus social welfare payment)	CCSP Band B (Medical card only)
1 hour	6e	NA	NA
Part time – up to 5 hours	110e per week/ 22 per day	30 per week/ 6e per day	75 per week/ 15e per day
Full time (Georges Hill only)	200 per week/ 40e per day	55e per week/ 11e per day	130e per week/ 26e per day

Wobblers: age 1-2 years old

	No scheme	CCSP Band A (Medical card plus social welfare payment)	CCSP Band B (Medical card only)
1 hour	8e	NA	NA
Part time – up to 5 hours	115e per week/ 25 per day	35e per week/ 7e per day	80e per week/ 16e per day
Full time (Georges Hill only)	215 per week/ 45 per day	70e per week/ 14e per day	145e per week/ 29e per day