

Preparing for Post – Primary School

Knowing the Basics of your school

Basics

Not unlike primary school you will be expected to have and do the basics. It's not enough to remember your books for a class, you **must** have pens, rulers and colours too. A carpenter doesn't turn up to a job without a measuring tape and saw. Teachers will expect and assume that you will rule your copies and title or label your work. They will not expect to have to remind you. Make sure you put your name on any work you hand up!

Names

You will all be students now rather than pupils! You'll have lots of teachers names to learn and new friends names to learn. Write down your teachers names. Set yourself a challenge each day to learn just 3 or 4 of your fellow students names. You'll be surprised how quickly you'll remember them all. Don't be afraid to ask someone their name more than once. Sometimes it can be helpful if you tell people your name as a reminder, it'll encourage them to remind you of theirs!

Teachers

You will have many different teachers now and it will take time to get to know each of them. Remember that each teacher may have 100-120 students. Try your best to create a good first impression so that they remember you for the right reasons. Everyone makes mistakes so don't worry if something goes wrong but never be afraid to say "sorry". It is amazing how much forgiveness an honest apology will get you.

Each teacher may have different criteria for work and presentation e.g. use red pens for lines, black pens only for writing etc. If they give you advice on how they want things write it in your homework journal. You

might think you'll remember it but after 8 or 9 different teachers it'll be easy to get mixed up. It will take a while for your teacher to get to know you, your abilities and strengths. They will probably use homework as a good clue at the start. Keep our school motto with you always "Ár ndícheall i gcónaí" – our best always. You can never give or be asked to give more than your best.

If you are confused or lost just ask a teacher either in the class or corridor. Most of them will be pretty sound and believe it or not they were a first year once!

Classroom Homework and Projects

Homework will and should take you over an hour, maybe 90 minutes every night. If your teacher doesn't assign something written, go over and learn what you did in class that day. Homework may look different, there is a big emphasis on project work and presentation of research.

You will need to be able to work independently. You've had so much practise at this during the lock-down already. This means organisation, getting materials, watching for deadlines and getting everything done. Your homework journal is going to become **ESSENTIAL!!!**

Changed exam and grading

There is no more Junior Cert, you will now be working on the Junior Cycle. Final grades in most subjects are a composed of 90% exam and 10% Assessment of skills. Practical classes give a higher percentage to skills / projects. They will also not use A, B or C's to mark your work. They will use distinction, merits etc.

Distinction 90 to 100 %
Higher Merit 75 to 89 %
Merit 55 to 74 %
Achieved 40 to 54 %
Partially Achieved 20 to 39%
Not graded 0 to 19 %

Here are some other general pointers: *(I got some bits & ideas from Gráinne Mulcahy's presentation)*

- A couple of weeks grace will be given by teachers, this means you have time to get into a good routine, to familiarise yourself with your timetable and get organised. Don't waste them!
- **Get familiar with your timetable.** Maybe colour code it e.g. English in blue etc. I would suggest sticking a copy of it on the fridge door or the wall of your bedroom. Check their timetable & journal the night before and check what class you have, what materials you need, and where the rooms are.
- Leave your bag ready to go. You'll sleep much better knowing it's packed.
- On arriving at school, go to your locker to sort out books and equipment. Get the books for the classes you have until morning break. Change the books at break for the classes to lunch and at lunch prepare the books for the afternoon classes.
- I suggest that in the beginning you have a zip-lock folder for each subject. In the folder you have the book, hardback/copy and any equipment you need for that class. You could have a different coloured folder for each subject. If you colour code your timetable, maybe you could get the folders to match.
- Being early for school 15/20 minutes makes the day run smoother.
- Being organised with folders means you will lose less things. **PUT NAMES ON EVERYTHING.** Remember how full our classroom lost and found box was!!
- Having spare uniform is useful, often easy to get from friends or family, ties particularly go missing.

- It you are using locker having a spare key or the number written and kept in your car is a good idea.
- Try your best to follow the rules!

Can you find the answers to these questions about your new school?

Look on your school website or welcome pack. Even better, ask an older sibling / friend / cousin or neighbour that might is to your school. If you can't find out the answers just yet, that's **okay**. You can find them out in September.

1. What time does your first class begin?

2. How long do you have for lunch-break? —
—

3. How long is each class?

4. Are you allowed visit your locker between classes?

5. What is the name of your principal, DP and year head?

6. Does school end at the same time every day? What time?

7. What time would the school bus collect you at in the morning?
Where do you catch the bus after school?

Maths

What we do in
6th Class

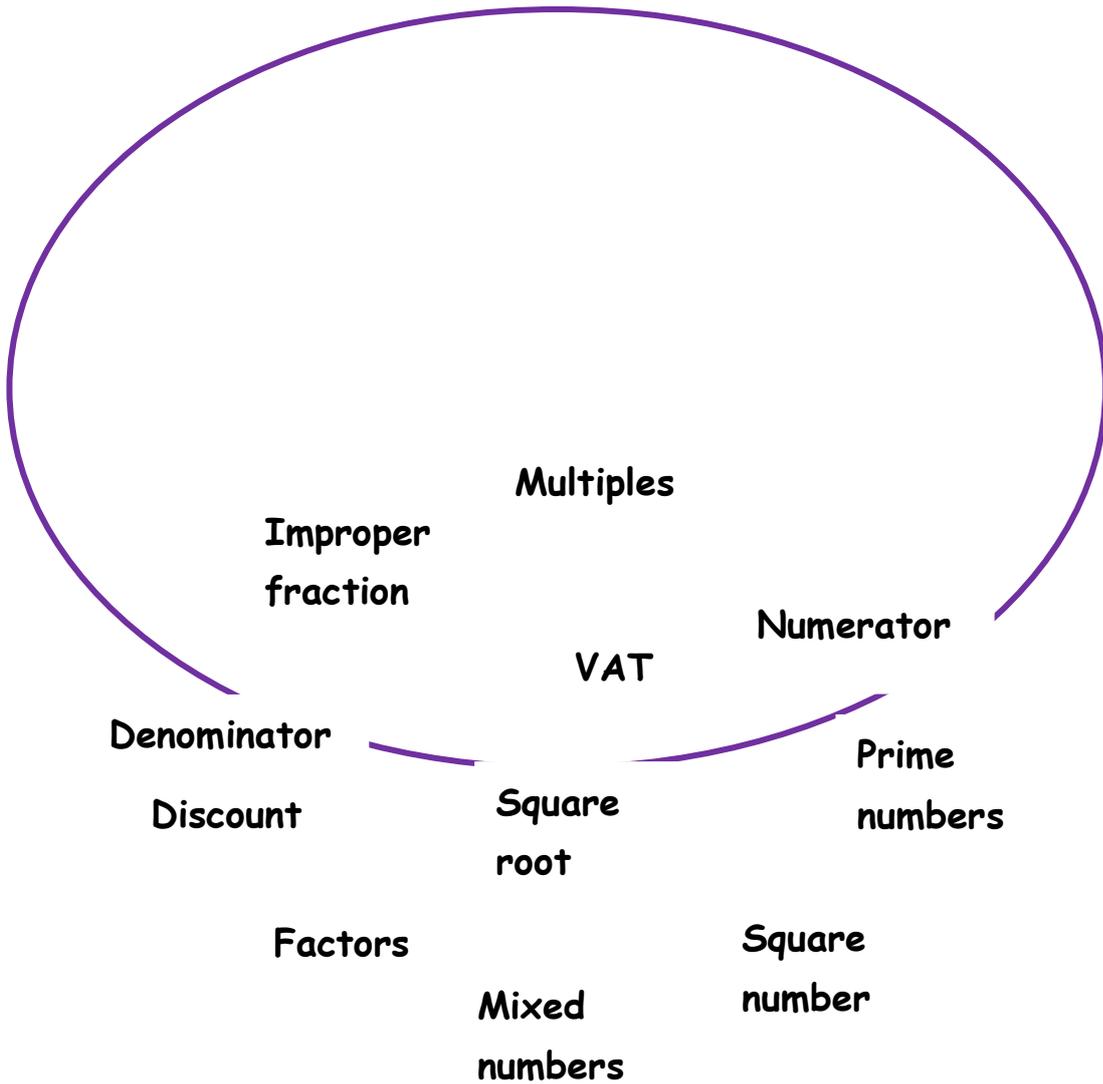
What we do
in 1st year



6 th class topics:	1 st year topics:
Numbers, for example, multiples	Numbers, for example, multiples
Order of operation For example: $4 + 3 \times 5$	Order of operation - BEMDAS
Adding and subtraction of positive and negative numbers, for example: $-2 + 5 = ?$	Integers, for example: $-2 + 5 = ?$
Fractions	Fractions
Decimals	Decimals
Percentages	Percentages
Ratio	Ratio
Variables and equation	Algebra
Groups	Sets

you
in
few
1st

Some
words
will
hear
the
first
weeks
of
year....



Circle the words you recognise.

Can you describe some of the words you have circled?

English



6th Class Topics	1st Year Topics
Grammar – Parts of Speech - Verbs, Adjectives, Nouns	Grammar – Parts of Speech - Verbs, Adverbs, Adjectives, Nouns (5 different types) Synonyms, Antonyms, Idioms
Writing - “I” Sentences	Autobiographical/ Narrative Writing - Memoir, Diary, Letter - POV – 1 ST Person
Poetry - Rhyme, Verse, meaning	Poetry & Poetic terms - Stanza, form, Theme, Metaphor, Simile etc
Speech Writing – Debate	Persuasive Writing – Speech and Debate - Rhetorical Language
Oral Language	Oral Language

Some words you will hear in the first few weeks of 1st Year

Autobiography

MEMOIR

Personification

Rhetorical Questions

stanza

Idioms

Tone

Theme

Proper Noun

ALLITERATION

Personal Pronoun

Circle the words you recognise.

Find out what two words you are unsure of mean.

Can you briefly describe some of the words you now know below?

