



## BALLYBAY KINDERGARTEN CLG

"Receive the children in reverence, educate them in love, and send them forth in freedom."  
- **Rudolf Steiner**

### **Welcome to the 2024/25 Kindergarten pre-school year, and all of the wonder that it will bring...**

We offer children their first foray into education outside of the home environment, a home from home. This is a gentle and beautifully nurturing space, where each child is brought along at their own pace. We have a purposefully created classroom and outdoor exploration space for the children. We also have all of the necessary facilities such as coat hooks for wet gear and coat/bag storage, toilets, changing space, etc.

Our Kindergarten offers a sessional service for ages 2 years & 6 months to 6 years (teacher to child ratio 11:1) , from 9 am to 12 pm during term time. Our calendar & fee table can be found on our website.

Our lead Kindergarten teacher, Cáit McCarey, is looking forward to welcoming all children over the coming weeks. Cáit holds a QQI Level 6 in Early Childhood Care and Education, and has enjoyed over 7 years working in a childcare setting before becoming a founding member and lead Kindergarten teacher at the Ballybay Kindergarten CLG.

### **Keeping in contact**

We offer the following options for sharing important communication:

- Dedicated Kindergarten WhatsApp group (admin notifications only)
- Direct email notification
- Phone call

We ask that you make your communication preferences known to us via text/call/WhatsApp (0879587116) or email [info@monaghanwaldorfschool.ie](mailto:info@monaghanwaldorfschool.ie)

Our contact information:

**Cáit McCarey** (person in charge) - 0863642399  
**Karen Jeffares** (registered provider) - 0879587116  
**Website:** [monaghanwaldorfschool.ie](http://monaghanwaldorfschool.ie)  
**Email:** [info@monaghanwaldorfschool.ie](mailto:info@monaghanwaldorfschool.ie)

**The Wetlands, Clones Road, Derryvally, Ballybay, Monaghan, A75 HF78**  
Ballybay Kindergarten CLG | CRO reg: 742589 | Service Reference Number: 23MN0111

## **Kindergarten school day**

The Kindergarten day flows in a rhythm which allows children to feel secure and comfortable in a caring environment. Our rhythm follows a predictable and gentle pattern which nurtures children on their journey towards independence. Making friends allows children to play, share and care for one another. Our daily rhythm flows with regular and repetitive activity and includes:

- Indoor self-directed and creative play,
- Domestic activities such as baking, tidying and caring for materials; and gardening,
- Painting, drawing and seasonal crafts,
- Circle time, singing music, speech and movement.
- Snack time.
- Play and movement in our garden,
- Story time and puppet shows.

## **Settling in**

We warmly welcome parents to stay on the first morning of Kindergarten. To ensure a smooth transition for your child, teachers work in partnership with parents to achieve the best for your child. Gentle separation for children relies on a sense of trust between teacher and parent. If the teacher and parent emanate an air of confidence during moments of transition, the children quickly adjust to the situation. Cáit will discuss with the family the best way to settle a child who may be finding it difficult.

## **Clothing**

We encourage children to dress in comfortable clothing suited to the season, preferably free of television characters that could influence the children's free play, and where possible made of natural materials. Natural materials are used to encourage general wellbeing.

## **Wet gear & welly boots**

Children should have suitable wet/outdoor gear (rain suits, jackets, wooly hat and sun hat, gloves, scarf, etc) available at school at all times, along with wellington boots and a change of clothes (socks & underwear, pants, top, etc)

## **Slippers/socks**

For comfort, we recommend children keep either slippers or slipper socks at the school. A good supplier of both slippers and slipper socks is [cambridgebaby.co.uk/catalog/2-6-yrs/shoes-slippers](http://cambridgebaby.co.uk/catalog/2-6-yrs/shoes-slippers)

## **Snacks**

Please provide your child with a snack box containing sufficient food to sustain them for the morning. Foods should be healthy, whole foods where possible, and sugar free. Whole nuts and popcorn may not be brought into school. We may provide a simple nutritious snack, which the children will help to prepare, and we will prepare homemade breads/bakes once per week to enjoy together. We also provide water and herbal tea.

## **Birthdays**

Birthdays are a significant milestone in a child's life and we hope to create a meaningful celebration with classmates and teachers, which supports the individual's connection to the whole group.

## **Items to keep at home**

In order to encourage as much freedom of play as possible, we ask that parents make sure that all personal belongings are left at home or in the car. This includes toys and stuffed animals. If your child requires a comforter, please discuss with us in advance.

## **Playgroup**

The Monaghan Waldorf School will be offering a playgroup for parents/caregivers and their younger children to enjoy a weekly meet up - where a gentle, rhythmic and nurturing space is held for their little ones to come together and engage in storytelling, singing and hand crafts - while connecting with families and sharing a community.

## **Parent participation**

There are numerous ways for parents to be involved, including being on the Board, participating in fundraising, mending & maintenance, special projects and festivals.



"And at the end of the day, your feet should be dirty, your hair messy and your eyes sparkling."

**- Shanti Devi**

**Yours sincerely,  
Cáit & the Board**