**My Little Library Book Bags for all children starting school this year**

To help children to navigate starting school, libraries have put together a bag of books just for them that can be collected at any library.

The ‘My Little Library Book Bag’ initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy.

As part of the initiative, a ‘My Little Library Book Bag’ is available free for every child starting school in 2022 to help them to prepare for this big step. Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any library throughout the country.

Each My Little Library Book Bag contains:

* Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
* A story card on going to the library
* A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school
* Their very own library card and special ‘My Little Library’ cardholder

Book bags are available in both Irish and English.

Libraries can’t wait to welcome all the 4 and 5 year old children in to collect their book bags and begin their library membership journey.