



St Brigid's Newsletter

November 2019



Welcome Back

Welcome back to another busy half term in St Brigid's Ps. I hope everyone had a lovely Halloween break and had a chance to re charge their batteries. We started off the term with parent interviews for our P1 parents on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th November. The parent teacher interviews for P2-P7 will take place in term 2. However, if you have any concerns about your child's progress please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak to the class teacher at any time.

This half term all children will engage in a number of classroom and workshop initiative to reflect on our role in school in promoting an Anti- Bullying Culture as part of Anti- Bullying week.

Our School Council had suggested the need for a friendship stop in the playground. Under the talented guidance of Mrs Brétéché and Mrs McLaughlin, we hope to unveil our beautifully created Buddy Bench very soon!

83 children will accompany Mrs McNamara to the Whitla Hall, Queens University to rehearse for the Peace Proms on the 27th November.

We are starting a new gymnastics club under the instruction of Miss Conor who is a qualified instructor and we hope to have a team compete in the Ulster Schools Gymnastic Championships

Other up and coming events this half term include;

Open Night

The Open Night for Parents who are considering enrolling their child in P1 for September 2020, will be held on Wednesday 4th December from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Please pass the word on. This year admission to school will be completed online. Come along and see what our great school has to offer!



Christmas Concert

The children from P1 to P4 will be staging their Christmas productions on Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th December.

P1 are performing Ralph the Reindeer starting at 9.30am & 6.30pm on Tuesday 10th

P2 are performing Shine Star Shine at approx. 10.00am & 6.30pm on Tuesday 10th

P3 are performing Children of the World at @ 9.30am & 6.30pm on Wednesday 11th

P4 are performing It's A Cracker at approx @ 10.00am & 6.30pm Wednesday 11th

Due to restriction of numbers these will be ticket only productions, more details to come closer to the time.

Christmas Raffle

The Parents Association has organised a Christmas Raffle. This raffle has been a great success in past years and with your support it will be another great success this year. Tickets are on sale at Christmas concerts and draw will take place **19th December**

Carol Service

The Parish Carol Service will take place on Sunday 15th December at 5.00pm in St Patrick's Church. The children from the Parish schools have been asked to join in this. We would love to have a great turn out from St Brigid's PS. Please come along in full school uniform.

The School Nurse will be here on Tuesday 4th Dec administering Flu Vaccines.

GL & AQE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Many of our P7 children will be sitting the GL & AQE assessments during the month of November. We know they have all given their best to date and we will be thinking and praying for them during these tests. The tests will be held on the following dates:

Saturday 9 th Nov 2019: AQE (CEA) 1 st Paper	Saturday 16 th Nov 2019: GL Assessment
Saturday 23 rd Nov 2019: AQE (CEA) 2 nd Paper	Saturday 30 th Nov 2019: AQE (CEA) 3 rd Paper
Saturday 7 th Dec 2019: GL Supplementary Entrance Assessment	

As part of our Active Travel initiative the Eco-council are planning for a Ditch the Dark Day. Keep watch for further details.

Healthy Eating in St Brigid's PS

DRINKS: It is important that children drink enough during the day. In St Brigid's PS we ask that children drink water in class – no fizzy drinks, smoothies etc.

BREAD BASED SNACKS: Bread based snacks can help meet the extra energy needs children require and help them to feel more satisfied. This includes white or wholemeal, rolls, bagels etc. We ask for your support in refraining from sending sweets and chocolate for snacks and lunches.

PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL!



The children's Christmas Dinner will be on
Thursday 5th December
Feel free to wear Christmas Jumpers



Safeguarding in St. Brigid's Primary School

In St. Brigid's we have a Safeguarding Team. If you have any worries or concerns please speak with one of the following people:

Mrs Lloyd- Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mrs Miller- Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Miss Conor- Online Safety Teacher

Mrs Martin- Designated Governor for Safeguarding

Bullying Definition Within St Brigid's Primary School, we have spent the first half term discussing and agreeing with pupils and staff our rules and procedures to promote positive behaviour. It is extremely rewarding for a school to be able to report that the majority of our children fully abide by the rules and procedures which ensure a safe and happy learning environment for everyone. As a school we are legally required to have and implement an Anti-Bullying Policy. This month we will be reviewing our policy with pupils, staff, parents and governors.

The Legal Definition of Bullying For Northern Ireland As Outlined In The 2016 Act is;

“(1) In this Act “bullying” includes (but is not limited to) the **repeated** use of -

- a) Any verbal, written or electronic communication
- b) Any other act, or
- c) Any combination of those,

by a pupil or group of pupils against another pupil or group of pupils, with the **intention** of causing physical or emotional **harm** to that pupil or group of pupils.

We will be trying to reframe our language, so we are identifying the behaviour that we wish to see changed.

Don't

Refer to the pupil e.g. they are bullying

Refer to a pupil as the 'bully'

Do

Refer to the **behaviour** e.g. is it bullying behaviour

Refer to the 'Pupil/pupils **displaying bullying behaviour**'

Attendance & Punctuality Reminders

If your child is absent for any reason a note must be sent into the class teacher, giving a reason for the absence, on their return. This is for the Education Welfare Service.

Thank you to all those who already do so. Lateness is also monitored by the Education Welfare Officer so please endeavour to get your child into school before the 8.55am bell. Just before the Halloween Break 151 children received certificates for 100% attendance. We appreciate that all children get sick from time to time but regular attendance at school gives children the best life chances.

So please encourage your child to attend punctually every-day!

Please bring a coat to school

Even though the weather has been relatively mild it can still be cold in our Playground. Please ensure your child brings a coat with them to school during the winter months.

Remember label all belongings!

Important Dates for your Diary

11 th November	Crazy Hair Day
11 th November	P5 Anti Bullying Workshop
15 th November	P6 Assembly
22 nd November	P3/4 Assembly
27 th November	Peace Proms Rehearsal 8am start
4 th December	Flu Vaccines
4 th December	Open Night 7.00pm
5 th December	Christmas Dinner whole school home at 1:30pm
10 th December	P1 & P2 Christmas Shows 9.30am & 6.30pm
11 th December	P3 & P4 Christmas Shows 9.30 am & 6.30pm
12 th December	School Closed - Election Day
15 th December	Carol Service in St Patrick's Church
17 th December	Peter Pan @ the Lyric Theatre - whole school
20 th December	End of Term Ham finish



Erin, Dylan, Ailey, Ryan, Ella, Oliver, Hollie, Emma, Caolin, Emily, Adam, Casey, Cerys, Fionn, Molly, Aidan, Mabel, Oliver, Milena, Sophie, Olivia, Orla, Sasho, Aaron, Annie, Sam, Cameron, Katie-Ann, Leon, & Aoife