



Learning & Growing Together

January Newsletter



Welcome back to St Brigid's Primary School. On behalf of the staff and myself, may I wish you and your families a healthy and happy 2020!

Primary 1 Enrolment

Application for Primary 1 for the next academic year is now open. If you require any help with the online application process please call into school at any time and we will be happy to help. PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE IS THURSDAY 30th JANUARY.

After School Clubs

Recommence Monday 13th January.

Notification of clubs will be sent home during the week of 6th January.

Our S'cool Club offers childcare to parents from 2.00-5.00pm every day.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs every morning from 8.15 am - 8.45 am to facilitate parents who need to drop children off before 8.40am. If your child is having a breakfast the cost is £1. If your child does not wish to have breakfast but needs supervised before 8.40am the cost is 50p. (This is an extremely cheap childcare facility.) Children who receive Free School Meals still receive breakfast at no cost.

Primary 7 Post Primary Transfer Interviews

We are currently preparing for P7 Transfer meetings. We are offering parents or carers the opportunity to complete the Transfer Form in school. An interview date and time will be sent home to you during the week 13th January. However, this meeting is not compulsory and if you wish to complete the Transfer Form at home yourself please let Mrs Lopez or Miss Hamilton know and we will arrange for a Form to be sent home on Monday 27th January.



Keep up to date with what's happening in school... We work hard to keep our parents and families informed about our school... to catch up on the latest news follow us on Facebook, Twitter and remember to check our website regularly! We are an ECO SCHOOL... Communication by notes & newsletters is not the most environmentally friendly option!



These will not be sent out after February 2020.



Parent/Teacher Consultations

Staff within St Brigid's PS are always available to discuss your child's progress and achievements. We have set aside the week of 10th February specifically to update all parents. Appointments will be sent out nearer the time. Please note that teachers remain on action short of strike and therefore cannot be directed to be in school after 3.00pm. However, the staff within St Brigid's have agreed to conduct parent interviews up to 5.30pm on two nights during this week to facilitate working parents. All children will finish school at 2.00pm during this week of school.



Catholic Schools Week

This year Catholic Schools week will be celebrated between Sunday 26th January until Sunday 2nd February. The theme being explored this year is 'Schools Living in Harmony with God's Creation.' On Wednesday 29th January we will particularly focus on the role our Grandparents. (Further details to follow)

School Punctuality

As a reminder to all parents all pupils are expected to be in their line for 8.55am so that teaching and learning can start at 9.00am. Persistent lateness means pupils miss out on important routines and this disrupts the smooth running of the school. Pupils are welcome to enter the school grounds from 8.40am when a member of staff will be on duty.

School Uniform

Thank you to everyone who observes our School Uniform Policy so carefully. Our boys and girls look smart when they are dressed in the appropriate uniform- this demonstrates a sense of pride and belonging to St Brigid's Primary School. As a reminder, children **must not wear trainers** to school as part of their uniform, both boys and girls must wear black shoes only. Trainers may only be worn as part of a sports activity.

Please remember to label all parts of school uniform.

Raising a Concern or Query

We recognise that from time to time, a parent or carer may have a concern about some aspect of their child's life at school. By working in partnership with home, it is the school's aim that any concern is dealt with quickly and efficiently as the needs of our pupils are paramount.

Make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss the matter. We strongly advocate making an appointment as otherwise this impinges on teaching and preparation time. (Making an appointment will enable the teacher to give you the necessary time to listen to your concern).

If concerns still remain, the issue can be referred to the Principal. Ultimately if the issue is still not resolved the parents carers can write to the Chairperson of the Complaints Committee of Board of Governors (Mr B Smyth).

Unresolved complaints may be referred in writing to the Ombudsman.

If you have a concern about any aspect of Child Protection or Safeguarding do not hesitate to contact either:

MRS DEVLIN, P5/6 (Designated Teacher for Child Protection) or

MRS MILLER, (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)

Exceptional Weather Procedures

To date we have been very lucky with the weather. If there is ice or frost we will ensure the paths are gritted. Please stick to the gritted areas for safety.

Should the school be forced to closed due to exceptional weather please note the following;

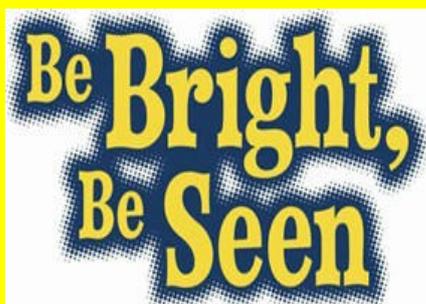
An early notice will be posted on Facebook and our school website: www.stbrigidprimaryschool.com

A message will be sent to each parent on our Class Parents list. (please ensure you have access to our new messaging service on the Schools NI App)

The school will only be closed if absolutely necessary. Working parents should ensure emergency child care is in place and phone numbers are up to date should we need to contact you at any time.

Planned Surgery

Mrs Miller will be absent from school from 16th January for approximately two weeks for planned eye surgery. In her absence, please direct concerns or queries to Mrs McNamara, who is Acting Vice Principal in Mrs Lloyd absence.



DITCH THE DARK

As part of our work with Sustran and Active Travel, we are encouraging children to wear bright clothes on Friday 17th January, to reinforce the message of Being Seen in the Dark Mornings or Dark Afternoons on our travel to and from School.

Our P6 & 7's are invited to Open Events at Local Schools

<i>9th January @ 6:30pm</i>	<i>Down High School</i>
<i>9th January @ 6:30pm</i>	<i>St Marys High School</i>
<i>11th January @ 12noon</i>	<i>St Malachys HS Castlewellan</i>
<i>14th January @ 7pm</i>	<i>Blackwater Integrated College</i>
<i>16th January @ 7pm</i>	<i>De La Salle High School</i>
<i>18th January @ 10am</i>	<i>Assumption Grammar</i>
<i>23rd January @ 7pm</i>	<i>St Colmcilles HS Crossgar</i>
<i>27th January @ 7pm</i>	<i>St Patricks Grammar School</i>

Important Dates for your Diary



- 7th January Start of term
- 7th January Citizens Portal opens @ 12noon
- 10th January P3-7 go to PYC's production of Goldilocks
- 17th January Ditch the Dark Day
- 26th January Catholic Schools Week
- 27th January Post Primary Transfer Interviews begin this week
- 1st February Feast Day of St Brigid
- 10th February Parent/Teacher Consultations, all children home at 2pm this week
- 17th February Mid Term break, children return on the 24th February
- 1st March Peace Proms
- 12th March First Confession for P3's @ 1:30pm
- 16-17th March School closed
- 1st April Confirmation for P7's
- 9th April End of term, children finish at 11am

January Birthdays

Michael John, Lucy, Cormac, Orla, Zach, Leighton, Jekabs, Abigail,
Olivia, Sian, Sophia, Hope, Ersin, Conor, Nicole, Curtis, Cahán, Emily,
Patrick, Roman, Caitlin, Fionn.

