



St. Brigid's National School

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April Newsletter 2024

Daffodil Day 2024

We were delighted to see so many support our fundraiser for Daffodil Day this year. Many thanks to the staff, families and wider school community who supported this worthy cause. Many thanks to Bernie and Cindy who prepared hot chocolate and treats for all classes. Our school raised a total of €285.00 for The Irish Cancer Society. Well done everyone!



Oral Language

This month all classes are focusing on synonyms for 'went' in their Morning Meeting each morning and continue to focus on tongue twister and idiom of the week.

Engineering Competition

We were blown away again this year by the huge efforts and skills that went in to our engineering competition. This year's theme was 'Welcome to the Future' and the pupils were set the task to design and create a house keeping the theme in mind. Pupils were encouraged to use recycled materials they already had at home or Lego. The pupils got the opportunity to showcase their projects to the other classes and were able to discuss and answer questions about their projects. Keep an eye on our Twitter page for some photos of our Science Showcase day. This was a fantastic opportunity to develop scientific, mathematical and engineering skills. There is no doubt that the future is in safe hands!





Curious Minds Primary Science & Maths Award

The pupils have been working hard all year in hopes of achieving the 'Curious Minds Primary Science and Maths Award'. We have celebrated Science Week, Maths Week, Space Week and Engineers Week as part of the process. The pupils have also completed many hands-on activities from each of the four Science Curriculum Strands. Ms. Conneally/Ms. McCabe coordinated the process and an application in the Gold Certificate Category has been submitted. Best of Luck!

Living Our Ethos

Congratulations and well done to the pupils in second class who received their First Confession recently. Many thanks to Fr. Fitzpatrick.

The boys and girls are now busy preparing for their First Holy Communion and looking forward to their big day on Friday, 10th May. Best of luck to Bronagh, Cassie, Clíodhna, Daniel, Fionn, Lee, Lilly, Patrick, Scott and Sophia.

The Lunch Bag-New Waste Boxes

New waste boxes were distributed to all pupils last week. Your child/(ren) will now bring their leftovers home in their waste box each day. Please ensure that waste boxes are cleaned and returned to school each day. This system will give you a good indication how much your child is eating everyday and this will give you the opportunity to change their order if needed. Please cancel your child's order if you know they will be absent in advance. In order to cancel orders, you will need to ensure the app is updated. To ensure the success of this system we will need your full cooperation.

Heritage School Visit

Paddy Madden, Heritage Expert, visited our school last week and completed a nature workshop with all classes. Paddy helped us to identify species of trees and birds on our school grounds. Paddy also advised the Green-Schools Committee with the layout and design of our new biodiversity garden. We were delighted to have Paddy in our school and share his love of nature with us.

Heritage Keepers Project

As part of the Heritage Keepers Project we are currently extending our biodiversity garden. We have new raised beds and will be planting native pollinators, which will greatly benefit local biodiversity and provide much-needed food for butterflies and bees.

Green-Schools News

The children in Junior Infants, Seniors Infants and First Class have been chosen to take part in the Seakeeper's Challenge, which is run by The Green-Schools. The Seakeeper's Challenge invites classes to learn about Ireland's wonderful marine biodiversity by studying six Irish marine species. The children have completed 4 species to date and are thoroughly enjoying this challenge.

Gymnastic Lessons

Pupils in all classes are continuing with their weekly Gymnastic classes with Laura and Joe from School Fitness Ireland. Please ensure payment is up to date on Aladdin.

Gaelic Sessions

Jenny from Carbury GAA in conjunction with Kildare GAA is currently completing a block of GAA skills with all classes. The remaining dates are added to the calendar tab on Aladdin Connect. Please ensure pupils wear their school track and appropriate footwear for football on these dates.

Cumann na mBunscol Competition

The U10s and U13s teams enjoyed taking part in the Cumann na mBunscol competition over the last few weeks. The U10s played two away games against Cadamstown and St. Patrick's, Celbridge and one home game against Gaelscoil Ruairí.

The U13s played against Broadford, Killina and Cadamstown. Well done to all the boys and girls involved and well done on representing your school.



Junior Infant Vision Screening Programme

A Public Health Nurse from the HSE will visit the school on Tuesday, 21st May for the Junior Infant Vision Screening Programme. Please ensure all consent forms are returned.

School Tours

Please note the following dates of planned school tours this term. Tuesday, 28th May: Junior Infants-2nd classes - Causey Farm.

Friday, 7th June: 3rd-6th classes - Clara Lara, Wicklow. Further details will issue shortly and payment links will be added to Aladdin.

Parents' Association Sponsored Walk

The Parents' Association Sponsored Walk will take place on Sunday, 12th May at 12pm from The Bridge. Please return Sponsorship cards on or before Friday, 10th May. We appreciate your support with this school fundraiser.

KiVa Anti-Bullying Programme

Our school has been successful in our application for the KiVa Anti-Bullying Programme as part of our DEIS initiatives. KiVa is an evidence based anti-bullying programme developed in Finland and has since been rolled-out worldwide. It has been piloted in several schools in Ireland already. The goal of KiVa is to prevent bullying and tackle it

effectively when it does occur. The programme also aligns with the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum. We will be rolling out this programme in September 2024 and further information will be available for parents. Staff will be attending training on this programme on Friday, 14th June and the school will close at 12pm.

Attendance Campaign

In an effort to improve our attendance, we have begun an attendance drive, which will run for the duration of the third term, and aims to improve attendance levels. We would ask all parents to support us in this attendance drive. While sick children should never be sent to school, all of us will get headcolds and minor illnesses during the year. In general, children should be sent to school if they have a headcold or a cough as long as they do not have a high temperature or have not been instructed by a GP to stay at home. We would encourage you to look at your child's attendance on the Aladdin Connect app. Tusla inform us that most children should be at school **more than 95% of the time** i.e. over 95% attendance constitutes "normal/regular attendance". Children whose attendance falls into the 90%-95% attendance category are "at risk of chronic absenteeism" and children whose attendance is below 90% are defined as having "chronic absenteeism". Such levels of absenteeism have an effect on children academically, socially and emotionally and we are eager to minimise this risk for our pupils.

Standardised Testing

Standardised testing in spelling, reading and maths will take place over the coming weeks for children in 1st-6th classes. Please ensure that your child attends school, is punctual, has adequate sleep, good nutrition and appropriate stationery so that they can perform to their potential during these tests. Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Half Day School Closures

The school has been requested by the Department of Education to allow staff attend compulsory training in the new Primary Language Curriculum. Please note that the school will close at 12pm for staff training on **Friday, 17th May (Half day closure)**.

The school staff will also attend training on the implementation of the KiVa-Anti Bullying Programme. The school will close at 12pm on **Friday, 14th June** to facilitate staff training **(Half day closure)**. Please note these dates are added to the calendar section on Aladdin Connect.

Our school will be closed Monday, 6th May for the May Bank Holiday and reopens at 9.00am on Tuesday 7th May. Wishing you and your families a lovely long weekend.

Le gach dea-ghuí
Nóra Lynch
Principal, St. Brigid's N.S.