



February Newsletter 2022

Covid-19 Isolation Guidelines

I want to thank all our parents for your continued cooperation and support in keeping us informed of positive antigen test results and adhering to the HSE Isolation Guidelines. There is some confusion around the guidelines and I want to just highlight one of the important points. If your child is a household contact of a positive case (i.e. the live with someone who is positive) and it is not feasible for them to isolate from this person, then they must **restrict their movements for a full 14 days** (scenario number 8 in the HSE Quick Isolation Guide). Individuals who are boosted in the household are not required to restrict movements. No child has received a third dose of the vaccine, so all are subject to these restricted movements unless they have recovered from Covid-19, having contracted it since 1st December 2021).

Admissions for 2022-2023

A reminder that application forms are available to download from our school website on www.ticknevinns.ie

Students Council

We are pleased to announce that our School Council has been elected! Well done to all the pupils who went for election. This is a great responsibility and some of the responsibilities will include:

- Setting a great example to all the other children.
- Being helpful in class and on the yard.
- Welcoming important visitors and telling them about our school.
- Gathering children's opinions about different topics.

Catholic Schools Week 2022

We celebrated 'Catholic Schools Week 2022' in January. The purpose of the week was to highlight and celebrate the contribution that Catholic Schools make to our local communities. This year's theme was 'Living Life to the Full'.

Grandparents' Day

Grandparents' Day has become a very special part of Catholic Schools Week and even though we were unable to invite grandparents into the school to celebrate this year, we organised a whole school collage with photographs of our grandparents to mark this occasion. All classes logged on to Mass in Holy Family Church, Carlow to celebrate Grandparents Day.



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Stay Safe Programme

The Stay Safe Programme continues this month in all classes. The Stay Safe Programme is a personal safety skills programme for primary schools. Its overall objective is to prevent child abuse, bullying and other forms of victimisation. The programme develops children's ability to recognise, resist and report risk situations or abusive encounters.

Please see www.staysafe.ie for further information. Please ensure the home worksheets are completed at home, signed and returned to the school each week.

St. Brigid's Day Mass

St. Brigid's Day marked a special day in our school community, as St. Brigid is the patron saint of our school. Although we were unable to hold our traditional St. Brigid's Day Mass, all pupils got the opportunity to tune in to mass online and take part in many St. Brigid's Day activities on the day.

Active Schools Initiative

As part of our Active Schools Flag activities the children will be taking part in the 'Climb the Heights' skipping challenge. We will see how many mountains we can climb over the next few weeks: one skip= 1 metre. Keep an eye on our website for updates www.ticknevinns.ie

Green-Schools

Our school will be participating in 'The Big Travel Challenge' from the 7th to the 18th of February. We will be encouraging all of the pupils to walk to school or to 'park and stride' during these dates (park near the school and walk the rest of the way). This is a great initiative to support sustainable modes of transport.

Dates for Sacraments 2022

The Parish Office has confirmed dates of sacraments.

Confirmation: Wednesday, 23rd March at 5.30pm

First Confession: Will take place in the school on Thursday, 17th February.

First Holy Communion: Friday, 27th May at 9.30am

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons will hopefully take place for pupils from 2nd-6th class in March. Further information will follow and this may be subject to change.



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FAI Primary School 5s Programme

Our school has registered for the SPAR FAI Primary School 5s Programme. The goal is to provide each pupil in 5th & 6th class the opportunity to participate in football in a fun and safe environment within the school. The change in format is intended to help avoid numerous schools mixing.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is an EU wide initiative to promote safer internet for all users, especially young people. It is taking place this year on February 8th. We have organised an online safety workshop facilitated by the local Gardaí for students in 5th and 6th class. The workshop will take place in school on Wednesday, 9th February. The focus of the workshop will be educating the children on how to use the internet in a safe and positive way.

Barnardos are offering free webinars for parents on cyber safety. Parents can register for a parent webinar by visiting Barnardos website at <https://www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training/online-safety-programme/for-parents>

While the internet is a wonderful resource, I would like to remind you that it can also pose many dangers to your child. While the school has safeguards in place with regard to pupil internet/website access at school, use outside school falls under parental responsibility. Children should never be allowed access to the internet at home without supervision.

Road Safety Talk

Local Gardaí will visit the school on Wednesday, 9th February and speak with the junior and middle classes about the importance of road safety.

Return to School Declaration Form

Many thanks to all families who complete the return to school declaration form when necessary. You are reminded that this form, should be completed for **all** absences prior to your child returning to school. This, like many other measures, has been put in place to better ensure everyone's health and safety at this time. Your cooperation is both necessary and appreciated.



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Getting Ready for Secondary School

Kildare Education Centre has added on an additional webinar for parents of sixth class pupils. '22KEC233 *Getting Ready for Secondary School for Parents*' on **Tues 10th May from 7pm-8pm.**

Registration Link: <https://www.eckildare.ie/coursebooking/local-courses/2070-22kec219-getting-ready-for-secondary-school-for-parents-guardians-3.html>

Half Day Closure

Please be advised that a whole-staff seminar of professional support as part of the introduction of the Primary Language Curriculum in primary schools will take place for all teachers on Wednesday afternoon 16th March and St. Brigid's N.S. will close for a half day on **Wednesday 16th March at 12pm.** This is a Department of Education mandated school closure.

A further half-day closure is scheduled to take place during Term 3 of 2022 and parents/guardians will be notified of the exact date as soon as details become available.

Additional School Holiday

As you are aware the government has sanctioned an extra public holiday for the 18th March 2022. As this date is already a scheduled closure for us, we are rescheduling our planned closure for **Friday, 3rd June 2022.**

Annual Review of Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement on an annual basis. The school's current Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are available on our website www.ticknevinns.ie

We are seeking your feedback in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of these Child Protection Procedures. Please take a moment to email the school with any feedback you may have in relation to this ticknevin@hotmail.com



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Parents Association News

Bumper Raffle

Our Christmas Bumper Raffle was a huge success this year and a massive €1,287 was raised for the school. A huge thanks to the parents and families who supported this fundraiser. Thanks to the Parents Association and a special word of thanks to Deirdre Tait for her trojan work in co-ordinating this fundraiser, organising the prizes and for organising the extra bonus ball.

St. Brigid's Day Crosses

We would like to express our thanks to all the pupils, parents, The Parents Association and teachers who helped in any way to collect rushes or make crosses for St Brigid's Day. We would also like to thank the parents who gave up their time to sell crosses after parish masses. A massive €1,017.35 has been raised from the sales of crosses for school's funds!! On your children's behalf our very proactive PA have been working hard to ensure monies are available to our school.

Spring Clothes Collection

A clothes collection is currently being organised. Further details to follow.

Despite restrictions lifting nationally, we must not become complacent with regards to following the required guidelines. We kindly remind all parents of the importance of not sending their child to school if they are unwell. We must continue to take all necessary precautions to keep our pupils and staff safe.

There are many exciting upcoming event this term and we are hopeful that our pupils can reengage with many activities they enjoyed pre Covid-19.

Thank you all for your continued support and co-operation.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Nóra Lynch

Principal St. Brigid's N.S.

Dates for Diary

First Confession: 17th February (in school)

Spring Midterm: 24th & 25th February.

Half-Day School Closure: 16th March, 12pm.

St. Patrick's Weekend: School closed 17th & 18th March.

Sacrament of Confirmation: 23rd March, 5.30pm

Sacrament of First Holy Communion: 27th May, 9.30am.