



January Newsletter 2023

Admissions for 2023-2024

We are now enrolling for September 2023. Closing date for enrolments to Junior Infants for the 2023/24 school year is Thursday, 26th January. Application for Admission Forms have been distributed to all local playschools/crèches and are available from the school office. They can also be downloaded from our school website. Completed forms, must be accompanied by the child's original birth certificate (which will be copied and returned to parents).

Dates for Diary for this term

All important events and dates for the diary for the remainder of the school year can be found by clicking on the calendar icon within the Aladdin Connect app. Please keep an eye on this calendar as events will be added throughout the year. Please note that it is possible for both parents to download the app (where applicable).

Ken Smollen Food Appeal

A huge thanks to all families for their donations of food items for the Ken Smollen Food Appeal. Well done to 6th class for co-ordinating this event.



Parents Association Christmas Bumper Raffle

Our Christmas Bumper Raffle/Carol Service was a huge success this year and a massive €1,775.80 was raised for the school. A huge thanks to the parents and families who supported this fundraiser. We thank the Parents Association for their hard work and dedication in making this fundraiser a success. They were in touch with a special visitor who arrived to surprise the boys and girls on the night. Many thanks to the following local business for sponsoring raffle prizes:

- Centra Derrinturn
- Bergin's Family Foodstore
- Daniels Foodstore
- Lou's Barber Shop
- Ryan's Pharmacy
- New Century Chinese
- The Turn Inn
- Highfield Golf Club
- Dunnes Stores
- Tesco Edenderry
- Fone Geek Edenderry
- McGreal's Edenderry
- Carroll's Menswear
- The Castle Inn Carbury
- The Parents of St. Brigid's N.S. who donated many items towards the raffle.



Anti-Bullying Week

We are holding an Anti-Bullying Week from 7th -10th February, which incorporates Safer Internet Day. The aim of this week is to promote positive relationships within the whole school community. The Student's Council will be organising some fun activities for the week.

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 7th. We have organised an online safety workshop facilitated by the local Gardaí for pupils from 2nd -6th class. The workshop will take place in school on Friday, 10th 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 Friday, 10th February and speak with the junior classes about the importance of road safety.

Catholic Schools Week

This year Catholics Schools Week will be celebrated in our school from 23rd-27th January. This year's theme is 'Walking Together in Faith and Love'. Because we are a Catholic School, this is a very special week in our calendar and it will be celebrated in many different ways in each classroom.

St. Brigid's Day Mass/Grandparents' Day

St. Brigid's Day marks a special day in our school community, as St. Brigid is the patron saint of our school. We are delighted to be able to hold our annual St. Brigid's Day mass in the school again this year. Mass will take place on Wednesday, 1st February at 12pm. All are welcome but we extend a warm invitation to all grandparents. This invitation to grandparents affirms and values their place not only in the lives of their grandchildren, but in the community in general. The Parents Association have kindly volunteered to provide tea/coffee afterwards. Any donations of baked goods for our grandparents would be

greatly appreciated and can be dropped to the school on the morning of the mass. We are also conscious of the fact that not all children have grandparents living and also that not all grandparents will be able to make it to our school but we will pray for them on the day.

St. Brigid Crosses

The making of St. Brigid's crosses has been a tradition in our school for many years. The sale of St. Brigid's crosses form a big part of our fundraising in the school year. We would be very grateful if parents would send in bunches of rushes and we can start making crosses in preparation for mass the weekend of 28th and 29th of January and for our annual St. Brigid's Day mass at school on Wednesday, 1st of February. We would be most appreciative if people, particularly adults could make some at home and give them to the children to bring to school. The Parents Association will be looking for volunteers to help sell crosses at the weekend masses. If past pupils/parents could come to school on Wednesday afternoon on the 18th and 25th January to assist us also, it would be of great benefit.

Gymnastics Lessons

The pupils from all classes will get the opportunity to take part in a 6 week program, with each of the 3 classrooms getting a 30 minute session weekly. The coach will bring all equipment needed and sessions will take place indoors. The cost is just €15 per child for the full 6-week program. The dates are as follows: February 23rd, March, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th.

Peace Proms 2023

The pupils from 3rd-6th class will attend the Peace Proms on Sunday, 5th February in the RDS. The boys and girls are busy preparing and are looking forward to this event. Further detail to follow this week.

Swimming Lessons

Pupils in 2nd-6th class will be starting swimming in Edenderry Swimming Pool. The sessions are: February 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and March 7th. The children will be brought to and from the pool by bus and will receive swimming instruction at the pool from qualified instructors. The instructors will put each child into a group according to their ability. All levels, including absolute beginners will be catered for. Please note that the swimming pool has increased prices since last year. The Parents Association will continue to subsidise the cost of the bus. Swimming is part of the P.E. curriculum and is compulsory for all children. It is an activity that they have missed out on due to Covid restrictions and is an experience they thoroughly enjoy while acquiring a life skill.

ALDI Rugby Stickers

The school will be participating in the collection of Rugby stickers to be in with a chance of winning €50,000 for the school. A sticker is given for every €25 spent and the promotion begins on 16th January and ends on 23rd April. If you collect stickers please send them into the school with your child.

School/Club GAA Coaching

Kildare GAA in conjunction with Carbury will fund a school/club coach to complete a block of Gaelic sessions with all classes in the school in the coming months. Further details will follow.

HSE Advise in relation to Respiratory Illness

The HSE recently sent advice to all schools in relation to flu and respiratory illness. The information was sent to all via email for your reference. They advise that children should not be sent to school if they are feeling unwell and particularly if they are experiencing a temperature, a sore throat and cough. They should have no temperature or sore throat for **48 hours** before returning to school. A cough can last for a longer period of time, but once your child is feeling well, they should be fine to attend school. If your child requires Calpol/Nurofen to reduce a temperature, however slight, they should not be sent to school.

Late Arrivals/Early Departures and Absences

Children arriving late to school or leaving early must be signed in/out by an adult. Please input late arrivals/early departures on Aladdin Connect in advance. All absences must be explained. This can be done by selecting the reason on Aladdin Connect. We appreciate your cooperation with this matter. Please contact the school if you are having any issues with the Aladdin Connect app.

Coming to School

Reminder - you are asked to drop your child(ren) to school as close to 8.50am as possible. Supervision is provided for from 8.50am each morning and we ask that you do not drop them off outside the school gates before this time. St. Brigid's N.S. does not accept responsibility for pupils arriving before this time.

Many thanks for your support and co-operation and we look forward to a busy and productive term.

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