



## October Newsletter 2021

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### IMPORTANT - Aladdin Connect Information

Thank you all for downloading the Aladdin Connect application to your phones.

We will use it for the following:

- Notices - replacing the old 'text message'.
- Permissions (No notes to be sent back—just tick the box!).
- All school payments will now be paid via the application.
- Absences – Please complete absence reasons. (No need to call the office if your child will be absent).
- Return to Education Declarations are required after all absences and breaks from school.
- For this system to work we are relying on you all to check your app regularly.
- If you change your phone number or handset, please let us know.
- We really appreciate your cooperation with this – we hope that it will simplify communication between home and school.

### Communication with Staff

Please be reminded due to current health and safety concerns that all communication with staff members can only be through email or appointment by phone. Teachers are unable to speak on the phone/answer the phone during class time. If you need to contact the school during the day the most effective method is by email.

### Covid-19 Reminder

Children, who have been a close contact of someone with Covid-19 symptoms in their own home, or in a home where they stayed overnight, should restrict their movements & should not attend school.

There has been a lot of confusion about the symptoms parents need to be aware of. The Public Health Authorities ask parents not to send their child to school if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (38+)
- New cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss/change of smell/taste
- Fatigue
- Aches/pains
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Feeling sick
- Diarrhoea
- Or with any of the above symptoms and a runny/stuff nose.

Pupils need to be **48 hours symptom free** before they return to school.



## October Newsletter 2021

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### Cooler Classrooms

In line with Public Health Advice, Schools have been asked to ensure that all classrooms are well ventilated to limit the possible spread of infectious disease even during the autumn and winter months. Public Health Advice has asked schools to open doors and window vents to increase natural ventilation where possible.

For that reason, we ask all parents to ensure that their children have good thermal under garments under their school uniform or a fleece/hoodie for the classroom as we head into the winter months. Public Health Advice also asks schools to bring the children outside more than usual. For that reason, they need to have the proper clothing for all weathers.

### Attendance

Unexplained absences cannot be accepted on our Aladdin attendance system. Please ensure all absences are updated and the return to school declaration is submitted prior to your child returning to school. The Aladdin system will automatically send out messages to parents when a child misses 10, 15 and 20 days of school. The school is obliged to report to TUSLA (Child & Family Agency) when a pupil has missed 20 days.

### Early Collections

Please be reminded that the school can only accommodate early collections for specific medical appointments or family emergencies only. All early collections need a note added regarding medical appointment at least one day in advance. All early collections are added to our attendance system. Pupils leaving early on a regular basis do end up missing a lot of teaching time during the school year.

### The Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to our past pupils who were confirmed on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> October. God's blessing to you and all your families and best wishes for the future.

### First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will take place on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am in The Holy Trinity Church, Derrinturn. Best wishes to Lauren, Leo, Isabella, Orla and Radha.

### Tag Rugby

All classes have completed a block of sessions with Gráinne from Edenderry Rugby Club. Gráinne has rescheduled last weeks session to this Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

### Gaelic Sessions

David Murphy from Kildare GAA will visit the school for four sessions of Gaelic Skills on 13<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November. Please ensure pupils are wearing their school tracksuit.



## October Newsletter 2021

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### Green-School Travel Flag Award

We were delighted to watch the online Green-School Awards ceremony last week and we were awarded with our Green-Schools Travel Flag. A flag raising ceremony will be held at a later date.

### Primary Science & Maths Award

Our school was successful with our SFI Discover Science and Maths Award application, which was submitted in June. Our Log of Evidence met all the criteria for the Plaque of STEM and we provided evidence of children's engagement with STEM in the following areas: Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and STEM Showcase. See below the feedback received:

*Congratulations to the pupils, teachers and parents of St. Brigid's NS on a great years work. You have really merited your award of a Plaque. Your school garden project is a great success and the visit to Airfield compliments it nicely. It is lovely to see the pupils own reports on their activities. You have a very good School Travel project - be sure to keep it up. The promotion of women in engineering is great, particularly for the girls to have role models. Your Maths has very good practical aspects. Once again, well done to all and keep up the great work.*

### Maths Week 2021

St. Brigid's N.S. will celebrate Maths Week next week 18<sup>th</sup> –22<sup>nd</sup> October. The children will take part in maths games, activities, quizzes, maths trails and many more activities. Keep an eye on our website [www.ticknevinns.ie](http://www.ticknevinns.ie) for some pictures of these activities.

### Maths Eyes Competition

As part of Maths Week, we are holding a 'Maths Eyes' photo competition for all pupils in the school. To enter, take a photo based on the theme of maths in our environment, upload to Seesaw or email to the class teacher. Examples...lines and angles in buildings, numbers on road signs, timetables, shapes, quantities on food containers etc.

### Healthy Eating Policy

Our school operates a healthy eating policy. However, one small fun size treat may be brought to school on a Friday. Please be reminded that **cereal bars** are not permitted. Many thanks for your co-operation.

### Drehid Funding

Our school would like to thank the Drehid Community Grant Scheme, which facilitated the funding towards the new school fencing.



## **October Newsletter 2021**

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### **Traffic Calming**

The Proposed Traffic Calming and Priority System for our school is due to commence over the next few weeks.

### **Junior & Senior Infants Hearing Screening**

A public health nurse from the HSE will visit the school on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> November at 9am to complete hearing screening with the pupils in Junior and Senior Infants. Please ensure to return the forms if you have not already done so.

### **Student Council**

St. Brigid's N.S. will be holding an election process for a Student Council in the senior classes. We believe that pupils have a vital role to play in creating a positive and welcoming school environment conducive to learning and happiness. Our Student Council will play a significant role in achieving this.

### **Halloween Fancy Dress Day**

St. Brigid's N.S. will hold its first 'Witch Walk' on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October. All pupils can dress in fancy dress on this day and each class will get the opportunity to take part in the walk around our Active Schools Walkway. Opening and closing times will be as normal on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Please do not allow children to bring in any items such as replica guns, swords, accessories etc.) Each family is asked to support this event and bring in €2 per child. All funds will go towards school resources. Many Thanks for your support.

### **Parents' Association**

The Parents' Association is an important part of school life and a great link between parents and the school. The Parents' Association AGM will take place at a later date and details to be confirmed when guidelines allow. The school is currently looking to form a new Parents' Association for a two-year cycle. An information note will be sent home this week and we ask that it is returned to the school by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of October.

### **Parents' Association Weekly Raffle**

The Parents' Association Weekly Raffle continues each week. Many thanks to all the families who continue to support this fund each month.



**St. Brigid's National School**  
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## October Newsletter 2021

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### County Photos

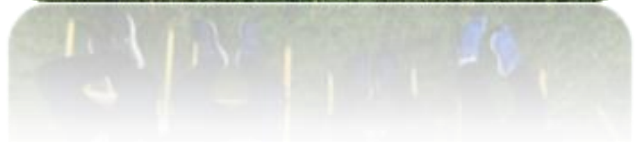
Photo samples are going home in schoolbags today and please note the school is only able to accommodate **Option 1: Order Online**. Simply go to [www.shop.countyphotos.ie](http://www.shop.countyphotos.ie) and log in with the access code on your individual or family proof card.

### Team Hope Shoebox Appeal

The school will be taking part in the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal this year. We are asking families to put together a shoebox of gifts that will be given to a child affected by poverty across Africa and Eastern Europe. Please include €4 with each shoebox in the envelope provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach the children about the importance of giving to those less fortunate so we hope that as many people as possible will get involved. All shoeboxes must be returned to the school by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**. Please see <http://teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/> for more information.

### Junior Infants 2021

Well done to our Junior Infants - Alex, Frankie, Gavin, Matthew, Sean, Tom and Ultan, who have settled in well to school life in St. Brigid's N.S.







## October Newsletter 2021

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### Primary Language Curriculum

As per Department of Education guidelines, St. Brigid's N.S. will implement a half day school closure at 12pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021, in order to facilitate staff training for the new Primary Language Curriculum.

### Health & Safety

A reminder to parents that we operate a drop and go system in our carpark and we ask that parents continue to drop/pick up their children and leave the carpark promptly. Junior and Senior Infants parents must wear a facemask on the school grounds at collection and drop off times, maintain a 2-meter distance and leave the school grounds promptly. The gathering of parents and/or children at the gate/carpark is not permitted. Pupil's should not arrive to school before 8.50am. Cars should only enter the carpark 5minutes before this time. The co-operation of the entire school community is needed here. I thank you all for your understanding and support with this .

### Child Safeguarding

DLP: Nóra Lynch  
Acting DDLP: Grace Conneally

### Dates for Diary

Halloween Midterm break – School closes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 2.40pm and reopens Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 9am.

Well done to all on the efforts in the first half term to date. School life continues because of the very significant efforts of our staff, parents, pupils and Board of Management. Thanks to all in the school community for your ongoing support and for playing your part as we do our best to help keep everyone safe and healthy.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and safe midterm break.

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

