



**October 2022**

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## September

The school year is now well underway and the children are to be highly commended on their great work and enthusiasm they bring to the school. We have had a busy and a productive month in school with so much learning and fun experienced every day. We extended a warm welcome to our new Junior Infant pupils, Eoghan, Evie, Holly, Olivia & Ryan and to Alex who has joined 4<sup>th</sup> Class.

Within our newsletter we will be sharing information about what the pupils have participated in and the many events, which they have to look forward to in the coming month. We would also like to remind you of current procedures and protocols.

## Improvements to our School

It was a busy summer at St. Brigid's N.S. and you may have noticed that we have new fencing and a gate fitted around the school carpark. We were delighted to be successful with our Drehid Community Grant Scheme and received €6,772.36 to replace the existing fencing. A new ICT whiteboard was also installed in the middle classroom and now we have updated ICT whiteboards in all mainstream classrooms. Many thanks to the Parents Association who funded the cost of the new ICT whiteboard.

## Aladdin Connect Information

We are continuing to use the Aladdin Connect application and will be using 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).
- Late arrivals and early collections.
- For this system to work we are relying on you all to check your app regularly.
- If you change your phone number, please let us know.
- We really appreciate your cooperation with this - we hope that it will simplify communication between home and school.



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### **Communication with Staff**

Staff members can be contacted via email or an appointment can be made via the school office. Please email [secretary@ticknevinns.ie](mailto:secretary@ticknevinns.ie) if you wish to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher. If you need to contact the school during the day the most effective method is by email. We do not have full time office hours; therefore please email any messages to the school. The drop off and collection time is very busy and staff are needed for supervision to ensure the safety of the children so please try not to use this time to deliver messages or ask questions. We will endeavour to deal with most queries over email/phone this school year.

### **Covid-19 Procedures**

In the classrooms, we are continuing with handwashing before eating and regular hand sanitising. CO2 monitors are in use in each classroom and windows remain open. Appropriate etiquette regarding coughing and sneezing will continue to be reinforced. Should a child present with any signs of Covid-19, we kindly request that he/ she is not sent to school. We need to keep sickness and Covid-19 out of our school in the months ahead. If your child is unwell, please do not send them to school. You should not send your child to school if any of the following apply:

A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more

Any symptoms of Covid-19 such as:

- A new cough
- Loss or changes to sense of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath
- An existing breathing condition that has recently become worse
- Sore throat
- Headaches
- Diarrhoea

Pupils must be **48-hour** symptom free before they can return to school.

### **Coats**

Please ensure your child comes to school every day wearing a coat. Please ensure your child has a fleece/warm hoodie stored in their bag, which they can wear over their uniform in the classroom if they feel cold. Our heating remains on during the winter months but it is a requirement on schools to keep windows open to maintain ventilation, the classrooms will get cold despite the radiators being on.



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### **Attendance**

Unexplained absences cannot be accepted on our Aladdin attendance system. Please ensure all absences are updated 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 of explanation and need to be added to Aladdin 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.

### **School Uniform/School Crests**

Please ensure your child wears the correct school uniform. School tracksuits must be worn on PE days. Junior Room-Friday, Middle Room-Thursday and Senior Room-Wednesday. Please be reminded that school crests are a compulsory part of our school uniform. Please contact [secretary@ticknevinns.ie](mailto:secretary@ticknevinns.ie) if you require any additional crests.

### **County Photos**

County Photos visited our school recently and when we receive sample photos back they will be sent home with the pupils. 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.

### **Pilates**

All classes completed a block of four pilates sessions with Trish Robinson. They worked on fun exercises, focusing on stretching and strengthening to increase flexibility. Many thanks to Trish for providing this opportunity for the pupils.

### **Oral Language - Morning Meeting**

We are continuing to work on our oral language themes this year and participating in a 'Morning Meeting' to investigate the word or the day, idiom of the week and tongue twister of the week.



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### **DEIS Update**

As you are aware St. Brigid's N.S. is now part of the DEIS Rural Programme. As part of joining this scheme the school will be expected to put a DEIS plan in place under the following headings: Attendance, Literacy, Numeracy, Involvement of Parents and Partnership with others. We will be looking for input from the staff and Parents Association in the development of the plan. Supports available to DEIS Schools include, access to School Meals Programme, planning supports, a range of professional development supports and additional funding under the school books grant scheme.

### **The Lunch Bag – School Meals Programme**

As you are aware the Department announced that school meals funding for new DEIS schools will be available from September. Hot lunches will hopefully be launched by the end of October. We are awaiting an update on this. We will receive funding for a hot school meal only per student. Children will be given a free meal for their 'big lunch' but a snack will not be provided. However, you can choose to buy an 'extra' from The Lunch Bag and have it delivered to the classroom for small break. Alternatively, you must send a morning snack and a drink. Please note that our school operates a healthy eating policy and one small fun size treat may be brought to school on a Friday. Please ensure that some snacks on The Lunch Bag app such as croissants, muffins etc are treats and should only be included on a Friday. Please contact The Lunch Bag if you have any questions or queries regarding the lunches.





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### **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.

### **Seesaw**

Seesaw will continue to be used as our online learning platform. All classes will receive Seesaw tasks/homework via Seesaw each week. Please ensure you have up to date log in details.

### **Maths Week 2022**

St. Brigid's N.S. will celebrate Maths Week from 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> of October. The pupils will take part in maths games, activities, quizzes, maths trails and many more 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. Examples...lines and angles in buildings, numbers on road signs, timetables, shapes, quantities on food containers etc. Send in all pictures to the class teacher during Maths Week.

### **Halloween Fancy Dress Day**

St. Brigid's N.S. will hold a 'Witch Walk' on Friday, 28<sup>th</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 about around our Active Schools Walkway. Opening and closing times will be as normal on Friday, 28<sup>th</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.



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### **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 on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm in the school. The school is currently looking for volunteers and to form a new committee for a two-year cycle. We are looking for a parent from each class to join the committee.

### **Parents Association Weekly Raffle**

The Parents Association Weekly Raffle will commence on Friday. A link has been sent out to all families and the raffle will continue each week. Many thanks to all the families who continue to support this fund each month.

### **Christmas Cards for School Fundraiser**

The children will design their own Christmas cards, which will be printed with their name, class and school name on the back. Parents will be able to order these in due course. Further detail to follow.

### **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, 28<sup>th</sup> October**. Please see <http://teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/> for more information.

### **Parent Representative BoM**

Please ensure all nominations for the parent representative (mother) for the current Board of Management are sent in by 3pm on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October.



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### **Junior Infants 2022**

Well done to our Junior Infants who have settled in well to school life in St. Brigid's N.S. We wish them well in the months and years ahead.



### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, 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 pupils are walked to the gate and collected from the gate at collection time. **Pupils should not arrive to school before 8.50am.**

### **Clothes Collection**

A clothes collection is organised for Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November as a fundraiser. This will give you the opportunity to clear out the wardrobes during the midterm break.



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### **Dates for Sacraments**

The Parish wishes to inform you that The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on **Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March** in Holy Trinity Church, Derrinturn at 2pm. The First Holy Communion will take place on **Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> May** in Holy Trinity Church, Derrinturn at 11am.

### **Child Safeguarding**

A copy of our Child Safeguarding Statement is available on the school website. Please note that Ms. Lynch is the DLP (Designated Liaison Person), Ms. Conneally is the DDLP (Deputy Designated Liaison Person).

### **Dangers of the Internet**

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.

### **Headlice**

Please check your child(ren)'s hair on a regular basis for headlice, treat where necessary and please inform the school if you have found headlice in your child's hair so that we can inform the parents of the other children in the class. **Long hair must be tied up in school.** With all parents following the regular checking routine, we will hopefully minimise the chance of children in the school getting headlice.

### **Head Bumps**

It is our school policy to phone home when a child bumps their head, however minor.

### **Reminder**

No medicines are allowed at school. If your child has a medical condition for which medicine/inhaler etc must be administered, please contact the school, as Board of Management approval must be granted for this. Please ensure the school is notified of any changes to any medical condition or medical information.





**St. Brigid's National School**  
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### **Aladdin Connect – Calendar Section**

All upcoming events for the remainder of the school year, as they become known to us, will be recorded on the **Aladdin Connect app, in the 'Calendar' section.** Please check the Aladdin Connect app regularly for notifications.

### **Dates for Diary**

**Halloween Midterm Break** - School closes on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October at 2.40pm and reopens Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November at 9am.

**Parents Association AGM:** Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm.

**Clothes Collection:** Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**Half-Day School Closure:** Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 12pm.

Well done to all on the efforts in the first month of school. We look forward to a very busy, productive and exciting year ahead. While many of our normal activities were curtailed over the last two years due to Covid-19, we hope to have lots of events back in the diary this year. Please keep an eye on the Calendar tab on Aladdin as we will be adding important upcoming events and to our school website/twitter page for photos of all activities.

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