



St. Brigid's National School

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September Newsletter 2023

New Junior Infants

We were delighted to welcome our new Junior Infant pupils to our school on August 30th. We extend a warm welcome to Alannah, Ben, Hudson, Poppy and Senan and to Billy who joins Senior Infants. They have settled well into school life over the last two weeks. We're really excited to get to know them and see them grow and develop. We hope this marks the start of some very happy school days in St. Brigid's.

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 weeks. We would also like to remind you of current protocols.



Child Safeguarding

The school plays an important role in Child Protection/Safeguarding and all staff members are trained in this responsibility. Should you have any concern please note that the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Nóra Lynch and the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is Grace Conneally.

Aladdin Connect

All new parents have been sent the link to download the Aladdin Connect app. Please ensure you have downloaded the app to your device as this is the communication tool used by the school. Please note that it is possible for both parents to download the app (where applicable). All communication from the school will be sent via the app. We ask that all parents check the information recorded about their child on the app and make any necessary changes. Please ensure that there are at least two emergency contacts listed for your child. Please let us know immediately if you are having any issues downloading the Aladdin Connect app.

Improvements to our School

It was a busy summer at St. Brigid's and much work was once again completed. We were delighted to get the school building painted. A new gate was installed at the traffic calming area on the school grounds. One of the lamp posts in the carpark was removed due to health and safety concerns. Of course the usual maintenance and deep clean was also carried out during the holidays.



Home-School Partnership

We strongly value the support of parents in helping us to realise the potential of each child in our school. In order for us to achieve this goal, it is vital that parents work alongside the teachers and help to support the work being done at school. Checking and signing your child's homework journal, regularly listening to reading, checking sounds/tables etc and most importantly speaking positively to your child about school and its importance will be of huge benefit to your child.

Late Arrivals/Early Collections

For health and safety reasons, should a pupil need to leave the school during the day for any reason, e.g. medical appointments, dental appointments or should a pupil arrive late to school, this needs to be recorded on Aladdin. We ask that parents inform us one day in advance of any early collection via the Aladdin Connect app. Pupils leaving early will be brought to the main gate where they will need to be signed out. All pupils arriving after 9.00am must be signed in by an adult. **We ask that children are only taken out of school early if absolutely necessary.** We appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

Absences

Under the Education Welfare Act 2000, where a child is absent from school on school days, the parents must notify the school for the reasons for such absence. We require parents to record the reason for the absence on the Aladdin app. You will receive a push notification when your child is marked absent at school. You will then be prompted to input the reason for the absence. Our administration system (Aladdin) automatically sends a notice to parents reminding them of this when a child reaches 10 and 15 days of absences. The school is obliged to report to TUSLA (Child & Family Agency) when a pupil has missed 20 days.

Morning Supervision

Our school starts at 9.00am. The school provides supervision from 8.50am-9.00am, where the pupils can make their way to their classrooms. **Pupils must not be on the school grounds prior to 8.50am.**

Communication with teachers

Staff members can be contacted by making an appointment through the school office. Please email 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 emailing the office. 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.

Medicines

Please be reminded that 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 you have returned the Pupil Information Form to notify the school of any changes to any medical condition or information.

Plasters

We will routinely apply plasters if required. It is the responsibility of parents to notify the school in writing if they do not wish plasters to be applied to their child (e.g. if the child is allergic to plasters).

School Fees

All monies for additional requirements by now should be paid. This allows us to purchase the necessary resources needed to give your child the best chance possible in their learning this year. The school fees include the cost of photocopying for the year, arts & craft materials, Allianz 24-hour Pupil Personal Accident Insurance etc. This insurance provides cover for any medical or dental costs arising from an accident in school during the year.

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 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.

County Photos

County Photos will visit the school on the 20th of September to take photos of all classes. A permission will be released to parents on Aladdin tomorrow.

Hot Lunches

The Lunchbag are continuing to provide hot lunches to our school each day. Please check in with your child to ensure that you know what to select from the menu each week. It may take a couple of weeks for our new pupils to know what they will like etc.

School Uniform/School Crests

Please ensure your child wears the correct school uniform each day. School tracksuits must be worn on PE days. Please be reminded that school crests are a compulsory part of our school uniform. School crests are available from the school office.

Party Invitations

As it may not be possible to invite all children from your child's class to birthday parties, we ask that all children refrain from handing out invitations in school. This can instead be done outside of the school, in order to avoid upset to children not invited.

Oral Language

We will continue to work on our whole school oral language approach this year. Each class will continue to hold a Morning Meeting at 9.00am, to investigate the word of the day, idiom of the week and tongue twister of the week.

PE Days

Please note PE days are as follows: Junior Room: Thursday, Middle Room: Tuesday, Senior Room: Friday.

Tag Rugby

All classes will get the opportunity to complete a block of tag rugby sessions with Dermot Tierney from Edenderry Rugby Club. The sessions will commence next Tuesday for pupils in 2nd-6th classes. The junior classes will commence their sessions in term two.

Music Generation

We are delighted to have secured a place with Music Generation Kildare for the academic year 2023/2024. Music Generation Kildare works in partnership with schools and community groups across County Kildare to provide access to vocal and instrumental tuition. The aim of this programme is to support the existing musical tuition. Ukulele lessons will commence for pupils in 2nd-6th classes from Tuesday, 3rd October. Music Generation are unable to facilitate the early years' programme at present but we are hoping we will have an update on this during the year.



Music Generation
Kildare
Chill Dara

Seesaw

We will continue to use the online learning platform Seesaw. Each pupil will have their own digital portfolio. All classes will receive Seesaw tasks/homework to complete on Seesaw each week. Please ensure you have up to date log in details. Junior Infant pupils will receive their codes in the coming weeks.

Internet Safety & Anti-Bullying Workshop for Parents

We are all aware that we live in an age of unprecedented development of communication through social media. This affects our children's lives enormously, in terms of opportunity but also danger. In order to increase awareness among parents an online advice workshop, hosted by Ger Brick on 07/06/23, was organised and funded by the Board of Management. This advice workshop did not proceed because of limited parental participation. In order to facilitate greater parental involvement the event has been rescheduled for the **9th of October**. The participation of all parents is strongly recommended in order to address the serious risks that our children may be facing.

Parents' Association

Our Parents Association are an integral part of our school community. Each member gives freely of their time and energy. Events are organised for the children at school and school funds are raised to enhance the learning experiences of the children. New members are always welcome. The committee will issue information in the coming weeks of upcoming future events.

Collection Time

It would be advisable if all children from 1st-6th classes could be collected from the designated carpark. Currently some children are being picked up from Glenbrook. This involves children crossing the road, unsupervised after they have left the school grounds. Furthermore if a parent is late picking up a child from Glenbrook the school staff have no way of monitoring the child. Your co-operation would be most appreciated if at all possible.

Secondary School Open Day

Pupils from 6th class will get the opportunity to attend the Oaklands Open Day on Tuesday, 10th of October. Further details will follow. Please see information on the 'Subject Sampling Morning', which will be held on Saturday 23rd September.

New Maths Curriculum

Last week saw the launch of a new Primary Maths Curriculum. We expect further information and staff training to come this year and in the school years ahead. Of note, the Department has indicated that there will be one school closure day during the school year to facilitate staff training, further details to follow. Attached is an information letter to parents.

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.

Please follow and share our school twitter account @brigid_ns to receive reports of all the latest news, events, photos, activities and great work being done by the pupils and staff in our school each and every day!

On Monday evening we welcomed Minister Martin Hayden and Cllr. Brendan Wyse to the school to see the work completed from the Kildare County Council Drehid Community Scheme funds. We were delighted to show them around the school and discuss what the school has to offer our local community.

Well done to all on the efforts in the first two weeks of school. We look forward to a very busy, productive and exciting year ahead.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Nóra Lynch

Principal St. Brigid's N.S.