**St Brigid’s PS Newsletter Term 1 2018-19**

**READY FOR SCHOOL**

**A New School Year Underway!!**

It is great to see the children back at school full of excitement and eager to do well in their new school year. Let’s hope that this year we can build upon the successes of last year and make it an even better one for the children. They are a credit to you all and a great advertisement for St Brigid’s PS.

I would like to wish you the children good luck and success throughout the year in whatever you do.

**Staffing**

Mrs McGuigan will be covering Year 6 and Year 1 on a Monday and Wednesday respectively.

**CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS**

So that all our details are correct and up to date please fill in the attached data capture form.

**School Uniform**

The school uniform remains the same this year.

All children should be in full uniform at all times. Jumpers and coats are available to purchase from the school office.

**School Day Times**

School Day Begins 9.00 am

Morning Break 10.45 am-11.00 am

Lunch Break MON-THURS 12.15 - 1.00 pm

Lunch Break FRIDAY 12.00 -12.45 pm

School Day Ends CLASS A & P1-P3 2.00 pm

School Day Ends CLASS B (Wed) 2.00 pm

School Day Ends P4-P7 3.00 pm

School begins at 9.00 am and all children are expected to be in school by 8.55am. Children should not be in school too early because of supervision difficulties. Teachers cannot accept responsibility for the safety of children who arrive before 8.50 am. The main doors will open each morning at 9.00 am and the children will be collected from the playground by the class teachers. In the event of it being a wet morning the doors will open to let the children in to the assembly hall. Some children are still arriving at school too early. Please remember that there is no supervision for the children until 8.50 am unless they are attending the Breakfast Club

**Punctuality**

Please try to be on time for school. Persistent lateness disrupts the class and can have an effect on your child’s ability to settle first thing in the morning. This in turn can have a negative effect on your child’s learning.

**Holiday List 2018-19**

A copy is included on this newsletter and it can be viewed on the school website.

**Holidays During Term Time**

In keeping with government recommendations, we strongly discourage children from any year group being taken out of school for family holidays during term time.

When children miss out on initial teaching of topics or concepts it is very difficult for them to catch up afterwards. Since homework is set to consolidate work that has been done during the school day, it is not our policy to set homework for which teaching has been missed due to family holidays.

**Breakfast Club and After School Club**

This year will be a busy year again for all associated with the school. The After School Club and the Breakfast Club are still operating. (Any bookings through the main office)

**St Brigid’s is an Extended School**

Breakfast Club 8.00 Cost £1.00 (drop in)

Sunshine Club 2.00—5.30 pm Cost £2.00 per hour or part thereof (booked in)

(**3-5.30 pm = £6.00**)

**After School Activities**

The Programme for After Schools Term 1 will be released shortly with some activities starting in mid-September. There will be a cost associated with some after schools’ activities to pay external providers or purchase resources.

**Be Unique Drama Club starts Monday 17 September 3-4pm and runs for 12 weeks.**

**Please Note**

All children must be registered for each activity. All children must be collected promptly at the end of the session (unless attending the Sunshine Club).

**Absence from school**

If your child is absent, please inform the school by note or telephone call at your earliest convenience as this will ensure that absence is genuine rather than a possible case of truancy.

ALL ABSENCES MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR AND AUTHORISED

If a child’s attendance level falls below 85% then the school is requested to inform Education Welfare especially when there are no recorded reasons for the child’s absence.

NOTE: HOLIDAYS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR!! (They do count as unauthorised absences)

**Absence from school during day**

When your child has an appointment or has to leave school early please send a note to class teacher.

Children will not be permitted to leave school during the day unless collected by a parent/guardian or if the child has written permission from parent/ guardian.

**A word of thanks!!**

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Don, Claire, Glenda and Donna for their great work over the summer in preparing the school for the children coming back in September. The school is looking fantastic!

Thanks also must go to all the staff for their hard work in getting everything ready for the new school year. There is a lot of hard work in making sure that everything is in place for the beginning of the school year. I wish the school and its community every success and God’s blessing for the year ahead. The August training days included a focus on school development planning, sharing information amongst teachers, medical training and preparation for the year ahead.

**SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN – HOME SCHOOL WORKING TOGETHER**

**Parent Interviews**

Parent interview dates will be 22-25 of October. **Reminder the school will close early (2.00 pm) for all this week to facilitate the interviews.**

**School Homework Diaries**

School diaries are £5 each for pupils in Y3 to Y7. Please ensure your child has a homework diary. A school diary:

* enables the children to record their homework
* helps children become more organised and develops their self-management skills
* promotes independence
* facilitates school/home communication

**Pupils’ Stationery**

Some parents have enquired about what their child needs for school. The majority of resources are provided in school.

However, the children from Yr5-7 benefit from having the following items:

**Glue Stick**

**Colouring Pencils**

**HB Pencils**

**Rubber**

**Sharpener**

**Ruler (30cm)**

**Biro (Black or Blue)**

**Internet Safety: Keeping SMART Online**

**SECRET**: Always keep your name, address, phone number and password private– it’s like giving out the keys to your house.

**MEETING** someone you have contacted on the Internet can be dangerous. Only do so with your parent’s permission and when they can be with you.

**ACCEPTING** e-mails or opening files from people you don’t really know or trust can get you into trouble– they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

**REMEMBER** someone online may be lying and not be who they really are. Stick to the public areas in chat rooms and if you are uncomfortable get out of there.

**TELL** your parent/s if someone or something makes you uncomfortable or worried.

**PTA News**

All members new and old are encouraged to attend meetings of the PTA to contribute thoughts and ideas that will help the school to develop and improve and think about the activities that will be held this year and how we can best go about raising money for the school.

The PTA has raised funds to support the school and we are currently working on improving the play areas and adding play equipment, developing a sensory room and purchasing a new school sports kit. The PTA welcomes new members and if you have an hour to spend a few times a term to attend meetings or helping out at various events then please come along to any meeting. A particular invite is extended to all new parents.

**Date: Wednesday 26th September Time: 7pm**

**Venue: St Brigid’s PS**

**Sponsored Event: ‘Mad Hat and Crazy Hair Day!’**

We will have our usual Sponsored event on Friday 21st September to raise much needed school funds. The school fund is used to subsidise the cost of transport and trips and to purchase additional ICT equipment, library and play resources. A sponsor sheet will be distributed soon.

**Blood Transfusion Service**

Where: St Joseph’s Parish Centre , Dunloy

When: 12 September 2018

Time: 1.30-4.00 pm and 5.15-8.00 pm

**School Meals**

All of the children have the opportunity to purchase a school meal from the canteen daily. A lot of work has gone into creating a menu over the past year that gives a healthy balance and meets the Nutritional Standards. Menus were sent out to every family, but if you require another copy they are available from the front office. Copies also on the school website.

**COST: £2.60.** A full meal, dessert and drink are included in the price.

**Free School Meals:**

Anyone who feels that they may be entitled to free school meals should fill in a form for free school meals. Application forms are available from the school secretary for children entitled to Free School Meals/Uniform Allowance.

To find out if you qualify or to find out more information please access: [www.education-support.org.uk](http://www.education-support.org.uk) -click on parents – meals and uniforms

**Healthy Lunchboxes Appeal**

Thank you for working with us in sending a Healthy lunch box to help reinforce the Healthy Eating policy we have in school.

Eating a healthy lunch. The key to a healthy lunchbox is to include a balance of appropriate foods from the four main food groups -1. Breads and cereals.  
2. Fruit and vegetables.  
3. Meat and alternatives.  
4. Milk and dairy products.

WE ENCOURAGE HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES IN SCHOOL.  
IT IS ONE OF THE AREAS IN OUR HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL POLICY

**Water on Desks**

Educational Research shows that children’s brains are kept alert by having sips of water at regular intervals during the school day. To benefit from this simple way of improving your child’s learning you can send a bottle of water to school with your child. Bottles should be sports type with pop corks rather than screw tops as the screw tops tend to leak easily. Please put your child’s name on the bottles. **Water can be purchased in school for 50p.**

**Healthy Breaks**

As you are aware our school has been encouraging pupils to eat a healthy break time snack.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS!!

YOGHURTS: Have high sugar content and are not suitable for a break time snack. 1 small pot = 1-2 spoonfuls of sugar. 1 large pot = 2-6 spoonfuls of sugar.

CHEESE: Has a high salt and fat content. Not a good break time snack! Real cheese; not the processed stuff, could form part of the child’s lunch box as it is a good source of calcium.

**Healthy Breaks can include: MILK, WATER, FRUIT, VEGETABLES and BREAD BASED FOODS (without jam).**

**Toast, fruit and water are available in school daily.**

**Toast/Bagel: 30p Apple/Orange: 25p Banana: 30p Water: 50p**

**MILK (monthly or termly payments)**

In response to parents’ requests, milk can be paid either monthly or termly from September.

**September**: 20days @ 21p = £4. 20 September. (Termly option begins for Oct – Dec period)

**SAFETY and the CHILDREN**

**The School Entrance**

Whilst all parents are always welcome in the school, I would like to draw your attention to how busy the front of the school can be in the morning and at home time with buses, taxis and disabled parking all be needed at this time. Access to the school during the day is via the main front entrance only.

**The Children’s Safety**

In the interests of the children’s safety please do not park in any restricted areas, in disabled parking spaces or in a way that blocks the turning circle.

Parents are reminded that it is best practice to make an appointment prior to meeting with a teacher. Please note that no parent/carer is allowed to go to a classroom during the school day.

(If you need a child urgently please contact the main office).

**The School Car Park**

**Please use the chapel car park for bringing the children to and from school. the main front car park is for buses, taxis and disabled parking. the turning circle is for drop off only.**

**Collecting children from school**

All children should be collected from the main playground with access via the chapel car park. Children using buses, taxis and disabled spaces will use the front car park. If you arrive after 9.10 am the chapel gate will be closed. Please use the front entrance.

**Health and Safety**

All the Staff in St Brigid’s are committed to ensuring the Health and Safety of your children while they are at school.

To assist us we would ask for your co-operation in the following:

**Aerosols** are not permitted in school or when the children go swimming.

**Chewing Gum** is not permitted in school

**Tippex** is not permitted in school

**Pupils’ Property**

We ask that you make sure that every item of your child/children’s belongings– clothing, lunchboxes, pencil cases etc., is clearly named. This is important for all items. Scarves, hats and PE gear are also belongings that need to be clearly marked with your child’s name.

Valuable items such as ipods and games should not be brought to school. Please remember **mobile phones** are not allowed in school. If there is a **special circumstance** that a mobile needs to be with a child for after school then please send in a note explaining this and the mobile must be left in the school office.

## Head lice

## Please check heads regularly and there should be no problem. If you have any concerns contact the school and we can put you in touch with the School Nursing Service or alternatively speak to your GP.

## Please treat head lice properly. Advice can be sought from your GP or local pharmacy.

**Nut Allergy**

There is a child in the school with a nut allergy. Please do not bring nuts or nut products (including nut spreads, Nutella etc) into school. Thank you.

**School Photographs**

Permission for taking and using photographs in school is included on the Annual Consent form that you all will receive. Please fill in and return to the class teacher as soon as possible.

**The school photographer will be in school on Monday 17th September.**

**Reminder: Any photographs/videos taken by parents at school events must not be shared on social media to protect the image rights of other children that may be included.**

**Peripatetic Music Service**

**It is essential that contributions are made to maintain this service.**

The annual parental fee towards this has increased to £105 per year.

This can be paid in a number of ways:

A one off payment in the first term of £105

3 payments of £35 (1 per term)

Please try to make this contribution as it is essential for the continuation of the programme. Any issues/concerns please speak to Mr O’Neill or Mrs Kelly.

**The Music teacher this year is Miss Bell and tuition will be every Thursday.**

**Violin and Piano Lessons**

These will start again on a Thursday and Friday respectively. There may be some places available please contact Mrs Kelly to express your interest

**Guitar Lessons**

Start again on Monday 17th September. The may be some places available please contact Mrs Kelly if you are interested.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Parent Interviews**

Parent interview dates will be 22-25 of October.

**Reminder: the school will close early (2.00 pm) for all this week to facilitate all the interviews.**

**Staff Development Day**

**Friday 28 September 2018**

**Half Term**

**Monday 29 October – Friday 2 November inclusive.**

**Christmas Dates**

Christmas Concert:

Matinee Tuesday 18 December 1.00 pm

Evening Wednesday 19 December 7.00 pm

**Beginning of Year School Mass**

**Date:** Thursday 20th September

Any family and friends who are available and want to join us at mass are more than welcome as we promote our ‘Together in Faith’ ethos.

**Catholic Schools’ Week**

28 January – 1 February

Grandparents’ Day Wednesday 30 January

St Brigid’s Day and Mass Friday 1 February

**Sacrament Dates 2019**

Year 3 First Confession Thursday 28th March

Our Lady and St Patrick’s Chapel

Year 4 Holy Communion Saturday 18th May

Our Lady and St Patrick’s Chapel

Year 7 Confirmation TBC

Our Lady and St Patrick’s Chapel

Year 3 Confession Parent Meeting Wednesday 13 March 7.00 pm

St Brigid’s PS

Year 4 Communion Parent Meeting Wednesday 8 May 7.00 pm

St Brigid’s PS

**Year 7 Leavers’ Mass Tuesday 25th June**

**Prize Day Friday 21st June**

**Swimming**

**Swimming begins Tuesday 5 September**

Term 1 Year 5 & Class B

Cost of swimming weekly is £2.50

**Holiday List 2017-2018**

**New Term**

School Re-opens Friday 31st August 2018

**Staff Development Day**

Friday 28 September 2018

**Halloween**

Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November 2018 inclusive

**Christmas**

School closes Friday 21st December 2018 at 12noon

Re- opens Monday 7th January 2019

**Mid Term Break**

Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd Feb 2019 inclusive

**Easter Holidays**

School closes Thursday 18th April 12noon

Re- opens Monday 29th April 2019

**May Holidays**

School closed Monday 6th May 2019

May Bank Holiday Weekend - Monday 27th May – Tuesday 28th May inclusive.