**St Brigid’s PS**

**Castle Street**

**Ballymoney**

**BT53 6JXso**

**Principal: Mr Kieran O’Neill**

**koneill580@c2kni.net**

**Tel: 028 2766 2664**

**Thursday, 05 November 2020**

**Dear Parents/Guardians**

Welcome back to everyone after the extended Halloween break. It’s great that we are open again and that there was no decision to prolong the period of time the children were out of school. I would like to thank you all for your continued co-operation during this time. Since we have returned we have requested that, during the drop off and pick up times, all adults collecting the children respect social distancing and we strongly advise that everyone who can wears a face covering. This is to protect everyone, keep the school safe and ultimately keep the school open.

As we progress through this term it is important to maintain a high level of focus on all the measures and protocols we have in place to keep everyone safe. The biggest challenge is to make sure complacency doesn’t set in with regards to our collective responsibility to keep safe.

**Nut Allergy – St Brigid’s a Nut Free School**

**As there is a child in school with a Nut Allergy, please do not send in nuts or nut based products e.g. spreads into school.**

**Pledge of support from St Vincent de Paul Ballymoney Branch**

SVP offers a confidential support service. If you could do with some help to **contact SVP on their helpline** (07860455549) and they will do what they can to help.

**Key Dates**

11 November First Confession

13 November Crazy Hair and Bright Colours Day – Ditch the Dark(Non Uniform)

16-20 November Anti-Bullying Week

20 November Odd Socks Day

1 December Christmas Countdown Begins

4/11/17/18 December Christmas Jumper Days

**Christmas Celebrations**

Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas Show or Bazaar this year. The COVID-19 restrictions mean that large school and community gatherings are prohibited. We are working in school to put a plan together to celebrate the Christmas season as best we can, making it enjoyable for the children.

**PTA Grand Christmas Draw**

Unfortunately, circumstances this year will really have an impact on our ability to fund raise and our biggest fundraiser is the Christmas Bazaar. We will, however, continue with the Grand Christmas draw. Normally we would go around all the businesses to get prizes for the Bazaar but this year we feel to go around and ask businesses that are having a tough year might not be fair. Instead we are appealing within our own parent body and wider family community for a donation of prizes. We normally have 4 big prizes. However, this year, to make it attractive, it would be great to have a number of prizes to make it interesting. We hope to print tickets and get them out for sale within the next 10 days. If you can donate a prize, please let us know as soon as you can.

**What could you donate?**

A voucher, a hamper, beauty products, sweets/biscuits/chocolates, toys, electrical items etc.

We are currently fundraising to replace the interactive boards in all the classrooms. The boards are now outdated and new technology is now available. We hope to raise enough to add to what we have raised already and replace at least half of the boards this year. The boards are a costly item at over £3,000 per room.

**Resources required for personal use.**

Back in August we asked for individual resources to be sent in so that the children would have their own equipment. I have included the list below and would ask if you could check with your child to see if there are any resources that need to be replaced.

Please include a **packet of tissues** in the homework folder for personal use as well.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Resources Required** |
| 1, 2 & CB | Colouring pencils (Pref. twistables - no need to sharpen) CrayonsGlue Stick (Pritt)Eraser |
| 3, 4, 5 and CB | HB pencilsColouring pencils (Pref. twistables - no need to sharpen) CrayonsGlue Stick (Pritt)EraserHighlighters |
| Year 6 & 7 | Berol Handwriting pens – Blue/BlackBiro type pens – Blue/BlackHB pencilsColouring pencils Coloured Markers CrayonsGlue Stick (Pritt)EraserHighlighters |

As we are coming into a colder time of the year it is important to remember that whilst the school is well heated, in order to maximise ventilation, windows will be open throughout the day and children will have outdoor breaks. In this colder weather a warm vest and an extra layer would be advisable. It is important to bring a coat to school.

**Breakfast and After School Club**

**All Clubs are £2.00 per hour or part thereof.** (Places available in all clubs).

Payments already made for After School Bookings during the week 19-23 October will be credited to the November Invoice. If you have yet to make payment, please deduct the amount for this week from the October Invoice.

All bookings for Breakfast, 2-3 pm and Sunshine Club should be forwarded to koneill580@c2kni.net or sent in to school. November and December booking forms are available in the After School Section of the school website.

**Reminder: Dinner Money and Paying for school dinners**

* Please send dinner money in to school in a small envelope
* The envelope should be clearly marked with the information below

Dinner Money Payment

Name:                         Class:

Week Beginning:  \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Tick Days Required:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| M | T | W | Th | F |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Amount Enclosed

|  |
| --- |
| £ |

* Dinner money preferably should be sent in weekly at the beginning of the week, with the days indicated and the **correct amount enclosed.**
* Daily dinner money should still be sent in an envelope clearly marked as above.
* If more than one child, please indicate all names and classes on the envelope.
* **Dinner Cost -** £2.60 per day or £13.00 per week

**COVID-19 Protocols**

**It is important to remember that the key messages will remain the same:**

1. Please continue to follow all the procedures in place for the school day.
2. **Please maintain 2m social distancing as adults when on the school premises.**
3. **If you can, it is strongly advised to wear a face covering.**
4. Please be prompt at drop off and pick up times. This includes after school club.
5. Please maintain and encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.
6. Do not come to school (adult/child) if you have a high temperature (+37.8), a new and continuous cough or experience a loss in your sense of smell or taste.
7. As is normally the case, if a child is unwell with any other illness they should not be in school until they are feeling better.

**What to do if your child is unwell:**

* If your child is unwell with any COVID-19 symptoms they **must not** be sent to school.
* Children can get coronavirus (COVID-19)
* <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

**The main symptoms of coronavirus are:**

* a high temperature
* a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
* a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:**

* Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
* Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.

**Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.**

* If your child is unwell with any other illness, it is always best practice to keep the child at home.
* If your child becomes unwell in school, we will contact you to arrange for them to be picked up from school along with any siblings also at school.
* A prompt pick up from school is necessary if your child is unwell.
* One adult should come to the school and enter via the main entrance.

If you are unsure about what to do, please contact the school between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm daily via telephone call or by email at any time on the days that the school is open. During the weekend you can communicate any COVID-19 related information to the school via email: koneill580@c2kni.net .

Thank you for your co-operation in everything so far. Take care and keep safe.

Mr O’Neill

Principal