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ST. PATRICK'S N.S. SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2026

Staff News

Staff News

As we begin the new school year, there have been a number of changes to our staff.

We would like to once again acknowledge Catherine Hynes, Fiona Walsh and Eileen O'Connell, who have now retired from our school. We thank all three for their many years of dedicated service, hard work and, most importantly, the care and support they have shown to generations of pupils. We wish Catherine, Fiona and Eileen every happiness in their retirement.

We also wish Gráinne Boyce the very best as she leaves us to take up a full-time SNA position in Coláiste Iósaef. We thank Gráinne for her contribution to our school and wish her every success in her new role.

We are delighted to welcome Ellie Quilty, who joins our teaching staff as a new Special Education Teacher (SET), and Breda Cahill, who joins our SNA team. We hope they will both be very happy in our school community.

Finally, we have one further part-time SNA position to fill, and the recruitment process for this position will take place shortly.

Ger Kelleher



Our Staff 2024

Gerard Sexton – Caretaker
Cleaners- Grant O'Brien Cleaners
Mary O'Regan- School Secretary
Paula O'Grady – Special Needs Assistant
TBC – Special Needs Assistant
Frances Killeen – Special Needs Assistant
Claire English- Special Needs Assistant
Breda Cahill- Special Needs Assistant
Róisín Cussen/Karen Conmy– Support Teacher(Job Share)
Margaret Irwin- Support Teacher
Ellie Quilty- Support Teacher
Nicola Costelloe- Junior/Senior Infant teacher
Grace Brosnan – Senior Infant/1st Class
Jean Hannon- 2nd class teacher
Ciara English- 3rd class teacher
Karen Murnane- 4th class teacher
Muirne Lyons-5th class teacher
David Reidy- 6th class teacher
Ger Kelleher- Principal

Communication

The school will continue the Aladdin Connect App this year to communicate with parents. If you are having difficulty using the app please do not hesitate to contact us here at the school. The app should be used to inform the school when your child is absent or running late. Your child's teachers can also be contacted through the app. We do ask that communication is kept between the hours of 8.45am and 5.30pm. Please do give the teacher time to respond to your message.

The app also has a section with our school holidays and school calendar for the year ahead.

The app can also be used for ePayments and the annual contribution and school insurance can be paid on the app at present.

Class teachers will also use the app to mark homework.. A tab will appear on the Parent homepage.

The school also has an Instagram account which gives a great weekly snapshot of school life. We can be found on Instagram here-@brureens.

The school also has a school website and this can be found here-
<https://www.brureens.ie/>

We will also publish a newsletter each term with a summary of all that has happened in the school.

School Calendar

Our school calendar can be found on the Aladdin app by clicking on the 'Calendar' tab. This tab is regularly updated with upcoming school events and closures. Please note that we have been informed of four extra closures for the year ahead.

1. **May 4th- Primary Curriculum Training Day for staff**

The school will be closed for a further **three days** to work with the new Primary School Curriculum this year. The exact dates of these closures have not been communicated to schools yet.

Annual Contribution

As outlined in your child's booklist in June, we ask for a €40 contribution per child (maximum €140 per family) at the start of the school year. This contribution covers the cost of art and craft supplies, photocopying costs and towards a music teacher each Wednesday. It also contributes to various interactive licences and apps used to enhance your child's education. Monies gathered through this annual contribution will only be used to benefit your child's education and to provide opportunities for your child to access the curriculum fully. We would like to thank parents for their contribution this year as well as for previous years.

We are aware that September is an expensive time for parents. This payment can be made at any time during Term 1. If possible please use the Aladdin app to make payments. If you wish to pay in instalments, this must be done in cash or by cheque through Mary in the school office.

Safety Notice

School Times, Drop-Off & Collection

The school will open to receive pupils from **9.00 a.m. each morning**. Please note that the school cannot accept responsibility for pupils arriving before this time. Pupils may arrive at any time between 9.00 a.m. and 9.20 a.m., with classes beginning at 9.20 a.m. We ask that all pupils are punctual each day.

Classes finish at 2.00 p.m. for Junior and Senior Infants and at 3.00 p.m. for pupils from 1st to 6th Class.

Our car park is particularly busy at 3.00 p.m. and our "Drop and Go" system will continue. **We ask parents to move forward into available spaces and to leave the car park promptly once children have been collected.** Please do not leave cars unattended where they may block or restrict other vehicles. Parents collecting children from after-school care at 3.00 p.m. should park as close as possible to the after-school premises if leaving their vehicle.

For safety reasons, please keep the designated school bus space clear at all times. The school cannot accept responsibility for escorting pupils between the school bus and the school.

Children who walk to school should enter through the front gate. Children walking to school and crossing the main road should always use the pedestrian lights. Please do not walk into the main car park when collecting children. Use the road entrance by the traffic lights instead.

We greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping to keep drop-off and collection times safe and efficient for all our pupils and families.

Homework

As the pupils begin to settle into school routine after the summer holidays, they will begin to receive homework to be completed each evening. The following is a guide as to how long homework should take. Please remember that it is a guide and that each child works at their own pace. It is a good idea for pupils to complete their homework in a quiet space free of distractions.

Reading with your child is one of the most important things you can do at all class levels.

Junior Infants: At the teacher's discretion

Senior Infants: 10 – 15 mins

1st/2nd Class: 20 – 45 mins

3rd/4th Class: 45 mins- 1 hr

5th/6th Class: 1hr approx

If your child is experiencing problems with homework, please contact the teacher.



Attendance:

The school is using the Aladdin school management system at present. This system automatically texts parents when your child misses 10,15 and 20 days. **If you have been notifying the school as to why your child is missing school there is no need to contact us again after receiving a text. The school is obliged to report to TUSLA (Child & Family Agency) when a pupil misses 20 days in a school year.** If you wish to discuss your child's attendance, please make an appointment through the school office.

You can use the Aladdin Connect App to notify the school of absences. Where possible, appointments should be made for outside school time.

Speech and Drama Classes

We are delighted to announce that Speech and Drama classes will resume this year in the school with Ailbhe Donnelly Flanagan. We will be in touch soon with more details but we expect that the classes will be on a Monday evening starting in mid to late September.

Aladdin Connect Homework

Similar to last year, class teachers will post daily homework on the Aladdin Connect app. This tab will appear on your homescreen when you open the app.

NCSE Sustained In-School Support

We are delighted that our school will continue to participate in the **NCSE Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy Sustained In-School Support** pilot for a second year.

Following a very positive first year of involvement, we look forward to continuing to work with the NCSE therapy team during the 2026/2027 school year. The programme provides valuable in-school support and guidance to staff, helping us to further support the needs of pupils across the school.

We are very pleased to have the opportunity to continue with this initiative and will keep parents updated on the programme and its work in our school throughout the year.

Flu Vaccination

Pettit Pharmacy will offer the flu vaccine in the school on the 28th September. Consent forms will be sent in advance via Aladdin. The school is facilitating the service only. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Silver Circle Draw

The school will hold its annual Silver Circle Draw in November/December. Before the fundraiser begins, the Board of Management, school staff and Parents' Association will discuss and agree how the funds raised will be spent.

In recent years, the draw supported the purchase of graded readers, interactive classroom panels, iPads, Chromebooks and classroom materials, as well as the development of a sensory pathway and the installation of basketball hoops and new yard markings.

Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising initiatives.

Dress Code

This is now our third year of wearing the full school tracksuit each day, and the change has been a great success. We would like to thank our parents and pupils for their continued support and cooperation.

We will continue to encourage all pupils to wear the official school tracksuit each day. We have a number of spare school tops available in the office for pupils who may not have the correct top on a particular day. We do, of course, understand that some families may still be awaiting delivery of school tops during early September.

During warmer weather, pupils are encouraged to wear the official school shorts where possible. Where these are not being worn, we ask that pupils wear appropriate plain sports shorts that are suitable for school.

The official school tracksuit, tops and shorts can be ordered online from Boru Sports:

[Bruree NS Schoolwear – Boru Sports](#)

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining a consistent and practical school uniform for all pupils.

Healthy Eating

We encourage children to bring healthy lunches and snacks to school. All of us are well aware of the effects fizzy drinks, crisps etc., have on the children's health and wellbeing. The pupils have a fruit break at 10.00a.m. each morning.

Our Hot School Meals will be provided by Mint Catering this year. We encourage parents to check that their child is eating the food and if necessary to change their order regularly. There is an option to select 'No Meal' if your child does not wish to order a hot meal.

Pupil Personal Insurance

Parents/guardians are encouraged to sign their children up for the ****Pupil Personal Insurance Scheme**** for the 2026/2027 school year.

Payment for the insurance can be made directly through Aladdin. Once payment has been received, the school will have a record that your child has been signed up for the scheme, so there is no need to complete a separate form.

We strongly recommend that all pupils are included in the scheme.

The closing date for payment is Friday, 25th September 2026.

Mobile Phones/Smart Watches

For health reasons, to avoid the possibility of theft and to eliminate one method of bullying, pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones onto the school premises. Mobile phones are not permitted on school outings or trips. If your child needs to contact you during the school day this can be done through the office. On the very rare occasions that your child may require a mobile phone for some reason after school, your child's mobile phone will be stored under lock and key in the principal's office and will be returned at the end of the school day. If a pupil is found in possession of a mobile phone during the school day, the pupil's parents will have to come into the school in order for the phone to be returned. We ask that these guidelines are strictly adhered to during the school year in order to avoid more serious issues which can occur around the use of mobile phones.

We also ask that pupils do not bring smart watches that can make calls, take photographs or receive messages into school. Again, these will be stored under lock and key until home time if a pupil is wearing them.

Nut allergies.

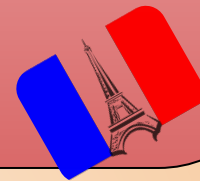
There are pupils in our school who suffer from nut allergies. We ask that pupils do not bring nuts to school as part of their lunch. **Due to these allergies, we will not be able to distribute cakes or buns brought into school to celebrate birthdays.**

Parental Permissions

We are currently collecting our Parental Permissions on Aladdin for the 2026/2027 school year. This is in response to GDPR regulations. Please take the time to accept the Permissions on the 'Permissions' tab on Aladdin. If you wish to discuss any of the permissions please do contact us.

Say Yes to Languages

The school applied in June last year to take part in the 'Say Yes to Languages' primary school module. We were lucky enough to be granted a place on the module. It allows us to offer 8 weeks of French to our 6th class pupils during Term 3 this year. Ms. Brosnan will deliver the lessons to our pupils. She is a fully qualified secondary school French teacher. We hope that our 6th class pupils get a taste for the French language and that it will help prepare them for next year when they have to choose a language to study in secondary school.



Swimming

3rd class will attend swimming lessons during the 2nd term this year. More details will follow after Christmas. The lessons will take place in the Woodlands Hotel Leisure Centre.

Cycling

4th class Safe Cycling Lessons will begin with Kieron Selley this Thursday 3rd September. This is a great opportunity for our 4th class to learn about being safe on their bicycles on the road and how to look after their bikes also.

School Football

Football training for pupils in 4th to 6th Class will commence in the coming weeks as we prepare for the South Primary Schools Football competitions. Training will take place during the school day this year.

We will also be setting up our popular lunchtime football leagues shortly, which will give pupils further opportunities to get involved and enjoy playing football with their classmates.

We would like to thank our teachers for giving their time to coach and prepare our school teams, and we look forward to another enjoyable season of school football.

New Infants/Pupils

I would like to welcome our new junior infants to Bruree NS. We have 13 infants starting in the school this year. We are looking forward to working with the pupils as they progress through the school and I would also like to welcome all the new parents to our school community.

