



**St. Patrick's N.S.,
Bruree,
Co.Limerick.
063-90896**

Halloween Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to thank everyone again for their support and flexibility with the changes we have had to make to daily school life since we have returned to school. Our main aim since we have returned is to provide a safe environment for our pupils and for all members of staff. Everyone has worked really hard to ensure that this is the case and we have been able to concentrate on teaching and learning since we returned in September. The pupils have adapted really well to the new routines in the school. They have all settled down to their normal school work and are enjoying learning and playing with their peers on a daily basis. I would like to thank all our staff who have worked very hard to ensure the safety of all our pupils and who have succeeded in making the return to school as normal as possible in these extraordinary times.

In this newsletter, we have outlined some important information for our school community as well as some news on what has been happening in the school since our return. Please take the time to read it carefully.

*Kind regards,
Ger Kelleher.
Principal*

Child Safeguarding Statement

The school's Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed without modification by the Board of Management at a meeting on 19/10/2020. This review was conducted in accordance with the "Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement" published on the Department's website www.education.ie.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement, Risk Assessment and Notice of our Review can all be found on our school website under the Policies & Forms tab.



The school has also updated its Acceptable Use Policy. This policy relates to our use of the internet in the school. This updated policy can also be found on the school website. If you wish to discuss these policies further please contact the office.

First Communion

Our 3rd class celebrated their Holy Communion early in September this year. While our Communion was very different to other years, all the small groups really enjoyed their day. I would like to thank Ms. Hannon and Mrs. Murnane, all the pupils and parents, Canon Shire and Fr. O'Connor for helping make the Communion a very memorable day for all the children.



Parent/Teacher Meetings

Normally we would have our Parent/Teacher meetings in November. Following advice from our school inspector, we have decided to postpone these meetings until the new year due to current COVID-19 guidelines. At that point, we may be in a position to welcome parents into the school for the traditional Parent/Teacher meeting. If this is not the case, we will have another format for these to take place. In the meantime, if you have any concerns about your child's progress, please contact the class teacher by email and they will organise a phone call at a time that suits you both.

Silver Circle



Our Silver Circle draw will take place again this year beginning on Wednesday 18th November 2020. We will distribute cards to families on the Monday after the midterm break. This year, we will not be able to send cards home on a weekly basis. We are asking that when these cards are returned, all details for the five weeks of the draw are filled in. We will not be returning the cards after each individual draw. We must do the draw this way this year in order to minimise the amount of contact between home and school. I would like to thank you for your cooperation and support for our draw in recent years. A letter outlining all the draw details will be sent home along with the card after the midterm break.

Levelled Readers



The school has recently ordered over 200 new books from the Big Cat series for our Guided Reading initiative which takes place in the middle classes in the school. The readers are levelled which means that each pupil can read a text that is appropriate for them. These titles are added to the nearly 230 book titles that we purchased two years ago. I would like to thank parents for their annual contribution this year. Money raised through this contribution will be used to fund the purchase of these books.

Online Absence Report.



As you are already aware, we have moved our means of reporting absences to an online form which can be found here- <https://bit.ly/2R1yZNA> The form can also be found on our school website under the parents tab here- <https://www.brureens.ie/parents/pupil-absence-note/> We ask that parents fill out this form once their child is ready to return to school. We are obliged to report attendance and absences to the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB) during the year. We will be using the reasons inputted in this form to help us compile our report for the NEWB. Please complete the form in a timely fashion once your child has returned to school. Thank you.

Christmas Annuals

You can purchase your Christmas Annual this year through the school. The pupils have seen a sample in recent days. The annuals are priced at the discounted price of €2. To avail of this price, please bring the money before **November 20th**. More information on the annuals can be found [here](#).

Rugby



We have been in contact with Barry Heffernan, our new rugby coach, and we will have some coaching sessions for all our pupils after the midterm break. We will have more details when we return. These sessions will all comply with current COVID-19 guidelines.

School Self Evaluation

We are continuing to work on our previous School Improvement Plans since our return in September. We are learning all about procedural writing this term and the children have produced some great pieces of writing. We are also continuing to work on our PE and Digital Learning improvement plans since we have returned.

Morning Drop Off/Collection

We would like to thank everyone for cooperating with our new drop off and collection routines in the car park. So far these routines have been working very well. I would like to remind parents to socially distance in the car park when dropping off and collecting their children. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please wear a face mask. Thank you.

Seesaw/Google Classroom



All classes have been set up on Seesaw for the coming year and some classes are also using Google Classroom. The children will be completing activities on these platforms regularly both in school and for homework. It is important that your child can log in and use these platforms at home. We all really hope that the schools do not have to close again due to COVID-19 but in the event that they do we want to be as well prepared as possible. If the school does close, we will be using these platforms to continue with teaching and learning. If you are experiencing any difficulties with accessing the platform being used in your child's class, please contact the class teacher.

School Books

We plan on sending home the pupils' books this week for the midterm break. Again this is in the event that the school does not return due to further restrictions after the midterm break. At this point, there is no indication that the schools will

be closed after the midterm and we are only taking this step as a precaution. We fully expect the schools to reopen on November 2nd and we look forward to welcoming back our pupils after the midterm break.

Ventilation

Schools have been advised to maintain good ventilation in classrooms to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. As a result we will be keeping windows and doors open as we move into the cooler Winter months. We will heat the school and the classrooms as usual but with open doors and windows the classrooms will be cooler than normal. We ask that pupils dress appropriately for the weather. Please bring coats, hats and scarves to school when the weather is cold. Pupils will be allowed to wear their coats inside if they need to.

Book Rental



Please note that if book rental books are damaged or lost, we will be asking parents to replace them. The scheme provides considerable savings for everyone. In order for the scheme to be sustainable, the books must last for a number of years. If your child's book is lost or damaged, you will receive a letter outlining the cost of replacing the book. We ask that you return the money to the school to replace the damaged/lost book. Thank you.

COVID-19

As you are aware the cases of COVID-19 are rising across the country. At present, **we do not** have a case of COVID-19 in our school community. However, this may happen at any time. There is information [here](#) from our website explaining the procedures if we do have a positive case in the school. The information can be found by clicking the parents tab and then COVID-19 Info on the website. The school is bound to follow this guidance.

eTwinning



The school was delighted to receive our eTwinning label in recent days following all our hard work last year. This is a great honour and is recognition of the great work done with eTwinning projects, and in particular the collaborative project undertaken in 3rd-6th class in the 2019-2020 school year with a school in Spain. The project provided the children with the opportunity to learn about some of the culture and traditions in Spain as well as everyday life, particularly in relation to school life. Well done to Mrs. Murnane, who spearheaded the project, and all the teachers and pupils involved.

Maths Week

All classes took part in Maths Week 2020 last week and really enjoyed all the different Maths activities. Classes took part in shape hunts, used Studyladder and Mathletics to practise their number facts and took part in some target board challenges. 6th class really challenged themselves with work on Pythagoras Theorem and after some serious thought and group work they managed to solve the activity. More pictures and activities can be found on our Twitter page- @brureens. You can see some pictures from our week below. Well done to everyone who took part.

