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ST. PATRICK'S N.S. SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2022

Welcome Back

Firstly, I would like to welcome all our pupils, staff and parents back to St. Patrick's NS for another school year. We are looking forward to another great year in the school.

Over the summer months, we replaced the windows in the GP room and in Ms. Hannon's room. We also replaced the entry doors in that section of the school. We have installed a new interactive whiteboard in the GP room where 6th class will be based this year. As you will have noticed, the school car park was resurfaced over the summer and the entrance widened.

I would like to thank Ger Sexton and family for all their hard work over the summer cleaning and preparing for the new school year. While many of the restrictions from Covid 19 are no longer in place we will still continue to encourage hand washing and sanitising regularly during the day. Finally, this newsletter contains lots of important information about the year ahead. Please do take the time to read it.

Kind regards,



Our Staff 2022

Gerard Sexton – Caretaker/Cleaner

Paula O'Grady – Special Needs Assistant

Eileen O'Connell – Special Needs Assistant

Frances Killeen – Special Needs Assistant

Claire English- Special Needs Assistant

Fiona Walsh – Support Teacher

Margaret Irwin- Support Teacher

Nicola Costelloe/Grace Brosnan- Support Teacher

Karen Conmy- Junior Infant teacher

Anna O'Dea – Senior Infant/

Jean Hannon- 1st class teacher

Karen Murnane- 2nd/3rd class teacher

Catherine Hynes- 3rd/4th class teacher/Vice Principal

Róisín Cussen- 5th class teacher

David Reidy- 6th class teacher

Ger Kelleher- Principal

Communication

The school will use 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 8.30am and 5.30pm. Please do give the teacher time to respond to your message.

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

The school also has a twitter account which gives a great weekly snapshot in to school life. We can be found on Twitter 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.

P/T Meetings

Parent Teacher meetings usually take place in the school during November.

We will decide on how these will proceed this year closer to the time. It is possible that we will offer a range of options to suit parents.

School Reports

School reports are issued to all parents in June. We will continue to use the Aladdin App this year to issue reports. The reports will normally be sent approximately one week before the end of the school year. .

Annual Contribution

As outlined in your child's booklist in June, we ask for a €30 contribution per child (maximum €100 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 licenses 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 contributions.

We are aware that September is an expensive time for parents. The contribution can be paid in installments up to the Christmas holidays.

Safety Notice

The school will return to opening to receive pupils at **9.00 a.m.** this school year. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Pupils can arrive at the school at any time before 9.20. This allows 20 minutes for staggered entry to the school. Punctuality is expected at all times. Classes will end each day at 2.00 p.m. for Infants and at 3.00 p.m. for classes I – VI.

All pupils from 1st to 6th will finish at 3.00pm this year. This does mean that our car park will be very busy at this time. Our drop and go system will continue in the car park. We ask that parents move forward to take available spaces as they appear in the car park and leave the car park as quickly as possible once they have collected their children. Please do not leave your car unattended in a space where it is likely to block cars from entering the car park.

In the case of children travelling on the school bus, the school cannot accept responsibility for escorting them from the bus to the school or from the school to the bus. Parents who feel that their children need to be escorted on these occasions should make arrangements to ensure escort is provided. For the safety of the children travelling on the school bus please allow room for the bus driver to park as close to the side gate as possible.

Children who walk/cycle to school should enter through the front gate.

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.

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.

Music Teacher

We are delighted that Joan Slattery will be attending the school each Wednesday this year to teach tin whistle, music and singing to all our classes. We are looking forward to working with Joan.

Well done!!!

Well done to David Reidy and his Limerick teammates on winning their 4th All Ireland in 5 years in July. A fantastic achievement from a brilliant group of players and their management team. Well done also to Anna O'Dea who represented the Irish tag rugby team during the summer.

Canon Shire

On behalf of everyone in the school community I would like to thank Canon Shire for all his support and hard work over the last number of years. We wish him the very best in his new parish in Limerick city. I would also like to welcome Fr. Gibson who will be joining the parish next week.

Sacraments

We are awaiting dates for our Communion and Confirmation this year. Once these have been confirmed we will be in touch with parents in the relevant classes.

Silver Circle Draw

The school will hold a draw in aid of school funds in November/December. Over the past year our Silver Circle Draw has provided a variety of resources e.g. new graded and levelled readers, new interactive panels in each classroom, new iPads, development of a sensory pathway and contributed to the purchase of classroom materials.

This year we will use the funds raised to develop a sensory garden to the side of the school. The first Silver Circle draw will take place on Wednesday 16th November and will continue every Wednesday for the following four weeks. The subscription is €2 a week for five weeks. A draw card will be issued closer to the mid term break.

Dress Code

School uniform is worn on all days except PE days. Class teachers will inform you of PE days early in the school year. We have introduced a school tracksuit top for PE days this year. It can be purchased at the following

[link-https://borusports.ie/product-category/schools/bruree-ns/](https://borusports.ie/product-category/schools/bruree-ns/)

The top is optional for pupils in senior infants to 6th class.

Head Lice

Please check your child's hair regularly for outbreaks of head lice.

This is a huge problem nationally. If there is an outbreak of head lice in a class, all parents of pupils in that class are informed on the Aladdin Connect App, and are asked to take immediate action to help minimise any outbreak.

Healthy Eating

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

We will continue to use the [Lunch Bag App](#) in the school this year. Parents can begin by downloading the app, finding our school on the list and joining your child's class. Orders must be made by 12pm at least one day in advance.

Pupil Personal Insurance

Please join the Pupil Personal Insurance scheme by following this link- <https://bit.ly/3pVtXDO>. The completed form and correct amount of money are required before your child can be entered into the scheme. We strongly advise parents to enter their children in the scheme. Please see the online application form for more details. The closing date for this scheme is 21/09/2022.

Mobile Phones

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.



Nut allergies.

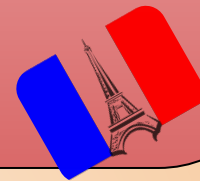
There are pupils in our school who suffer from nut allergies. We ask that pupils do not bring nuts to school as part of their lunch. **Due to these allergies, we will not be able to distribute cakes or buns brought into school to celebrate birthdays.**

School Garden

As you are aware, we have installed a polytunnel to the side of the school and each class will have their own section to work with during the year. We are looking forward to getting started.

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 1. 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 lesson during the 3rd 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 8th 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.

After School Football Training

Pupils in 4th to 6th class will commence after school on Thursday 15th September between 3pm and 4pm. This will continue while we are involved in the South Primary Schools Football competition. I would like to thank the teachers for giving up their time to help coach our school teams.

Speech and Drama Classes

Ailbhe Donnelly Flanagan, Speech and Drama teacher, has expressed an interest in starting speech and drama classes after school on a Monday evening. An expression of interest form will be sent to parents this week to see how much interest there is in attending the class. The class will be open to pupils from 2nd to 6th classes. Depending on interest, Ailbhe is willing to run a second class starting at 4pm. All details relating to the cost, times and no of weeks will be on the form later this week.

New Infants

I would like to welcome our new junior infants to Bruree NS. We have 25 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.

Welcome Back Everyone