



St. Patrick's N.S.,  
Bruree,  
Co.Limerick

## *September Newsletter* *2021*



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, I would like to welcome all our pupils, staff and parents back to St. Patrick's NS for another school year. While there are still many Covid 19 related restrictions in place across the school, we are hopeful that we will have a full year in school and that our pupils will continue to make progress with their learning.

Again, I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and support since we have returned to school. The pupils are settling back in very well to their daily routine.

Over the summer months, Grant O'Brien Cleaning Services undertook a full deep clean of the school. We also upgraded shelving in our support room, installed three more interactive panels in our classrooms and added some beautiful paintings to our sensory pathway. Our caretaker, Ger Sexton, was very busy around the school grounds making sure that the school was in great condition for our return. I would like to thank Ger for his hard work over the summer. I would also like to thank Aisling for painting some lovely activities on the school footpaths for our younger children at the front of the school.

I would like to welcome Grace Brosnan to our staff. Grace will be working as a support teacher in a job share arrangement with Nicola Costelloe.

Finally, I would like to congratulate David Reidy and the Limerick team on their fantastic win in the All Ireland Final recently. We hope to have a day of celebration with David in the school in the near future.

Kind regards,

Ger Kelleher.

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## Our Staff:

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/1st class teacher

Jean Hannon- 1st/2nd class teacher

Karen Murnane- 3rd class teacher

Catherine Hynes- 4th class teacher/Vice Principal

David Reidy- 5th class teacher

Róisín Cussen- 6th class teacher

Ger Kelleher- Principal

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I wish to draw your attention to the following items. They are important and will help in the smooth running and order of your child’s school life.



### Communication:

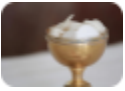
Obviously with COVID-19 restrictions currently in place, visitors have very limited access to the school. If parents need to contact their child’s class teacher please use the Aladdin Connect App. The school has recently set up the **Aladdin Connect App**. This will be the primary method of communication this year. You will receive a notification on the app when the school makes contact. You can also inform the school when your child is absent, running late or has to leave the school early through the app. You can also contact the class teacher through the app but this should only be between 8.30am and 5.30pm. Please give the class teacher time to respond to your message.

The school also has a twitter account that can be found under the handle [@brureens](#). We regularly post updates on daily life in the school here and it is a great way for parents to get a snapshot of what is happening in the school.

The school also has a website that can be accessed on <https://www.brureens.ie/> This website has been updated in the past year and contains all the useful information that parents will need. It will be updated regularly with news and items about daily life in the school.. We hope that you enjoy visiting it in the weeks and months ahead.

The school will also distribute a newsletter for parents on a regular basis during the school year. This will be distributed on the school website and through Aladdin Connect.

**Parent/Teacher Meeting:** Parent/Teacher meetings normally take place in November. We will decide how these will proceed this year closer to the time.



**Sacraments:** We will celebrate Confirmation on Saturday 11th of September. Last year's 6th class as well as this year's 6th class will be confirmed on the day. They have waited quite a while for their big day and we are looking forward to celebrating with them.

This year's 3rd class will make their Communion on 18th of September. Again they have been waiting patiently to receive their First Holy Communion.

The times and venues for these sacraments have been sent to parents by email this week.

**School Reports:** Reports are issued each June to all Parents. This year the reports will be issued through the Aladdin Connect app.

#### **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 and photocopying costs. 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 open to receive pupils at **8.50 a.m.** **No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time.** Pupils can arrive at the school at any time before 9.20. This allows 30 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. New arrangements are in place this year for drop off and collection times in the car park. I would like to thank parents again for their cooperation with these arrangements,

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

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class: 20 – 45 mins

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

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class: 1hr approx

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

### **Parents Association:**

I would like to thank our Parent Association for their continued support last year. They organised beautiful Christmas cards for the children and this fundraiser was very well supported. It was a difficult year in which to organise events and meetings due to Covid 19. The Association is always looking for new members and it is hoped that an AGM can take place this year once it is safe to do so.



**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 the school will make a contribution to the Rockhill/Bruree Community Fund from our Silver Circle Draw. This fund has been set up to help a number of projects that will benefit the local community. Part of the plan is to develop an astro turf facility and hurling wall to the rear of the school. This would be of obvious benefit to the school community and we will have full use of this facility during the school day. On behalf of the school community, I would ask you to support our Silver Circle draw this year so that we can make a contribution to this great community project.*

*The Rockhill/Bruree Community Fund can be supported on their webpage <https://www.winamazda.com/> First prize in the final monthly draw is a Mazda MX3.*

The first Silver Circle draw will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Dropping off items:**

Please ensure that your child has all the items they need when they are coming to school each morning. In the rare event that you need to drop lunch or another important item, please ring or email the school in advance of coming to the school. A closed plastic box will be placed inside the small side wall of the school and you can drop the forgotten item here. A member of staff will collect it and drop it into your child.

**Dress Code:** The school uniform is worn on all school days other than on days of PE classes. Research has shown that where schools and children have a proper respect for the uniform and appearance that school life benefits in many ways. This year, we ask that pupils have appropriate clothing for all types of weather as we want them to get out in the fresh air as much as possible. Please ensure that all clothes likely to be removed i.e., hats, scarves, jumpers etc. are clearly labelled in bold writing with your child's name on it.



**Health/Safety:** 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 treat infestation.

### **Pupil Personal Insurance.**

In order to cut down on the amount of items travelling between home and school, the application form for Pupil Personal Insurance form can be filled out online this year. [A link for the form will be text to parents and can also be found here.](#) When you submit the form to the school, please send in the appropriate money to the school the following day. 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 **22/09/2021**

### **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.

**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.

### **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 now use the new Aladdin Connect App to notify the school of absences.** This can be done using the 'Attendance & Notes' tab on the app. We would encourage parents to use this tab to explain absences. There is no need to ring the school regarding an absence. If the school is concerned about your child's attendance we will be in contact with you.

Where possible, appointments should be made for after school time. Pupils leaving school early on a regular basis do end up missing a lot of teaching time during the school year and this should be minimised where possible.

### **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.

### **School Calendar:**



A copy of the school calendar has been attached to this newsletter.

<b>Term 1</b>	
<b>August</b>	School reopens on 30/08/2021
<b>September</b>	Confirmation 11/09/2021 Communion 18/09/2021
<b>October/November</b>	Mid- term break: Monday 25th Oct to Friday 29th Oct
<b>December</b>	Christmas Holidays: School will close at 12.30pm on Wednesday 22nd December.
<b>Term 2</b>	
<b>January</b>	School opens Thursday 6th January
<b>February</b>	Mid-term break: Thursday 24th February & Friday 25th February
<b>March</b>	Public Holidays: Thursday 17th March School Closed: Friday 18th March
<b>March/April</b>	Easter Holidays: School will close at 12.30 p.m. on Friday 8th April. School will open on Monday 25th April.
<b>Term 3</b>	
<b>May</b>	Public Holiday: Monday 2nd May
<b>June</b>	Public Holiday: Monday 6th June Summer Holidays: Schools will close 12.30pm on Thursday 23rd June



### Extra Curricular Activities

At the moment, we are very much concentrating on reopening the school and spending time establishing new routines for our pupils and staff. We take great pride in St. Patrick's N.S. in providing a broad range of extra curricular activities every year. We will continue to monitor guidance in relation to Covid-19 and when it is possible and safe to do so we will reintroduce some of the activities that everyone in our school community enjoys.

All in the school community here in St. Patrick's N.S., are looking forward to the new school year. We look forward to working in partnership with the parents and all in the Bruree community this year to ensure that the pupils in the school achieve the best possible learning outcomes.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Your support and cooperation in the past is appreciated and we all look forward to a happy and productive year for all the children in the school.

Regards,  
Ger Kelleher.  
Principal  
06390896



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