



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

Christmas Newsletter 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone in our school community for all their patience, commitment and hard work as we near the end of an extraordinary calendar year in the school. Everyone has played their part in ensuring that the school has remained open since we have returned. It is a testament to the culture in St. Patrick's N.S. that everyone looked out for each other and followed the guidelines and protocols that have been in place since we returned in September. We can hope that after the Christmas holidays a return to normal is on the horizon and that we will be able to continue with some of the school activities that we have had to forego in recent months. We will need to remain extremely vigilant on our return and continue to follow the guidelines outlined by the Department but there is hope that better, more normal school days are ahead in the coming months.

Considering all the changes we have had to make in the school since our return, we have had a very busy and action packed first term. The children have really enjoyed being back at school and learning with their peers. Our new infants have settled into school life really well and all our pupils have made great progress considering the time they missed due to school closures.

In this newsletter, we will outline our news, activities and some future events. We have also included pictures of art and other activities the pupils have been working on in recent weeks.

On behalf of all the staff and Board of Management, I would like to wish everyone in the school community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ger Kelleher.
Principal

Silver Circle Draw

I would like to thank everyone in the school community who supported our Silver Circle Draw in recent weeks. The draw was a huge success again this year. Congratulations to all our winners. The money raised from the draw will be used to fund the projects that I will outline below. Thanks again for your kindness and generosity.



Sensory Pathway

The money raised from our Silver Circle Draw will be used to fund a sensory pathway along the corridor in the new section of the building. Sensory spaces are a fun and engaging way for children to get their wiggles out, refocus during a transition or self-soothe after facing a difficult challenge. These paths are created to be colorful and playful and turn a passive environment into an active one. Not only do they add more physical activity to a child's day, they can also be designed to help them practice a variety of skills and just play. Ms. Conmy and Ms. O'Dea have been busy in recent weeks developing ideas for our sensory pathway. Our pathway will use 'Nature' as its theme and we hope that it will be in place before the midterm break in February. It will be a very exciting addition to the school and will benefit many of our pupils.

New Flooring

We have a number of projects planned in the school over the holidays. We will be replacing the carpet on our main corridor and replacing it with a marmoleum flooring. This type of flooring is more hygienic, brighter and easier to maintain. We will also plan on painting the hallway in the new section of the school in preparation for our sensory pathway.

Luimneach Abú



We were all delighted and thrilled to see Limerick crowned All Ireland Champions last Sunday. It was made all the sweeter by having our teacher and past pupil David Reidy there as a player on the day. Well done to David and to all his teammates on the Limerick team. They have brought great excitement and joy to us all over the last number of weeks. We have seen up close the huge personal effort that goes into performing at that level and David is a great role model to have in our school. We are already looking forward to getting back onto the pitch with our pupils and practising our skills when it is safe to do so. Hopefully we will be able to have a day of celebration with David and some of his teammates in the coming months.





Guess the Score

We ran a very exciting competition for our pupils in the lead up to the All Ireland Final this year. Pupils had to guess the score of the big game. We had seven very lucky winners of the competition. Róisín from 3rd class won the first prize of a signed sliotar used by the Limerick team used in training in recent weeks. Our other winners-Maddie, Cathal, Senan, John, Ebbie and PJ won a sliotar each also used by the Limerick team in their final training sessions. Thanks to Mr. Reidy for organising the prizes.

Coaching

Pupils from all our classes have enjoyed some GAA and rugby coaching with Barry and Ollie in recent weeks. Even though the weather has been cold, the children loved getting outside and practising all their skills again. I would like to thank the two coaches for organising the sessions in the safest manner possible.

Christmas Concert

The pupils and teachers put together a short video of some songs, poems and music this Christmas for you all to enjoy. We would have loved to have welcomed parents in to see the children performing their songs but it wasn't to be this year. We hope that you enjoy it. I would like to thank Ben for his work in recording the video and Chris for helping to upload it onto the website. Well done to all the teachers and pupils. The link to view the recording can be found here- <https://www.brureens.ie/notices/christmas-concert-2020/>



eTwinning

3rd class are continuing to work on their Languages United etwinning project. The class designed Logos for the project recently. They then had to pick their favourite to represent the class. Each class involved in the project then has one vote to pick their favourite from all the classes. Our logo to represent the class was designed by Emma O' Regan. We are still waiting for the vote to see which one wins. Before Christmas they will create a presentation about Christmas traditions in Ireland and will also record a song outdoors to send to all the partner classes. They will be able to see similar presentations from each of the partner classes and it will be a fun way to learn about Christmas traditions all around Europe and to hear other children performing Christmas songs. They are all really enjoying the project. You can read more about their work on eTwinning on the school website.

IXL



All pupils from 1st to 6th class have been given IXL Maths accounts in recent weeks. IXL allows our pupils to practise their Maths skills in a fun way online and to complete challenges that are individually tailored to each pupil. The pupils have been having great fun completing their challenges set by the teachers on a weekly basis. Pupils use IXL in school but they can also access the site at home. The teachers set activities to reinforce the topics being covered in class. We would encourage parents to sit with their children while they complete these Maths activities occasionally so that they can see the progress they are making.



12 Days of Fitmas

All our classes have been very busy taking part in the 12 Days of Fitmas in recent days. Seasonal activities are part of our Active School Flag initiative and bring a fun aspect to physical activity. This fun activity involves the pupils completing different exercises in the lead up to the holidays. A copy of the activity can be found [here](#) if you wish to try out the activities over Christmas.

Christmas Activities

The pupils in all our classes have been taking part in lots of different Christmas activities as we come close to the holidays. Take a look at the pictures below to see some of the things we have been up to.







Pupils Absence

Please fill out the pupil absence form once your child has returned to school. The form can be found by following this link- <https://bit.ly/2R1yZNA>. The form can also be found on the school website under the the Parents Tab here- <https://www.brureens.ie/> Even if you email a class teacher or the office regarding an absence, you still need to fill out this form. Thank you.

Enrolment 2021/2022

We are now accepting enrolments for the next school year. Please contact the office for application forms.

Christmas Cards

We would like to thank our Parent Association for organising the Christmas cards this year. The cards were very well designed by the pupils and we would like to thank everyone who supported the fundraiser.

Visit from Santa

Our younger classes had a very special visitor on Friday 18th December. Unfortunately, Santa could not visit in person this year due to the pandemic but he took time out of his busy schedule to Zoom call our pupils in Juniors, Seniors, 1st and 2nd. The children were delighted to chat with Santa and were mighty relieved when Santa informed them that they were all on the 'nice list' this year. It came as no surprise to anyone in the school as all our pupils have been working very hard since our return.





Saving Christmas

Draíocht theatre school along with DabbleDoo Music had a very important mission for Junior and Senior infants - they had to save Christmas! Santa's sleigh was broken and it wouldn't fly. The children had the help repair Santa's sleigh with their Christmas singing and cheer. They sang lots of Christmas songs from different parts of the world and played musical instruments too. They did a super job and saved Christmas!



Santa Dash

The pupils took part in a very enjoyable Santa Dash on Friday 18th December. This was an Active Schools activity with a festive twist for the time of the year. All the pupils and staff enjoyed getting some physical activity in before the Christmas holidays.



School Books



As a precautionary measure, all class teachers will send home a selection of school books before the Christmas holidays. We fully expect to reopen as normal after the break.

Christmas Holidays

The school will close for the Christmas Holidays on Tuesday 22nd December at 12.30pm.

The arrangements for the car park on the day of the holidays is as follows:

12.10pm Children who travel by bus and infants who have no other siblings in the school

12.20pm- P with surnames beginning with the letters A-K

12.30- All remaining pupils

We will reopen again on **Wednesday January 6th** at 9.20am.(There was a slight error on the September newsletter)
Again, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas this year.

