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# ST. PATRICK'S N.S. SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

## 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 working with everyone in our school community.

We have had a very busy summer in the school with lots of work ongoing here.

- A new marmoleum floor was fitted in the GP room and in the 4th/5th class room.
- Both these rooms and the toilet area between them were painted.
- We installed new storage units in the GP room and in one of our SEN rooms.
- You will notice that we have upgraded our entrance to the rear of the school and lowered the wall leaving our car park to help with visibility on the road.
- The school was also deep cleaned in late August by Grant O'Brien Contract Cleaners and the all the windows were cleaned inside and out by the Cleaning Dr.

I would also like to thank Ger Sexton and family for all their efforts over the summer with general maintenance of the school. Finally this newsletter contains lots of important information about the year ahead. Please do take the time to read it.

*Ger Kelleher*



## Our Staff 2023

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  
Gráinne Boyce- Special Needs Assistant  
Fiona Walsh – Support Teacher  
Margaret Irwin- Support Teacher  
Nicola Costelloe/Róisín Cussen- Support Teacher(Job Share)  
Karen Conmy- Junior Infant teacher  
Grace Brosnan – Senior Infant/  
Jean Hannon- 1st class teacher  
Karen Murnane- 2nd class teacher  
Catherine Hynes- 3rd class teacher/Vice Principal  
Muirne Lyons- 4th/5th class teacher  
David Reidy- 5th/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 8.45am 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 e Payments 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 this year. A tab will appear on the Parent homepage.

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. Last year we offered two options to parents- a face to face meeting or a phone call. We will offer similar options to parents again this year.

## 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 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 contributions.

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.

## Safety Notice

The school will open 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. 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 1st to 6th class.

**As you know, our car park will be very busy at 3pm. 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.**

We have made a number of improvements to the car park in recent years in order to help with traffic in the evening. These include introducing a drop and go system, resurfacing the car park and lowering the wall as you leave the car park to improve visibility.

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 do not park in the space that has been allocated to the bus in the car park. 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.

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.

### **Music Teacher**

We are delighted that Joan Slattery will be attending the school each Wednesday again 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 a row last 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 in the Tag Rugby World Cup.

### **Aladdin Connect Homework**

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

### **Sacraments**

We are awaiting a date for our Communion. Once these have been confirmed we will be in touch with parents in the relevant class.

## 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, the installation of basketball hoops and line markings on the rear yard 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 15th 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-ni/](https://borusports.ie/product-category/schools/bruree-ni/)

The top is optional for pupils in 1st to 6th class but we do encourage pupils to wear it if possible.

## 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. All instructions on how to order can be found on the app.

## Pupil Personal Insurance

Please join the Pupil Personal Insurance scheme by following this link-<https://forms.gle/ckVdte1bNKAwUrF67>. The completed form and correct amount of money are required before your child can be entered into the scheme. Insurance can be paid this year through Aladdin. 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 20/09/2023

### 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.

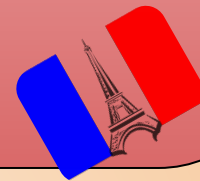
There are pupils in our school who suffer from nut allergies. We ask that pupils do not bring nuts to school as part of their lunch. **Due to these allergies, we will not be able to distribute cakes or buns brought into school to celebrate birthdays.**

### 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 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 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 Tuesday 12th September between 3pm and 4pm. This will continue while we are involved in the South Primary Schools Football competition. We will also run out Lunchtime Football while the weather remains dry. I would like to thank the teachers for giving up their time to help coach our school teams.

### **Speech and Drama Classes**

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, Ailbhe Donnelly Flanagan is not in a position to begin Speech and Drama Classes in September this term. She does plan on beginning classes later in the term when she is in a position to do so. She will drop results of last year's examinations to the school in the coming days. She will also be in touch with the parents of pupils who attending Speech and Drama classes last year.

### **New Infants**

I would like to welcome our new junior infants to Bruree NS. We have 23 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



# School Improvements over the Summer

