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ST. PATRICK'S N.S. SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

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 shed has been erected to the rear of the school to store all our PE equipment safely
- 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 CB Cleaning Services. All our flat roofs were cleaned also.
- Our sensory garden has been developed further. I would like to thank Ger Sexton, Jean Hannon and Cuan Mhuire for all their support with this project.

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 2024

Gerard Sexton – Caretaker
Cleaners- Grant O'Brien Cleaners
Mary O'Regan- School Secretary
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/Róisín Cussen – Support Teacher(Job Share)
Margaret Irwin- Support Teacher
Ciara English- Support Teacher
Nicola Costelloe- Junior/Senior Infant teacher
Grace Brosnan – Senior Infant/1st Class
Jean Hannon- 1st/2nd class teacher
Catherine Hynes- 3rd class teacher/Vice Principal
Karen Murnane- 4th class teacher
Muirne Lyons-5th class teacher
David Reidy- 6th class teacher
Ger Kelleher- Principal

Communication

The school will continue 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 Calendar

Our school calendar can be found on the Aladdin app by clicking on the 'Calendar' tab. This tab is regularly updated with upcoming school events and closures. Please note that the school will be closed on 3rd December for Primary Maths Curriculum Training. A calendar can also be found on our school website at this link-

Annual Contribution

As outlined in your child's booklist in June, we ask for a €40 contribution per child (maximum €140 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. If you wish to pay in installments, this must be done in cash or by cheque through Mary in the school office.

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. If you are collecting a child from after school at 3pm please park as close to the after school premises as possible if you will be leaving your car.

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.

Children who walk to school should use the pedestrian lights to cross the road and enter through the gate at the front of the school

Work will continue outside the school for the coming weeks. Thank you for your patience while these works are being completed.

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.

Our School Secretary

As you may know, we have a school secretary, Mary O'Regan, in the school since last Easter. We are very lucky to have Mary with us and she is happy to help with any queries you may have during the school day. We would ask that when visiting the school that parents use the bottom door closest to the school car park and Mary is very happy to assist you from there.

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.

Boru Sports

If you require extra tracksuit tops or shorts during the school year the Boru Sports link will be open all year here- <https://borusports.ie/product-category/club-shop/bruree-ns/>. The shop can also be contacted on 061-364 750.

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.

The monies raised this year will go towards the upgrading of some of our older iPads, purchasing new PE equipment, decodable readers for our younger classes, novels for our middle and older classes as well as the continued development of our school garden.

Dress Code

As you are aware, we have moved across fully to a school tracksuit this school year.

Our tracksuit top and shorts can be purchased at this link

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

We will be encouraging pupils to wear the proper school tracksuit during the year and have a number of spare tops in the office for pupils who do not have it on on any given day. We do understand that some pupils are still awaiting delivery of their tops in early September

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.

Our Hot School Meals will continue to be provided by Gourmet Kids this year. We will be providing lunch boxes in a few weeks so that the children can take home any food that isn't eaten. This will help inform parents as to the meals that their children like when ordering on a weekly basis.

Pupil Personal Insurance

Please join the Pupil Personal Insurance scheme by following this link-<https://bit.ly/schoolinsurance24-25>. 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 27/09/2024

Mobile Phones/Smart Watches

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.

We also ask that pupils do not bring smart watches that can make calls, take photographs or receive messages into school. Again, these will be stored under lock and key until home time if a pupil is wearing them.

Nut allergies.

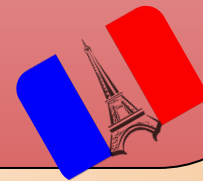
There are pupils in our school who suffer from nut allergies. We ask that pupils do not bring nuts to school as part of their lunch. **Due to these allergies, we will not be able to distribute cakes or buns brought into school to celebrate birthdays.**

School Garden/Gardening Club

As you are aware, we have a very successful garden in the school and last year we established a gardening club. We will be continuing with this project this year under the guidance of Frances and Ms. Hannon. We are looking forward to all their produce later in the year.

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 lessons 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 Tuesday 3rd 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 in the coming weeks. This will continue while we are involved in the South Primary Schools Football competition. We will also run our 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.

New Infants/Pupils

I would like to welcome our new junior infants to Bruree NS. We have 11 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. We also welcome a number of new pupils and families to our school in other classes and we are very much looking forward to getting to know you all.

