



## St. Brigid's National School

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## February Newsletter 2023

### Peace Proms 2023

Well done to the pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class who represented our school at the RDS on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> February. What a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to perform at the RDS, to sing with a choir with 2500 other pupils and to perform alongside a full symphony youth orchestra, conducted by internationally acclaimed Maestro Greg Beardsell.

### School Twitter Account

Please follow and share our school twitter account @brigid\_ns to receive reports of all the latest news, events, photos, activities and great work being done by the pupils and staff in our school each and every day!



### Catholic Schools Week 2023

We celebrated 'Catholic Schools Week 2023' in January. The purpose of the week was to highlight and celebrate the contribution that Catholic Schools make to our local communities. This year's theme was 'Walking Together in Faith and Love'.

### St. Brigid's Day Mass & Grandparents' Day

We were thrilled to have so many Grandparents join us to celebrate St. Brigid's Day with a beautiful mass, officiated by Fr. Anthony. What a lovely way to welcome the arrival of spring. Our continued best wishes to all our Grandparents.



### St. Brigid's Day Crosses

We would like to express our thanks to all the pupils, past pupils, parents, The Parents Association and teachers who helped in any way to collect rushes or make crosses for St. Brigid's Day. We would also like to thank the Parents Association who gave up their time to sell crosses after parish masses. A massive €1,189.86 has been raised from the sales of crosses for school funds!! On your children's behalf our very proactive PA have been working hard to ensure monies are available to our school.



### Brigid 1500

As part of the Kildare County Council Brigid 1500 anniversary celebrations, the first class pupils planted two apple trees in the school garden in honour of St. Brigid. We look forward to seeing them grow.

### Anti-Bullying & Friendship Week

The Students Council/Anti-Bullying Ambassadors organised a successful Anti-Bullying and Friendship Week last week. They organised a poster competition for the whole school and each day organised playground games and activities for the Junior and Middle classes. We also had a visit from Local Community Garda Lenny and Garda Aidan to speak to 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class on the importance of online safety.





### **Friends For Life Programme**

We will be running a programme called 'FRIENDS for Life' as part of our SPHE programme in school. This programme will be introduced to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class pupils in the coming week. The 'FRIENDS for Life' programme was created to assist children to build resilience and self-esteem and to learn important skills and techniques to cope with feelings of fear, worry and anxiety. The programme will run for ten sessions as part of the SPHE Curriculum. In each session, children are guided through a series of class-based activities designed to teach skills for dealing with worrying situations. Some of the skills taught include: problem-solving skills; managing unhelpful thoughts; relaxation etc. At the end of each session the children will be presented with a home-based activity, reinforcing the strategies taught in the 'Friends for Life' session. We would encourage parents to become involved in this home-based activity. For further information about the 'FRIENDS for Life' programme, please visit the website at [www.friendsresilience.org](http://www.friendsresilience.org). We thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in what will be an extremely valuable experience for your child.

### **Relationship and Sexuality Education (R.S.E)**

R.S.E lessons will begin for all classes in the coming weeks. You will all receive a letter with a Home/School Links sheet detailing the content to be covered with your child's class. It would be helpful if you could discuss what is being learnt at school with your child at home. Please let us know if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

### **Swimming**

Swimming lessons have commenced for pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class. Please ensure payment is up to date.

### **Gymnastics Lessons-School Fitness Ireland**

The pupils from all classes will get the opportunity to take part in a 6 week programme, with each of the 3 classrooms getting a 30 minute session weekly. The coach will bring all equipment needed and sessions will take place indoors. The cost is just €15 per child for the full 6-week programme. The dates are as follows:

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. A link for payment has been sent out via Aladdin.

### Gaelic Sessions

Jenny form Carbury GAA in conjunction with Kildare GAA will visit to school to complete a block of eight sessions with all classes to develop basic GAA skills. The dates are as follows: **March 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.**

### Punctuality

Pupils arriving late are disrupting the smooth running of the school day. This is causing disruption to the office, to staff and to the class that has already commenced. Children should be in their classes by 9:00 am sharp. The number of late hours will appear on the child's attendance profile on Aladdin at the end of the year.

### Homework/Seesaw

Homework is an important link between home and school and offers children the chance to consolidate their learning. Please ensure you check homework each evening and sign their homework journal. Please ensure you have a Seesaw account up and running as weekly homework is set through this online platform.

### Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class will be held face-to-face/by phone during the week of **March 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>.** Appointment times will be released to parents via Aladdin on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February. Meetings will be **10 minutes** in duration and we ask that parents knock on the classroom door at their appointment time for face-to-face meetings. Please be mindful not to delay, parents will be waiting as meeting times are scheduled back to back. If you require a longer meeting, an alternative meeting will have to be arranged at a later date.

### Annual Review of Child Safeguarding Statement

The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 require that the Board of Management must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement on an annual basis. The school's current Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are available on our website [www.ticknevinns.ie](http://www.ticknevinns.ie). As previously outlined we are seeking your feedback in relation to the school's compliance with the requirements of these Child Protection Procedures. Please take a moment to email the school with any feedback you may have in relation to this.

Wishing you all a lovely midterm break with your families and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Le gach dea-ghuí  
Nóra Lynch  
Principal St. Brigid's N.S.

### **Dates for Diary**

**Spring Midterm:** 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**Ceremony of Light:** 12<sup>th</sup> March at 11am.

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** 15<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.

**St. Patrick's Weekend:** School closed 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Please see the calendar section on the Aladdin Connect app for all upcoming dates/events.