



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well. Your cooperation has greatly helped in our efforts to manage what has been a very challenging term. The children have been terrific in complying with challenging requests and on behalf of my colleagues, I would like to extend a huge thanks to you and your children for understanding the situation and for doing as much as possible to keep the community of St Brigid's N.S. safe. We continue to navigate our way through these challenging times as best we can. As you can imagine, it has not been an easy time for my colleagues and I am very grateful for their hard work and dedication. We have made December as enjoyable and celebratory as possible for the children. We put up decorations and played festive music in the yard. We booked the Panto and all the Class Elves helped to bring some much welcome excitement every day.

We are designating Wednesday, 22nd December as a special Christmas festivity day. We invite children to dress up in Christmas jumpers/Christmas clothes on that day if they wish. Every class will watch a Christmas movie and enjoy some treats. The school closes on Wednesday December 22nd at 12.00 for the Christmas holidays and reopens on Thursday 6th January. We will operate a staggered dispersal times, as outlined on Aladdin. As always, you have been hugely supportive of the school in all its endeavours and I would like to express my sincere appreciation. We look forward with hope to a better 2022! On behalf of all the staff and the Board of Management, I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir.

Mise le meas,
Sarah Ryan
Príomhoide



Junior Infants

We are very proud of how quickly our Junior Infants have settled into life in St. Brigid's. They enjoyed their celebrity status following their appearance in The Limerick Leader in September!! This term Juniors have spent lots of time getting to know their new classmates while playing inside and outside. They have done lots of station work in their groups and enjoyed learning to write and draw using different materials. They explored our school grounds with Miss O'Reilly, finding apples & berries and planting flowers. We were delighted that we got the opportunity to do this with Miss O'Reilly before she retired, we hope she is enjoying her well-earned retirement! They loved taking part in Science Week, making giant bubbles, programming Beebots and making vortex cannons. Active School Week was a huge hit with our Juniors, they loved the "10@10" breaks and P.E. on our Astro turf pitch. They are very busy at the moment learning all about winter and Christmas and making surprises for home! None of this would be possible without the dedication of Denise, Suzanne and both Yvonne's in the Infant Department, thank you all for your help and hard work. Thank you to our parents for all your support this term. We are happy to report that all of our Junior Infants are on Santa's good list and have worked very hard in their first term in St. Brigid's.



Senior Infants

Senior Infants have done incredible work since September. They delighted in all the artwork done; paper plate robins, elves, winter clothing, pastel owls, self-portraits and the three little pigs among the highlights. We took part in two competitions where the children showed their talents and came up with some amazing pieces of artwork.

Our reading has made huge improvements since the beginning of term and we especially loved the books 'The witch with an itch', 'The tiger who came to tea', and 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. We have been working hard on procedural writing also over the term. Our favourites were the 'Funny Face Biscuits' and 'The Fairy Bread' which we even got to make and sample ourselves.

We have been enjoying science in Senior Infants and had so much fun showing off our experiments during the Science Fair. We learned about Volcanoes and recognising sound with our student teachers Mr Tarrant and Mr Timmons.

Second Class

We have been very busy in Second Class. We had great fun and learning during Science week, where we learned all about capillary action and how water travels through plants. We demonstrated with our colourful 'Walking Water' experiment.

Thank you to Paula for her visits every week. She is delighted at how well we are progressing with our tin whistles. We have learned nice Christmas tunes which I'm sure you will enjoy listening to at home!!

We demonstrated our knowledge of procedural writing when we wrote recipes for Rice Krispie Buns. We were busy in the kitchen with Ms. Quinlivan and Ms. Sheary making our buns from our recipes. Thank you to all the staff for engaging in the learning for our second class as they sold their produce around the school. We certainly have some future entrepreneurs in our midst!!

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas from 2nd Class.

First Class

First Class have been busy artists over the last few months. They loved creating winter silhouettes, exploring the technique of Pointillism and preparing for Christmas has brought lots of excitement in getting to paint Santa and decorate the classroom Christmas trees with personalised baubles.

They enjoyed learning all about Report writing. We wrote lots of interesting reports about pets. It was also a great opportunity to explore all the popular and unusual pets we have.

They loved showcasing their science projects as part of science week. It brought lots of fun to our classrooms. It was a great experience to explain to other classes how we made our birdfeeders and how certain objects float and sink.



Third Class

3rd Class celebrated their First Holy Communion in September. It was a very special ceremony & such a memorable day.

They were delighted to have a visit from Geoff Hunt in October. They set up an outdoor classroom and learned lots about leaves and trees. They enjoyed some gardening too; planting trees for 'National Tree Day' as well as planting flowers in wellies to brighten up the school yard.

They had great fun building bridges & creating colour wheels as part of science week in November. They also took part in the SOPHia Project: A science outreach programme to promote physics in primary schools. The workshop aimed to encourage pupils to consider physics as a lifelong career. An enjoyable experience was had by all.

Both classes have been learning about report writing this term and have been using the iPads to create books collaboratively on their favourite animals. They've also shown their musical talent this term with their tin whistle & ukulele playing.

Ms. Fitzgerald's class are taking part in a new initiative called 'Farmer Time' and have been enjoying zoom calls every fortnight with Farmer John Pringle in Co. Wicklow. They have generated a great understanding of food production, farming life and the agricultural industry & were so excited when they saw his picture and meat products in the Aldi magazine!



Fifth Class

Fifth class have started coding with Scratch and are learning so many skills.

For Science Week, fifth class carried out some great experiments such as flying rockets in Ms Carmody's and making homemade butter in Mrs Nihill's class for the school Science Fair. Fifth also took part in the SOPHia Science Workshop during Science Week and carried out extra experiments on the day.

Ms Nihill's class did some fun group projects as part of their history and science including life size posters of the digestive system and designing their own tapestries.

5th class are enjoying tin whistle with Pamela and have been learning a variety of tunes for homework.

Fifth also completed their training with Cycle Right before midterm break and had so much fun learning all the rules of the road and the importance of safety first!

Fourth Class

Fourth Class enjoyed lots of interesting activities during Science week. Each class showcased their Science experiments in the Science Fair. They took part in the SOPHia Science workshop and enjoyed a Science quiz using Kahoot.

Fourth Class have started learning the ukulele with Mike Hogan. They are enjoying learning the new chords and will be playing full songs in no time!

Congratulations to Lucy McSweeney and Luke O'Dwyer who came up with the winning motto for our Active School - 'Being Active is cool so why not be active each day in school'



Sixth Class

6th class enjoyed a wonderful trip to Curraghchase with Geoff Hunt in November. They were in pursuit of spotting a red squirrel and although they were unsuccessful, they learned so much about the animals, their habitats and diet.

6th have been learning the tin whistle with Paula and have improved immensely over the past number of weeks. We hope to share some tunes with you soon!

6th class pupils have been using their IT skills to complete a number of projects using Google slides, Book Creator, Padlet etc. We completed a Local History/ Geography project in September, and over the last few weeks we have been working on our "Christmas Around the World" project!



Music

St. Brigid's, St. Patrick's boys and St. Patrick's girls' school, in association with Limerick Education Centre, were gratefully accepted into the Creative Cluster Programme for 21/22 and 22/23. This initiative gained us access to funding which we have dedicated to the development of musical experiences in our school. Pupils in 2nd, 5th and 6th are learning how to play the tin whistle with the most amazing teacher, Paula. Thanks to Limerick Comhaltas also for the support with purchasing the tin whistles.

3rd and 4th class are learning how to play the ukulele with Mr. Moloney with after school lessons also taking place on Mondays in the halla. Thanks to Mrs Ryan and Ms Crosse for coordinating the programme as well as Mr Moloney for sharing his musical talents with the children and staff.

PE/ Sport Initiatives/ Partnerships Sept- Dec 2021

'Being Active is cool so why not be active each day in school' (Active School Flag Slogan).

Our school is participating in the National Active School Initiative this year. We are definitely on track to achieve our 1st Active School Flag. The teachers and pupils put in a tremendous effort especially during the active break challenge every day for the month of November. Well done to all involved. It's really all about encouraging everyone to become active across the community. Please spread the word and keep an eye on our website and twitter for more information on how to improve your health and wellbeing throughout the school year.

Bike Week in September was a huge success again this year. Please continue to encourage your child to cycle and scoot safely to school. The children had their bicycles serviced thanks to Chris from Evolution Cycles Ltd during Bike Week.

A special thank you to Cycle Right instructors Kieron and Ed for coaching the 5th classes Cycle Right Level 1 in conjunction with Cycle Ireland.

The 5th and 6th class learned how to play cricket with Arsalan Khalid from Munster Cricket this term.

The three 6th classes also enjoyed learning the skills of rugby with Evan Cusack from the IRFU this term.

The 4th Classes really benefited from their athletics sessions with Fiona Walker (Newport Athletics Club) this term.

GAA Coaching after school for the 3rd to 6th classes was a huge success this term. Thank you to the teaching staff, Katorina Maher from Treaty Gaels and Dean Kennedy from Cloughaun GAA Club for all their support in coaching this term.

We are very fortunate to be able to work with so many different partnerships here at St. Brigid's N.S.

These partnerships contribute greatly to the pupil's overall physical development.

The children from the 2nd to 6th classes will be back swimming in UL next year. The dates will be sent to you on Google classroom in due course by the class teachers.

Credit Union Competition Winners:

Well done to our three winners of the Credit Union Art competition, Conor Lyons (3rd), Lucy Askins (6th) & Caoilainn Casey (6th). This year's theme was 'Imagine'. We are so thrilled with our budding artists. Thanks to Fiona Cox for making the time to present the prizes to the boys and girls. They went on to represent the school at regional level where Conor received another prize! Comhghairdeas!

Retirement

Best wishes to Ms. O' Reilly who retired in November after 42 years of dedicated service to the school and community of St Brigid's.



We now welcome our new Assistant Principal, Ms. Murray, who we are delighted to have back on board the team here in St. Brigid's.

Green schools:

We had a very successful bike week. On COW (Cycle On Wednesday) 104 pupils cycled to school which is fantastic! Pupils brought in bikes that needed to be fixed or repaired and 'Cycle Right' came to do cycle training with all of the pupils in the 4th and 5th classes. Pupils showed amazing creativity on 'Bling your Bike' day. Well done to everyone for participating! For the next two years we will be working towards our 9th Green flag for 'Global Citizenship - Travel'.

The Green School's committee would like to thank Ms. O'Reilly for all her hard work and dedication as co-ordinator of the Green Schools over the last number of years.



Homework Club began in September and has been a huge success. We would like to thank all who joined and we look forward to continuing it in the New Year.

Dates for your diary

School closes at 12.00 noon Wednesday 22nd December and re-opens on Thursday 6th January.

Term 2

Midterm: School will be closed on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th February 2021.

Public Holiday: Wednesday 17th March

Easter Holidays: commence at 12.00 noon on Friday 8th April. School re-opens on Monday 25th April.

Term 3

May Bank Holiday: Closed Mon 2nd May-Tues 3rd May inclusive.

June Bank Holiday: Closed Mon. 6th June - 7th June 2022 inclusive.

Summer Holidays: Closed at 12.00 noon Wed. 22nd June 2022.



We wish all our pupils, families and community a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

With Best Wishes,

The Principal & Staff of St. Brigid's N.S.