

### **PAWS 3**

Swimming and Lifesaving skills workshops will be held for all classes on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in school. Activities will be age appropriate and in line with the aquatics strand of the P.E curriculum.

### **Dog Safety Workshops.**

Paul Cleary from Dogs Trust will present a Dog Safety Workshop on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Uniforms**

Our school uniform is a plain navy skirt/pinafore/ trousers/ navy tracksuit bottoms, jade green jumper [available in The Magnet in Carrick-on-Shannon (0719620266)], and white polo shirt or white blouse. Uniforms are currently in stock.

### **End of Year Raffle**

We will have our final raffle in all classes in the final week of term. Please contribute as generously as you can. Your support is appreciated and these monies go to funding projects that enable us to provide and enhance quality learning opportunities for all pupils.

We wish you a restful and enjoyable summer. We sincerely thank you for your support throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you all when the school will reopen on September 1st 2017

Le gach dea-ghuí

Angela White, Finola McGowan, Olivia McHugh, Rachel Keane, Nicola Heslin, Fidelma Glancy, Micheál McKiernan, Gearóidín Ní Chongaille, Lorraine McKiernan, Geraldine McWeeney, Mary Scott, Joan Tiernan and Christina McGourty

### **School Closure**

School closes at 12.30p.m on Friday June 30<sup>th</sup>. Buses will collect children on first load at 12p.m. All other children are not permitted to leave until 12.30p.m either by car/walking. School will reopen on Fri, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **School Reports**

Reports will be posted together with class groupings and teachers on Fri, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Before and After School Supervision**

Please collect your children promptly at 3p.m. Supervision is **only** for children travelling by bus and is not extra play time for children being collected by parents/guardians.

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

There will be one more Eucharistic adoration event for the pupils who received their First Holy Communion this year. This will be led by Mrs M McKiernan and Ms Glancy.

## **St Brigid's N.S Drumcong Summer Newsletter June 2017**



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Dear Parents/Guardians.

Summer is fast approaching as is the completion of the school year 2016-2017. School reports, school calendar for 2017-2018 is being prepared, new classes and booklists are being drafted and will be forwarded in due course. We take this time to reflect on all the activities and great achievements made since April. We wish to thank you, our parent body, our pupils, all staff members and members of the wider community who visited our school and contributed to us in anyway.

### **Farewell to Sixth class**

It is almost time to say farewell to our 30 pupils in Sixth class. We thank you for your enormous contribution to St Brigid's N.S over the past 8 years and to those of you who have joined along the way we acknowledge your contribution. We hope you leave with fond memories, good friends and lots of knowledge and skills that will help you as you prepare to embark on the next stage of your journey through secondary school and beyond.

Slán agus Beannacht to Caolán, Sami, Conall, Dylan Doyle, Sean, Harry, Ciara, Saul, Jack, Marc, Michelle, Leah, Brianna, Sadie, Leo, Michaela, Amy Dylan Mahon, Erin, Eoin, T.J., Sandra, Ralph, Helen, Niamh, Ava, Ciarán, Robin, Joshua & Karl.

We say farewell to the following families whose children have passed through our school: Beirne, Daly, Flynn, Foley, Gilmartin, Homan, Judge, Mahon, Murray, McCormack, McGovern, McKeon, McKeown, Redican, Schmidt, & Ward families.

We prepare to say goodbye to Mrs McKiernan for now and wish good health as she prepares for her new arrival. Thank you for being with us and making a huge contribution to Senior Infants and First class and to the rest of the school.

### **Absenteeism**

We would like to bring to your attention the increased level of absenteeism this school year among pupils. It was highlighted on the daily returns that on **Mar13th we had 27% or 48 children** absent and on **May 29<sup>th</sup> we had 31% or 55 children** absent.

When we looked at this we saw that pupils (child or siblings) did not come into school after making their Communion and Confirmation. We need to bring to your attention that every school day is important and children are not given the day off in lieu of these occasions. Please support the school in its endeavours to encourage good attendance.

### **Write a Book/Write a short story.**

Well done to everyone who took part in this initiative run by Carrick on Shannon Education Centre.

**Merits go to:** Darcy Doherty, Matthew Poore, Millie Farrell, Aoibheann McWeeney, Caoimhe Lee, Madeleine Stead, Belinda Clarke and Ava Redahan.

A presentation for **Merit Winners only** will take place in the Landmark hotel @ 6.30pm on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Highly Commended go to:** Caoimhe Reynolds, Eoin Philips, Aadam Hussain, Leona Meehan, Orla Flynn, Chloe Debuilteir, Abby Halstead, Niamh Mahon, Ellen Keany, Matthew Lee, Aisling McWeeney, Shauna Doyle, Nathan Mahon, Jack Keane, Helen McLoughlin, Ciarán Redican and Sadie Harris.

Presentations will be made to these children in the school at a later date.

### **Scor na mBunscol**

Congratulations to the Ballad group who came first performing 'Mo Ghile Mear' during the Easter holidays.

Congratulations to the boys who took part in the quiz and who were placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Comhghairdeas libh go léir.

### **New Junior Infants**

An induction morning for new infants will be held by Ms Ní Chonghaile on Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 from 9.30a.m. - 10.40a.m.

An induction evening for parents/guardians of the new Junior Infants will be held at 7.30p.m on Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup> in the school led by Ms Ní Chonghaile. Mrs White and Mrs McGourty will also attend.

### **Clothes Collection**

As part of our Reduce Reuse and Recycle campaign we will have a **monster clothes** collection on **Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2017**. We ask that everybody make a huge effort to collect bags of worn clothing, footwear and bed linen-**no duvets/pillows please**. Monies raised go to school funds.

### **Green Schools.**

We are in the process of applying for our 8<sup>th</sup> Green Flag. Our theme "Global Citizenship Marine Litter" was undertaken in September 2016. A lot of work was carried out by the committee last year under the guidance of Ms Glancy. We are proud to say that we received our Fair Trade Membership Certificate at the annual parade on Thurs, March 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a great achievement and will have to be renewed annually.

### **W.O.W Day Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Thanks to Ms Glancy for organising this event where staff, parents and pupils made a huge effort to walk, cycle and/or park and stride to school. It gives us an opportunity to look at different travel methods and examine how we can contribute positively to the new environment. It was brought to our attention that some children did not wear their reflective jackets or not all children who cycled wore their helmets on that morning. We ask everyone to put their personal SAFETY first in future and also make other road users aware that they are walking or cycling to school.

### **School Tours**

Ulster American Folk Park

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes visited the Ulster American Folk Park on Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup> 2017. We had a really enjoyable day and the weather made the trip extra special. We commend all the children on their excellent behaviour and interest on the day. We were asked by the staff there to pass this on to their parents and school. Keep up the good work!

We piloted different tours for different class levels spread over the school year to enable our tours to be more class appropriate. It also means that the school will not be closed for a day to facilitate a whole tour (3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>). We will no longer be closing the school to cater for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> class tours. The staff and children are happier with this arrangement and we hope that you as parents are in agreement with this.

### **Student Council.**

Thanks to our student council for their great work with MsMcGowan during the year. We say goodbye to Marc Gannon & Jack Foley and 2 new members will be elected in September.

### **Active Schools Day**

This will take place on Mon, June 26<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting). Please ensure your child(ren) has an extra drink, sun-cream if necessary. T-shirts, shorts and runners must be worn.



### **Fundraising**

The children and staff collected €306 for the Ecuador classroom project and this was given to Pádraig McWeeney on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Míle buíochas from Pádraig, his family and the organisers in Ecuador for our contribution.

### **Leitrim Enterprise Initiative**

Thanks to Lena Shaw who provided an enterprise workshop for 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> class on Monday May 29<sup>th</sup> 2017. This class will design a logo and slogan for a competition promoting young people and business.

### **Hertiage Council of Ireland Workshops**

Thanks to Shailagh Healy who visited our school on April 26/27 and 28<sup>th</sup> and provided environmental workshops for all pupils through use of the trees in the school grounds, art work, movement and song. We had a very enjoyable experience with her and discovered how we are at one with nature. Again she commented on the excellent behaviour and respect shown by all pupils during her visits. Well done children.

### **First Eucharist**

Congratulations to the 24 children who received their First Holy Communion on Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup> in St Brigid's church @11.30a.m. Congratulations to Arthur in 4<sup>th</sup> class who joined us last year from France and made his communion and contributed by reciting the Hail Mary en Francais on the day. Thanks to Fr Tomás, Ms Glancy, Mrs White, Ms McHugh and Jane Cowley and the choir and staff members who helped out in anyway prior to this event and to you parents for preparing the children for this special occasion. We had a wonderful day. Thanks to the parents who organised the celebration in the G.P room afterwards. Your efforts were appreciated greatly and did not go unnoticed.

It was brought to our attention that there was a short fall in monies to provide this after party and we do not want people out of pocket. As our class sizes vary from year to year it is difficult to budget for. We suggest that this would be organised in future through the Parents' Association. Perhaps some fundraising could be done beforehand to defray the costs.

### **Athletics**

Thanks to Pat O'Toole from Leitrim Sports Partnership who came and trained pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> class during the year. We will participate in the athletic event to be held later this month in Lough Rynn.(date to be confirmed)

### **Leitrim Primary School Athletics 2017**

Thanks to the large number of parents and pupils who attended this annual event in Manorhamilton on Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>. We are delighted to celebrate winning the Gilmartin Trophy for the 4th consecutive year. We commend all the children who came out and ran for the school. Thanks to all the parents for bringing your child(ren) to participate on the day.

### **GAA Coaching.**

Thanks to Shane O'Rourke who came to our school and trained the children from 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> class weekly. This weekly training in GAA skills will continue until the end of term. Thanks to Mr McKiernan who brought pupils to Drumshanbo to participate in the school blitz for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Cumann na mBunscol**

Wow what can we say!! Congratulations to the boys and girls on winning both finals held in Pairc Seain on Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>. Well done to you the parents, players, coaches Mr McKiernan and Carol & Kevin Keany and supporters.

### **County Skills Competition.**

Congratulations to Conall Doyle, Karl Winters, Ralph McKeown and Jack Foley who won this competition in the Centre of Excellence in Annaduff on Thurs, June 1st.

**Conall Doyle** has been selected to play at half time during the Leitrim – Roscommon semi final in Dr Hyde park on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Michaela Judge** has been selected to play at half time during the All Ireland Football final on Sept 17th. Congratulation to them both!

### **New staff members**

Mrs Keane will be remaining job sharing and a new teacher, Claire O'Reilly will replace Mrs McKiernan. There will be two new members joining the staff. Mr Ciarán Kennedy will join the staff to cover 10 extra support hours.

### **Music Lessons.**

Due to lack of space from September Pádraig Sweeney will no longer be providing tin whistle lessons in school. He will provide lessons for those who wish to continue at his House, The Dock and Annaduff Centre of Excellence. For further information contact Pádraig @ 0868112871.

### **Spelling Bee Competition**

Congratulations to Eileen Maguire who qualified for the Connacht final of this nationwide event. Mrs Heslin and Eileen attended this event in Sligo on Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are very proud of you Eileen for getting so far and representing our school.



### **Environmental and Community Awards 2017.**

Floral Pride Leitrim is now assimilated into the above award scheme and St Brigid's N.S. entered this competition. The judges arrived on Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> and looked at how we are encouraging active participation in the promotion of the natural environment and keeping our school surroundings litter free, weeded, used as a learning tool for environmental topics in the curriculum. The staff, pupils and some parents came together and weeded, planted vegetables and shrubs and hanging baskets for our entry. The main judge Mr Billy Flynn was highly impressed with the level of interest and participation from the pupils he met. He was treated to a tour by all the 6<sup>th</sup> pupils of our grounds. The children brought him from the insect hotel, to the pond, the sensory garden and outdoor classroom. Also he was impressed by the level of work being done with The Green Schools Initiative as Niamh and Daniel and all pupils in 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> class with Ms Glancy showed him work being carried out throughout the school on Global Citizenship Marine Litter.

Our sincere thanks go to Eamonn McCarthy who maintains our green areas and carries out planting and upkeep of trees.

We also thank our caretaker Philomena Doran who goes above and beyond her duty in maintaining our school inside and out and providing a clean environment for staff and pupils.

We do realise that it takes the whole school body –the Board of Management, our Principal and staff, parents and pupils to work together to maintain these standards and we appreciate all input from everyone.

### **Support Teaching**

A new model for allocating additional teaching support in schools will come into effect from September 2017. schools will receive an allocation of teaching support for all pupils who need it. This support will be based on pupils individual learning needs rather than on a diagnosis. Support teaching may be given individually or in a group setting or within the pupils' classrooms. The school will have two full time support teachers & a part time post of 10 hrs for the next 2 years when allocations will be reviewed. The new model combines Special Education Teaching and Learning Support and will be referred to as 'Support Teaching'. For more information see circular 0013/2017 on the Department website.

### **Summer Stars Reading Adventure**

Summer Stars Reading will be run in all library branches from 1st July– 31st August. We recommend this highly to ensure children keep reading over these months and to further enhance their reading skills. Register at local library for this programme. Visit [www.summerstars.ie](http://www.summerstars.ie), [www.leitrimlibrary.ie](http://www.leitrimlibrary.ie) or [www.librariesireland.ie](http://www.librariesireland.ie)



### **Cyber Bullying workshops & parent presentation.**

On April 4th, Paula O'Connor visited the school to carry out workshops with 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th on this important topic. The presentation for parents was poorly attended and disappointing. Please check content of Grand Theft Auto, GTA 5, and Black Ops if your child has these or similar over 18 games.

SCHOOL'S  
out for  
SUMMER