

Fundraising

The school raffle will resume in October. Each class will collect money weekly and at the end of the month a raffle will be held in each class. Tickets costs 20c each or 3 for 50c or 6 for €1. The prizes are bought by the class teacher in proportion to monies raised and may include cinema tickets or book vouchers etc. All monies raised are used to subsidise extra activities for the pupils e.g. buses are provided for the school tour or extra resources are bought for use by everyone.

Each year the school chooses one charity and this year we are choosing **Bothar na nGabhair**.

Brown Coin Collection: We are going to collect 1c, 2c and 5c coins throughout the year with a view to buying a polytunnel. This will be used to enable children in all classes to grow vegetables and herbs.

Birthday Parties/Social occasions outside of School.

We understand that parents like to invite their children's friends along to birthday parties. However, parents will understand that this can cause upset to other children who may feel excluded. For this reason it's the policy of the school **not** to allow invitations to be distributed in school. It is also important to understand that for reasons of confidentiality and Child Protection it is **NOT** possible to provide names or other details of pupils. **Teachers will not give out names, addresses or contact details of pupils.**

Change of Numbers/Addresses

Please contact Mrs McGourty (School secretary) between **9.30am and 2.30pm daily** if you have any queries or wish to make an appointment with a teacher or the principal. Please forward any change of address or mobile numbers so contact lists can be updated. This is very important in the event of an accident or unforeseen event. Please check your child's bag daily for notes in folder. Remove notes, return anything that requires your signature and please ensure to **return folder with Family name on it** to Mrs McGourty. These folders are given to the oldest of each family. Other communication will be written in children's journal regarding individual class or teachers business so please check your children's journals when signing their homework.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Angela White, Finola McGowan, Olivia McHugh, Rachel Keane, Nicola Heslin, Gearóidín Ní Chonghaile, Micheál Mc Kiernan, Fidelma Glancy, Geraldine McWeeney, Joan Tiernan, Mary Scott, Bernadette McGrath and Christina McGourty.

St Brigid's N.S Drumcong Newsletter Oct 2014



Phone (071) 9642315

Email: drumcongns@eircom.net

Website: www.drumcongns.ie



Dear Parents/Guardians,

September is here again and we extend a very warm welcome to all staff, parents and pupils for the new academic year 2014/2015. We extend a special welcome to our 24 new Junior Infants and children who have joined various classes throughout the school – Céad Mile Fáilte do: Maya, Holly, Chloe, Grace, Millie, Orla, Ruby, Milo, Ava Rose, Liam, Senan, Layla, Leona, Ella Louise, Aura, Ronan, Glenn, Theo, Aoibheann, Emma, Cassiemay, Annabelle, Diarmuid and Kaya. Welcome to Ignatius (6th class), Michelle (4th class), Wincent (1st class), Alison (Sen Infants), James (3rd class) and Olivia (2nd class). We wish you all well as you begin your academic journey through primary school and to the older children we hope that you feel welcome and at home in our school.

Uniform

Our school uniform is a bright green jumper, white blouse/shirt or white polo shirt and **plain navy blue** skirt/trousers. Please avoid stripes or coloured logos. Jumpers are available in "The Magnet" in Ck-on-Shannon. For younger children it is advisable to send in a spare pair of socks /underwear or tracksuit bottoms in their bags in the event of accidents/spillages. Also if the school supplies your child with socks, trousers etc please wash and **return** as promptly as you can.

Labelling of Personal Property

Please ensure you label children's jumpers and coats as we have a build up of clothing that no one is claiming. These will be brought to recycling bank if no one claims them at the end of term

Book Bills

Thank you to everyone who has paid so promptly – it is very much appreciated. As usual our supplier has to be paid by the end of the month in full and we request payment at your earliest convenience.

Parents' Association

Any Parent wishing to become a member of the Parent's Association, please contact the committee by email at saintbrigidspa@gmail.com or contact the school secretary. The role of the Parent's Association is of benefit to the enhancement of the school community.

Parent Teacher Meetings

These will take place on Nov 16th & 17th. Notification will be sent as to times and dates closer to the time.

Attendance.

Every year we remind parents that it is very important that children attend school daily unless they are sick or that some unforeseen family business or event happens. We have introduced an attendance record and it is sent home at the end of each quarter (End Of September, end of December, Mid April-Easter Holidays and end of June) to be signed and returned to the school. This is a means to keep you informed of your child(rens) attendance and is kept on school record. Children who had full attendance received a certificate and a trophy for their achievement and those who missed 1 or 2 days received a certificate. There is an overall increase in attendance and we wish to acknowledge this. Congratulations to all who received trophies and certificates. As it's a new school year we have the opportunity to wipe the slate clean and start afresh and declare that we will reach a higher level of attendance for the academic year 2014/2015.

Music

We welcome back Mr Pádraig Sweeney who gives tin whistle lessons in our school. Music takes place on Wednesdays so please ensure your child has their tin whistle and note copy with them for music.

Martina Rynn School of Music is resuming in Strabraggan NS. For more information Contact Martina @ 0866089707

Leitrim Hurling

St Mary's Hurling Club are seeking new members aged between 6 and 18 years. For further details please contact: GAA Administrative Office, Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada, Carrick on Shannon, County Leitrim. 071-9620441.

Staffing Arrangements for 2014/2015:

Mrs A. White: (Principal) 6th Class
Ms. F McGowan: (Deputy Principal)
Learning Support Teacher
Ms. O McHugh: (Special Duties
Postholder) Resource Teacher
Mrs N Heslin: 4th/5th Class
Mr M McKiernan: 3rd/4th Class
Ms. F Glancy: 1st/2nd Class
Ms. G Ní Chonghaile: Sen Infants/1st class
Mrs R Keane: Junior/Senior Infants
Mrs C McGourty: Secretary
Mrs G McWeeney, Mrs J Tiernan Mrs M Scott and Mrs B Mc Grath Special Needs Assistants.
Caretaker: Mr L Ferry

Absences.

If your child is absent for a day or a number of days Mrs McGourty will send an absent sheet home on child's return and the parent/guardian writes a brief explanation, signs sheet and returns to school. This sheet can record up to 6 absences. This system is to ensure that all parties involved in your child's education is aware of reasons for absences. If a child is missing for more than 20 days the school is obliged to report this to Tusla- **The Child and Family Agency**, (formerly N.E.W.B).

Morning & Afternoon Supervision

This takes place from 9.05-9.20a.m & 3.00-3.25p.m (approx.) or when the last bus load leaves. This is intended only for children who are awaiting buses. We request that children who are collected are picked up promptly.

New School Year Reflection

It is a new beginning ...

The planting of a seed that will grow for a year,

The seed of fruit that will blossom in times to come.

It offers new hope; hope for good work,

For successful results, for friendship, for fun, for learning.

Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí!

School Insurance

Thanks to all who returned insurance slips and monies. Please ensure that all families have submitted slips to Mrs McGourty.

Board of Management

Fr T Flynn (Chairperson)

Mrs A White (Principal)

Ms F McGowan (Deputy Principal)

Mrs I McWeeney

Mr Vincent Lee

Mr Adrian McKeown

Mrs P Redahan

Mrs G McLoughlin

Health & Safety

We would like to remind parents/pupils that wearing makeup and nail polish is **not** permitted. We also advise that children **only** wear **stud earrings** and avoid wearing chains and necklaces. This will be strictly enforced for safety reasons.

Healthy Eating Policy

We thank you for your co-operation in implementing this policy down through the years. We encourage children to eat sandwiches, fruit and vegetables, cheese and have a **non-fizzy** drink or water/cordial juice/milk etc. Please do not send screw top /glass bottles or wide screw top beaker cups that young children find difficult to manoeuvre. The following items are not permitted in line with our healthy eating policy: **chewing gum, crisps, biscuits, chocolate bars, fizzy drinks, yoghurts**. We have noticed that items such as yoghurts, frubes, cheese strings are difficult to open for the younger children and they burst and are messy. This causes distress to the child. We **ask you not to send** them into school and rather have them as a snack before or after school if your child enjoys them.

Student Council

The student council have had the first meeting of the school year on the 26th of September. Two children from first class upwards represent their classes. The council will meet once a month to discuss any issues of concern to the children. It is hoped that the student council will contribute to the welfare and happiness of all pupils.

Guidelines to promote good study habits for primary school children

- * Homework should be done at a regular time. It should be kept short 15-20mins for young children and no longer than 90 minutes for a senior pupil.
- * Frequency is important: 10 minutes of tables and spellings each evening is more effective than 40 minutes the night before the "Friday Tests"
- * Turn off T.V, computer games and other distractions.
- * Be organised and encourage your child to organise their books folders, pens and pencils. Label and date work as you go along and you and your child will be able to see progress clearly.
- * Make sure children feel well, that they are not tired, hungry, cold, overheated, cranky!!
- * Be calm and relaxed and your child will be calm and relaxed also.
- * Talk to your child and scan what needs to be learned, written, read and encourage them to approach homework with fun and ease, what do they Know, what do they need to Know and how they are going to Learn/Solve or Present their work.
- * If homework is going on **too long** or **getting stressful** leave it and approach it when child is calmer or rested.
- * If problems arise **talk to your child's teacher** and try to resolve any matters arising as early as possible.
- * Finally **check** your child's journal daily and **sign** when homework is complete.

Late arrivals /Early leavers

We also have introduced a system whereby we make a record of children who arrive late or leave early frequently for unexplained reasons. The rolls are called between 9.40 a.m. and 10a.m. Children who arrive after that are deemed absent. The roll books cannot be altered. It is important that your children develop good punctuality skills and are not distressed by arriving late and realising that class has started without them. They are at a disadvantage as they sometimes spend the morning playing catch up. We do understand that circumstances happen and people get delayed or something happens to cause delay or upset or you have to attend appointments from time to time. We ask you to inform the class teacher in child's journal if you know beforehand of scheduled appointments so your child will not be marked absent.

Christmas Cards.

This term the school once again is organizing the Christmas Card Project. It is a fun way for the pupils to raise funds for the school. The children's individual artwork will be turned into their own Christmas cards. Later in the term, they will bring home a free sample card showing their design and if parents wish to purchase any, they can order the required number (10 per pack) @ €7 per pack.

School Photographer.

The school photographer will visit the school on Mon, Oct 20th.

Six Nations Cup visit

Thank you to Sean McKeon, Chairperson of CRFC who organised the bringing of the Six Nations Cup to our school on Thursday September 9th. Thanks to Gavin Foley, Connacht Rugby Development Officer and Seamus Murray who provided rugby coaching for the senior pupils during the last academic school year.

Leitrim Observer Photographer School Visit

Willie Donnellan visited Junior Infant room on Friday 12th Sept. A supplement with photographs of all new Junior Infants in Co. Leitrim will be published in the coming weeks.

School Policies.

All updated policies are available on the school website at www.drumcongns.ie

At the end of the school year, as part of School Self-Evaluation the report of the Board of Management was made available on the school website. A letter summarising the Communication Policy has been issued to each family. We request your co-operation in ensuring that the procedures for making appointments with staff members to discuss issues or concerns are adhered to.



Green Schools.

WEEE Battery Recycling Pledge

Our school is one of 2 schools in Co. Leitrim who received an award for our recycling efforts in the WEEE pledge programme. This programme encourages school communities to recycle waste batteries in blue WEEE Ireland battery boxes supplied to the school. Thank you for your support last year and we wish to continue this in the year ahead.

Junior School Tour

This year, the children in Junior, Senior, First and Second Class will go to the Back Stage Theatre in Longford to see the play *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* on **Wednesday December 3rd 2014.**

The cost is **€10 per child** and monies need to be brought in before November 10th 2014. Each class teacher will send permission slips and outline arrangements closer to the time. Money can be brought in to class teacher in instalments from Oct 13th.

Safety /Parking.

Please refer to letter from the Board of Management regarding parking arrangements. It is the responsibility of each individual using the school services to abide by the guidelines and we request full co-operation with this.

