

Green Schools

We continue to work on Year 2 of the Green Flag Project called “Global Citizenship and Energy”. All children will participate in projects and all members are asked to look at how we can continue to use energy wisely and reduce wastage e.g. leaving lights, electrical appliances on. Little changes we each make can have a big impact on global energy related issues.

Behaviour on School Buses

The children have been allocated their own seat on each bus for the year. Please talk to your child about (a) removing their bag from their back and placing it on their knees. (b) fastening their seat belts, © sitting down at all times (d) appropriate behaviour/ unacceptable use of bad language. The prefects on each bus will report back to the teachers as necessary. Safety is a priority for all. We are requested to cooperate with the bus drivers to ensure safety for all bus users.

Change of Numbers/Addresses

Please contact Mrs McGourty (School Secretary) between 9.30 a.m. and 2.30p.m 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. It is very important for the school to have your correct details.

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. 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.**

School Photographer

The school photographer will visit on **Tues, Nov 3rd**.

Late Arrivals/Early Finishers

We also have introduced a system whereby we keep 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 marked absent.** The roll books **cannot** be altered. It is important that your children develop good punctuality skills. We understand that people get delayed or something can happen unexpectedly to cause delay or upset or there are appointments to attend 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.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Angela White, Finola McGowan, Olivia McHugh, Arlene Gilhooly, Gearóidín Ní Chonghaile, Michéal McKiernan, Tara Fitzpatrick, Sinead Beirne, Áine Reynolds, Geraldine McWeeney, Joan Tiernan, Mary Scott and Christina McGourty.

St Brigid's N.S Drumcong Newsletter Sept 2015



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We extend a very warm welcome to all staff, parents and pupils for the new academic year 2015/2016. We especially welcome our 14 new Junior Infants and children who have joined various classes throughout the school – Céad Míle Fáilte do: Lexus, Darcy, Caroline, Anthony, Ella, Nicole, Tyler, Kayleigh, Sarah, Suzanne, Rachel, Damien, Isla and Matthew..... Welcome to Aaron(6th) and Ciara(2nd). We wish you all well as you begin your academic journey through home in our school.

Attendance

Full school attendance is vital for your children’s learning and high absenteeism has proven to lead to major gaps in learning. An attendance record is sent home at the end of each quarter (September, December, March and June) to be signed and returned to the school. This keeps you informed of your child(rens) attendance and is kept on school record. Children who have full attendance receive a certificate and a trophy for their achievement and those who missed only 1 or 2 days receive a certificate.

Congratulations to all who are to receive trophies and certificates for the last year.

Uniform

Our school uniform is a bright green jumper, white blouse/shirt; white polo shirt and **plain navy blue** skirt/trousers. Please avoid stripes or coloured logos. Jumpers are available in ‘The Magnet’ in Carrick-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 and personal property. Any unclaimed clothing will be brought to the recycling bank if not claimed by 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 (September 30th). We request payment at your earliest convenience.

Staffing Arrangements for 2015/2016

Mrs A White: (Principal) 5th/6th Class
Ms F. McGowan: (Deputy Principal) Learning Support Teacher
Mr J Molloy: Shared Learning Support Teacher
Ms O. McHugh: (Special Duties Post-Holder) Resource Teacher
Ms A. Gilhooly/Mrs N. Heslin: 4th/5th Class
Mr M. McKiernan: 3rd/4th Class
Mrs T. Fitzpatrick/Mrs O. Walpole: 2nd/3rd Class
Ms S. Beirne/Ms F. Glancy: 1st/2nd Class
Ms G. Ni Chonghaile: Senior Infants/1st Class
Ms A. Reynolds/Mrs R. Keane: Junior/Senior Infants
Mrs McGourty: Secretary
Mrs G McWeeney, Mrs J. Tiernan, Mrs M. Scott (Special Needs Assistants)

Absences

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

Leitrim Observer Photographer

School Visit
Willie Donnellan visited Junior Infant room early in September. A supplement with photographs of all new Junior Infants in Co. Leitrim will be published in the coming weeks.

Use of Bad Language and inappropriate behaviour.

We wish to bring to your attention that the **use of bad language** or **any inappropriate behaviour** will not be tolerated. This will be brought to your attention immediately in writing. We will impose a fine of €1 for use of bad language.

Safety and Parking

Please adhere to the parking arrangements in place and allow room for buses to arrive, children to disembark and buses to pull out. **Do NOT park in bus spaces**. Safety for **All** school users is paramount and we request everyone to cooperate in this practice.

Morning and 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**. It is **NOT** an extra playtime. We request that children travelling by car are picked up promptly.

Health and Safety

We would like to remind parents/guardians/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 at all times.

Every year we have an outbreak of head lice. We request that pupils with long hair tie it back at all times. Please check your child/rens hair regularly and treat as necessary.

Please alert class teacher or secretary so that the school community can be made aware of any outbreak.

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 are messy and 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.

Birthday Parties/Social Occasions Outside of School

We understand that parents like to invite their children's friends along to birthday parties. However this can cause upset to other children who may feel excluded. For this reason it is 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 for school staff to provide names or other details of pupils.

Student Council

A new student council will be elected shortly. One Child from each classroom(1st-6th) will be chosen to represent their classroom. 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.

Sport

Comhghairdeas do na Mná sa pharóiste Cill Tobraid. Hearty congratulations to the Kiltubrid Ladies on their great win on Sunday September 13th. We enjoyed your visit the next day.

School Insurance

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

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 cost 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.

Brown Coin Collection: We are going to continue collect 1c, 2c and 5c coins throughout the year with a view to buying a polytunnel when new classroom is finished and upkeep garden projects. This will be used to teach children in all classes to grow vegetables and herbs. Over €1000 is collected to date.

Guidelines to promote good study habits for primary school children

- Please encourage children to present their homework neatly and to a high standard and to the best of their ability.
- Homework should be done at a regular time. It should be kept short 15-20 minutes 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 Test'.
- 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 or 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? How are they going to Learn/Solve or Present their work?
- If homework is going on too long or getting stressful leave it and approach it when the child is calmer or rested.
- If you or your child are experiencing difficulties with any aspect of homework talk to your child's teacher. Try to resolve any matters arising as early as possible.
- **Finally check your child's journal daily and sign when homework is complete.**

School Policies

All updated policies are available on the school website at www.drumcongsns.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. The School Improvement Plan was uploaded and is available to all parties to view targets for numeracy and literacy in our school.

Parent's Association

Any Parent wishing to become a member of the Parent's Association, please contact the committee by email: saint-brigidspa@gmail.com. The role of the Parent's Association is of benefit to the enhancement of the school community.

Easter Rising 1916

2016 will mark the 100 year anniversary of the 1916 Rising. All schools will receive a copy of the Proclamation and an Irish Flag. Preparations are underway nationwide and community groups are asked to host a celebration in remembrance of this event. We will have an event in our school on March 15th. Details of this will be forwarded closer to the date.

Christmas Cards

This term, the school is once again organising the Christmas Card Project. We have registered the school and the picture cards will follow. Please note that taking part in this project is optional.

Bereavements

We extend our sincere sympathy to all members of our school community who have been bereaved this year. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May you be comforted in knowing your loved ones are at peace and will always be remembered.

Parent Teacher Meetings

These will take place on **Tues November 17th and Wed November 18th**. Notification will be sent to parents/guardians as to times and dates to attend closer to the time.

New Classroom

The school extension is well on its way to completion and we look forward to its opening in the near future.

INTO Campaign 2015

The INTO is launching a campaign in advance of the budget. As part of this campaign they are inviting parents and the wider school community to contact local TDs asking them to stand up for primary education. Please forward the postcard enclosed to a local TD.

New School Year Reflection

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive.

If a child lives with pity, he learns to feel sorry for himself.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with jealousy, he learns what envy is.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative.

If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with recognition, he learns that it is good to have a goal.

If a child lives with sharing, he learns about generosity.

If a child lives with honesty and fairness, he learns what truth and justice are.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith in himself and in those about him.

If a child lives with friendliness, he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.

If you live with serenity, your child will live with peace of mind.

With what is your child living?

Dorothy Law Nolte