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St Brigid's N.S Drumcong

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Newsletter June 2021

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Dear Parents/Guardians.

As our summer break approaches, we take time to reflect on the events alongside the home schooling, teaching and learning and assessment that took place in our homes and school this past year 2020/2021. It is important to acknowledge all the work completed by the teachers, parents, pupils, our Principal and Board of Management and all staff who contribute to the effective running of our school. We are very appreciative of all your efforts too by complying with our COVID Plan, making decisions to practice caution and keeping your children at home when in doubt and thereby helping to keep everyone safe and keep Covid-19 out of our school.

Return of Rental Books

Please return all school rental books/library books on or before Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd June 2021. Text books that have not been maintained in good condition will have to be paid for in full.

School Calendar 2021-2022

The school calendar for 2021-2022 was forwarded to you by email. A hard copy is available on request. It is also available on our website www.drumcongns.ie.

School reports and new class groups have been posted and everyone should have received them by now. Please return the list with the rental books you require to the teacher as soon as possible. (This applies mainly from 2nd class upwards) Books may have to be ordered to be in place for September.

It was a challenging year and we can only say well done children, parents and teachers. We look forward to supporting you as you move on to your next class.

Farewell to Sixth Class

Now is the time to say farewell to our 6th class pupils. Slán agus go n- éirí an bóthar le: Katie B, Aisling D, Emma E, Allison F, Rose G, Grace G, Rían G, Abby H, Brian H, Conor H, Daniel H, Mikela J, Aisling K, Hannah K, Caoimhe L, Niamh M, Jack M, Hannah M, Oisín M-G, Sophie McK, Eva McL, Cody O'B, Grace P, Cillian R, Luke R, Adam W, Marcel Z

Slán agus Beannacht to the following families whose children have passed through our school: Dunne, Easterbrook, Fry, Gannon, Gilmartin (R), Halstead (B), Hoare, Houghton, Jordan, Lee, Mahon, Morgan, O'Brien, Rogers,

We wish you well as you transition to secondary school and we thank you all sincerely for the great contributions you made throughout the time spent here in St Brigid's N.S.

Book Bills 2021-2022

A new online system for payments is in place since September 2020 on Aladdin. Payment for book rental will start through this electronic payment system in September. We are also upgrading to Aladdin Connect and it will be used to connect with parents/families online. More details will follow in September once it is established.

Fundraising

The raffle will be held on Tuesday 23rd with prizes of €100, €75, €50 and €25. We are overwhelmed by your generous contributions and all staff wish to express our gratitude to you all. A total of €1652 was raised. Every euro will go towards improving our school library and enhancing resources generally for the students.

Parent's Association

Thank you for your continued support as always.

Cumann na mBunscol

Congratulations to Mr McKiernan and 6th class on winning the Cumann na mBunscol video competition and a set of jerseys for both the boys and girls school teams. They made a very creative, collaborative movie showcasing their talents in acting, singing and playing Gaelic games! Well done to you all and well deserved.

See Twitter for further reaction and comments.

Climbing the Mountain

To mark the end of an era for 6th class Mr McKiernan aided by Mr Kennedy and 2 parents, Maeve Conway and Noelle Easterbrook, climbed Sliabh an Iarainn – stopping at the mass rock for a quick history lesson before summiting the mountain. It was a very enjoyable day by all accounts and a lovely memory to take from their time in St. Brigid's

Enrolment 2021-2022

Enrolment for the next academic year 2021-2022 is completed and Mrs McGourty has processed the applications. Thank you to all parents who have returned enrolment forms. If you know of any new families wishing to enrol their child for next September, please ask them to contact the school. We look forward to welcoming the children of new families who have moved to the area as well as the new children of other families who already have children in the school.

Please read our admissions policy and other related policies which are available to download on the school website www.drumcongns.ie

Uniforms

Our uniform is a plain navy skirt/pinafore/trousers/navy tracksuit bottoms, jade green jumper (available in the Magnet Ck-on-Shannon-0719620266), a white polo shirt, white shirt or white blouse. Uniforms are currently in stock and can be ordered online.

Green Schools Initiative- a message from Ms Glancy our Green School Co-ordinator

Thanks to Ms Glancy and all staff and pupils for their continued work with promoting our school as a Green School. This year pupils, staff and parents worked on the idea of sowing, planting and growing seeds and vegetables. Míle buíochas to parents who came on Saturday April 17th and helped Ms Glancy dig out beds and spread topsoil. We appreciate your time and effort. We also received equipment for use throughout the whole school for cooking when it is time to harvest the produce.

Ms Glancy and her pupils were looking at the lifecycles of species during the last term. They choose the Frog and the Caterpillar. Their classroom was a learning environment where the children observed frogspawn turning into tadpoles and froglets, caterpillars crystallising and developing into butterflies. All young were released into their natural habitats.

We also have to mention the new arrivals to Sen infants/First class. Ms Smith brought in an incubator and showed the children how chicks are hatched from eggs. The excitement and learning was palpable throughout the school.

Accelerated Reading Programme

This programme is now embedded in our school day and we are noticing an improvement in children's literacy and interest in books. They are moving towards becoming very independent readers which is the overall aim of the programme. Keep up the great work children! Thanks to Mr McKiernan and all the staff for sustaining the motivation and interest throughout the year and for encouraging the children to reach their set targets.

New Oral Language Primary Curriculum

This programme is up and running in our school and it is being reflected in our new reading and literacy schemes, in our teaching methodologies in our learning outcomes.

School Self Evaluation (S.S.E)

From September onwards, school self-evaluation will focus on learning of Spellings throughout the whole school. We know that by adapting a whole school approach to an area is of great benefit to all of our learners. More information about this will follow in September.

Safeguarding our children

Risk Assessments are in place and were reviewed and adapted to implement our response to Covid-19 measures. Our Bullying Policy and Child Protection Risk Assessment were reviewed by the board of management.

Thank you for your cooperation with the staggered opening and dismissal times. Please ensure if possible that you call the school if the person collecting your child changes or you get delayed. We understand that these things happen from time to time. If we know in short advance we can explain to your child and alleviate any undue worry.

Sports Day – Making it Podastic!

We were very fortunate with the weather on Wednesday June 16th and were able to hold a sports day with each class bubble working collaboratively on the skills of running, throwing, jumping and kicking. Ms McHugh and the staff used ideas from a website designed by Sligo Education centre as well activities used by our teachers. It was an enjoyable experience for all. Thank you to Ms Mc Hugh for organising this event.

School Tours

Unfortunately, due to uncertainty with restrictions we decided not to go on school tours. We hope to resume them in the next academic year.

Ice Cream Van—June 9th

This year as a treat for the children a visit from the ice cream van was organised and it was truly a joyous occasion. Thanks to Mrs White and staff for proposing and organising this for all the children, who after a challenging year, deserved a special treat.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to any member of our school community who experienced bereavement during this year and especially in the last few months. Under the government guidelines and due to restrictions in place, people could not have funerals

as we were used to, families could not receive expressions of sympathy as would normally have happened. Please accept our condolences on the parting of your loved and hopefully you can find comfort knowing that we are thinking about you. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam Dilís.

Tea Morning for Motor Neuron Awareness Day

Mrs Rowley and 5th class organised a tea morning to raise funds for this worthy cause on Monday June 21st 2021. A total of €194.62

Farm Safety

We wish to congratulate Ms Beirne and her class on achieving the status of “Farm Safe Super Star School”. A certificate was sent to our school and we will display it with pride.

Furthermore, Kian McNabola was selected as the Connacht FBD Farm Safe Schools Regional Champion.

Comghairdeas Libh go léir Rang A Dó agus a Trí -táimid an bhrodúil asaibh.

Football Coaching

Thanks to Shane O’Rourke for returning in April and bringing joy and fun while demonstrating footballs drills, skills and practices to the children in 3rd up to 6th class.

A note from Kiltubrid Playgroup

Kiltubrid Playgroup, Breakfast Club and After School are now enrolling for the school year 2021-2022. We are a community based, not for profit organisation on your doorstep. The Breakfast Club opens from 8am and the children are collected at 2 and 3 o’ clock and escorted to the After School where the children engage in supervised homework, outdoor and indoor play, art and crafts and more until 6pm. We provide a high quality affordable service for primary school children. We also provide the ECCE service whereby children are entitled to two full academic years from the September of the year that they turn 3 years old. If you would like to avail of the Pre-school, Breakfast Club or After School Club for your child, please contact the service manager at [071-9642991](tel:071-9642991) or [083-0169118](tel:083-0169118)

Zeeko Internet Safety Training

Our school took part in internet safety training via Zoom on Tuesday June 8th 2021-this is an important area and we endeavour to convey to our pupils the importance of being safe while using the internet. This is part of our daily lives and there are so many benefits to using digital platforms. However, we are aware that there are many pitfalls and we wish to safe guard the children against these. Thanks to the board of management for funding this.

Stay Safe Programme.

This year our school covered the 5 areas in this programme. The issue of Bullying is ongoing and our staff and pupils are aware of the procedures in place to deal with this. The message of **Say No, Get Away and Tell** is used throughout the school year and not just while the programme is being covered. Please let the school know immediately if your child is unhappy and we'll do our utmost to help.

Magic Leaders Programme

Mrs Rowley and her class are also taking part in this entrepreneurial programme called magical leaders. Children are being taught skills necessary to develop business skills.

School Photographer

Finbarr, our school photographer, visited us on 22nd April. This year due to restrictions and mixing of bubbles we were limited to getting photographs for Junior and 6th class and sibling photographs.

NAMER Tests

Our school participated in The National Assessment of Mathematics and English Reading (NAMER) tests in May 2021. This involved 2nd class and 6th class pupils. Well done children and we will have the national results towards the end of the year. This project ascertains the standards of maths and English on a nationwide basis.

Parent Teacher Meetings

This year our parent teacher meetings were held over phone or on zoom. Thank you for your time and engagement during those evenings.

We are not sure about next year but arrangements will be made in the first term.

COVID19

In very recent correspondence from the department we have been advised to keep our COVID plan in place for next September. We ask that the children have a pencil case for school use only again with all the necessary requirements. It would also be a help to have transparent covers for copies and books. Thank you.

Community Resilience Keep Well campaign

Leitrim County Council are launching a series of fun, family friendly, interactive maps exploring playgrounds in Co. Leitrim as part of this plan. The "Playground Passport", distributed to all the children, details all of the amazing playgrounds in Leitrim and comes with a list of free family activities located near each playground, offering a fun day out for all the family.

As part of the launch of the maps, Leitrim Co.Co, will be running a competition over the summer months to encourage children and their families to use their outdoor facilities within the county. The aim is for the children to visit as many playgrounds as they can, stamp the passport and let Leitrim Co.Co. know their favourite playground.

To enter the competition, the parent/guardian is asked to take a photo of the completed passport section of the map and send to community@leitrimcoco.ie with their contact details. A draw will take place in early September and all winners will be notified by email.

Finally, we wish you a restful and enjoyable summer. We sincerely thank you all for the tremendous job you did while home schooling your children. We appreciate your continued support as we endeavour to guide your children through primary school.

Our school will close on Thursday June 24th at 12. 30p.m. The children who travel on the first buses will leave at 12:00p.m. We will continue to stagger the dismissal of the classes between 12:00 and 12.30 in the usual way.

We will keep you informed of any changes/updates from the Department over the summer.

School will reopen on Wednesday September 1st 2021 at 09:20 le Cúnamh Dé.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Angela White, Finola McGowan, Olivia McHugh, Rachel Keane, Fidelma Glancy, Nicola Heslin, Micheál Mc Kiernan, Gearóidín Ní Chonghaile, Sinead Beirne, Margaret Rowley, Geraldine McWeeney and Christina McGourty.