



Newsletter



St Brigid's Primary, Nursery School, Autistic and Learning
Support Classes

September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year. It is an honour to have your children attend our school. Thank you for sending them to St Brigid's.

We the staff, will work in close partnership with you the parents and carers to provide the best possible education for your children. We encourage you to support us by reading regularly with your child and ensuring that they complete **their homework each evening** Monday - Thursday. This is given to reinforce the learning which takes place during that week, so that we help each child become the best that they can be.

If your child is in Year 3 to 7 inclusive, they will engage in the Accelerated Reading Programme. This Programme supports reading and comprehension. Please encourage your child to read and quiz regularly. We have a reward system in place to encourage all pupils to participate. William Hyndman Austridge in year 7 achieved 650 points in the previous school year, this is a very high score, congratulations!

We will continue to develop Mathletics in the new school year 2018/19 to enhance the development of Mathematics, problem solving and investigations. It runs in all year groups (1-7) and children compete against each other to complete enjoyable Mathematics activities, which supports their learning and achievement.

The Staff will focus on the development of Reading, Comprehension, Writing genres, Mathematics and the WAU within the curriculum for all pupils this year. We are going to reinforce the approaches to teaching reading, the writing genres and mathematics. As these are core curriculum areas they play a significant role in developing each child to ensure that they achieve their full potential. We are introducing a new mathematics scheme called 'Inspire', by Oxford University Press. It is based on the approaches used in Singapore, which are considered to have the highest standards in the world.

If your child is absent from school for any reason **please fill in the note** label which you will find in the homework diary and send to the class teacher, so that we are aware of their absence. This will allow us to work together to ensure the safety of your child. We need this information as we are required to enter the **reason for absence on the attendance sheets each week for the Department of Education.**

Morning Opening Times

Breakfast club is open and supervised from 8.30am each day for pupils and parents. Classrooms are supervised from 8.45am each morning.

Racecourse Road Entrance/Back Gate

In the interests of the health and safety those pupils who use the Racecourse Road gate, we have a security system in place on this gate.

The security system will operate from:

- 8.45 am – 9.15 am each morning
- 2.15 pm – 2.45 pm each afternoon for years 1 – 3
- 3.10 pm – 3.30 pm each afternoon for years 4 – 7

When you wish to enter or exit, **please press the appropriate button** and you will speak to someone in the office who will open the gate for you. **It is very important that you close the gate behind you to ensure the safety of the children.** Last year it was noted that some people left the gate open. This is very dangerous as it puts pupils in school at risk.

Please enter the school building **through the gate/door at the junior playground**, signs are in place.

This has been put in place to keep all of our children safe. Children attending the after school clubs after 3.10 pm must be collected at the **main entrance only**. We would appreciate your help with making these arrangements work.

ECO/Outdoor Classroom

This room is intended to provide shelter for parents who collect their children from the main entrance area or at the exit door beside the senior canteen.

Mr Ryan's year 5 class, the two year 7 classes, Miss McCafferty's and Mrs Maher's, and the two year 6 classes Mr O'Doherty's and Miss McDaid's, will continue to use the exit door beside the **senior canteen**. The two year 4 classes Mrs Bonner and Mrs Ruddy and Mrs McGowan's year 5 class will continue to exit via the main entrance. The hallway is a very small area and in order to reduce congestion we would ask that you use the outdoor classroom to support a safe exit for all pupils and parents. We ask that **parents with prams particularly to use the outdoor classroom**, as in addition to the congestion, prams pose a trip and injury health hazard.

ATTENDANCE

We are continuing to have a special focus on attendance this year as we did not meet our targets last year. It impacts so much on each child's learning and levels of achievement. If a child falls below 95%, we will send you a letter to remind you that your child has missed 9.25 days which is almost two weeks of teaching and learning time. The EWO Mr C. Murray now has access to each school's attendance through the Sims Online System. He becomes involved if attendance falls to 85% or below. This will include writing to the parents and arranging a meeting with the family to offer support.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LIST OF HOLIDAYS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018-JUNE 2019 TO HELP PLAN YOUR YEAR.

We intend to continue to highlight the wearing of our full school uniform. It has served us well and is recognised by everyone as our special trademark. Please support us by ensuring your child wears their full uniform including plain black shoes, every day. Please ensure that the shoes you buy are plain black shoes without colour or stripes, they can be any brand of plain black shoes you choose to purchase.

You will find a copy of the School Code of Conduct on the back page newsletter. I ask that you support us, by talking it through with your child and explaining the importance of this to ensure that the school is a safe and happy place for all pupils to feel safe, cared for and enjoy and learn.

We have five key targets for this school year 2018/2019. We need your help and support to make them happen:

1. Uniform must be worn every day, including plain black shoes.
2. Full attendance to support your child's learning and achievement unless they are sick.
3. Punctuality: School begins at 9.10am each day and your child needs to be on time to encourage learning and complete homework corrections which ensures understanding of learning and new concepts.
4. Homeworks completed Monday to Thursday evenings inclusive to reinforce learning.
5. Read to, or with your child each night to encourage a love of reading and improve their reading levels.

There are a number of issues which I would like to bring to your attention to ensure the smooth running of the school and most importantly to ensure that your children are safe.

- In the interests of Health and Safety and in order to keep all of the children safe during the school day, the doors will close at 9.15am and open for the home times: Nursery - 1.30pm, Yr1-Yr3 - 2.30pm, Yr4-7 - 3.10pm. All messages are to be left at reception in the box provided and labelled with your child's name and class teacher.
- In order to ensure the effective running of the school office, I ask parents to make arrangements with their child, i.e. collection from school, or other family matters in the morning, before they set out to school. As we have one Secretary it is not possible to provide a one to one message service for large numbers of pupils each afternoon in 14 classrooms as we have 386 pupils.
- School begins at 9.10am. Children from Years 1, 2 and 3 finish at 2.30pm. If parents wish their child to remain in school and go home at 3.10pm with their older brothers and/or sisters, these pupils will be supervised in the Reading Club by the Learning Assistants from 2.30pm until 3.10pm. Story telling and reading activities will take place each day. Year 1 in either classroom, Years 2 and 3 in the Year 2 play room.
- Children attending the Nursery Class should arrive for 9.00am each day. The class ends at 1.30pm. This begins after the initial settling in period in September.
- The car park within the fence is intended for staff cars only. Please do not use this area for setting down or collecting pupils as it is extremely hazardous to pupils' safety. Please ensure your child uses the pedestrian gate when entering and leaving the school for their safety.
- Teaching staff are in school 8.45am each morning for preparation. They are in their classroom from 9.00am. Learning Assistants provide supervision in classrooms and corridors, for pupils from 8.45am. This is provided as a support to parents going to their work. Please do not leave your child in the classroom alone if there is no adult supervision. Children attending breakfast club are welcome from 8.30am and are supervised.

- In order that we are able to contact you at all times during the school day, it is essential that we have your **mobile, landline and work telephone numbers**. It is important that we also **have a name and emergency telephone number** of someone whom we can contact if a parent is not available and their child is sick or distressed. Please note that it is essential that you inform the school of any changes in your **mobile or other telephone numbers**. During previous school years on a number of occasions I was unable to contact parents as their mobile number had changed and they had forgotten to inform the school. This causes added upset for children if they are unwell.
- **If you are a dog owner, please ensure that dogs do not follow your child/children to school as dogs roaming in the playground or grounds pose both a physical and hygiene threat to our pupils.**

Extended school funding

Funding has been cut by 25% over the previous school year. **This will significantly impact on the range of clubs and services we offer through Extended Schools.**

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy has been updated by the EA CPSSS Team in line with the Department of Education guidelines. This has been adopted by the Board of Governors in October 2017. All staff have received training by Ms P Houston CPSSS, Omagh. The Safeguarding Child Protection Team are named in order.

Chairperson of Board of Governors: Mrs Martina Morrison

Designated Safeguarding, Child Protection Governor: Mr Tomas Doherty

Chair of Safeguarding, Child Protection Team: Ms Mary McCallion

Designated Teacher for Safeguarding, Child Protection: Mr Paul O'Doherty

Deputy Designated Teacher for Safeguarding, Child Protection: Miss Orla McNamara

Designated Teacher for Safeguarding, Child Protection - Nursery: Mrs Catriona Quigley

Designated Teacher for Safeguarding, Child Protection – ASD/LSC: Mr Mark Doherty

DIETARY ARRANGEMENTS

- Milk money must be paid in advance for each four-week period. It is 20p per day multiplied by the number of school days in the month. **Milk money for September is £2.00 per child and must be paid by Tuesday 11 September 2018.**
- School dinners cost £2.60 each day for children in Year 1 - Year 7 and £2.50 each day for children in the Nursery Class. This money is payable on a daily/weekly basis.
- Healthy Menus are offered in the school canteen. Please encourage your children to select the healthy options. A menu for autumn term is enclosed to help you and your child discuss good choices. If your child is bringing a packed lunch to school, please ensure it supports a healthy balance of foods. Please see canteen menu attached.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING PROGRAMME

We are building on our existing Health and Well Being Programme by continuing:

The Breakfast Club available from 8.30am to 9.05am

BREAKFAST CLUB PRICE LIST

Tea	40p	Cereal with milk	30p	Toast (buttered)	25p
Scone	35p	Pancake (buttered)	40p		

BREAKFAST CLUB SPECIAL

Pancake and Tea	60p	Scone and Tea	60p	Toast and Tea	60p
Cereal and Tea	60p	Egg and Toast (1)	60p		

The Healthy Tuck Shop. Mrs Monica O'Doherty will continue to run the Tuck Shop selling fruit, juices, yogurt, and bottled water. We would strongly encourage you to send with healthy options if you are not availing of this service.

FRUIT TUCK SHOP PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Fruit Portion	20p
Water	50p
Pure Juice	40p

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP

Parents' Interviews are planned in September for Year Seven, Nursery and Year One pupils, these will take place during the school day. Year Two to Year Six inclusive are planned for November, date will be set and shared with you, again these take place during the school day. There are two important reasons why we have interviews at this time, so that you the parents can meet and get to know your child's teacher and share important information about your child with them and it gives the teacher the opportunity to provide you with the teaching, learning and assessment outcomes for your child.

A timetable of dates for these meetings will be arranged with Nursery and Year One parents who visit each day. Letters will go out with dates for Year Two to Seven inclusive prior to appointments. **If at other times you are concerned about your child's well-being or education, please telephone the office and make an appointment to see the class teacher, or the principal,** we will be pleased to meet with you and to alleviate your worries and reassure you regarding your concerns.

MUSIC SERVICE – EDUCATION AUTHORITY, WESTERN REGION

- A) Those children who receive tuition from the Education Authority Western Region Music Service will have an annual fee levied by the EA. Further information will arrive later in the term. Those children will receive letters giving full details as soon as the Education Authority Western Region send us the information.
- B) Those Children who have an Education Authority instrument on loan have to pay an annual maintenance fee of £45 per annum to the Music Service. The Board generally request this payment in November.
- C) Please note Year Four pupils will receive music tuition for half their school year, therefore they will pay half tuition fee and half instrument maintenance fee.

IN SCHOOL MUSIC TUITION

Miss Logue, Music Teacher will continue to teach recorder to all Year 4 and 5 pupils and tin whistle to Year 6 and 7 pupils. Recorders or tin whistles will be required by all pupils in these classes and they must bring their instrument to school each week for their music lessons. These lessons take place on Wednesday and Thursdays for each class.

Recorders (£6.00) and Tin Whistles (£4.50) may be purchased from the school. All pupils will be required to bring their recorder/tin whistle on Wednesday or Thursday each week for their class lesson. Please check your child's school bag to ensure they have the recorder/tin whistle on the required day.

At St Brigid's we encourage positive behaviour and strive to promote a caring, safe, secure and calm learning environment. In order to ensure this happens, we have developed our Positive Behaviour Policy and our School Code of Conduct. We would encourage you to support us by talking the school rules through with your child/ren at the beginning of each school year.

ST BRIGID'S SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

- We will work hard and try our best.
- We listen to others when they speak.
- We will be honest and tell the truth.
- We will not hurt others.
- We will wear our full school uniform with pride.
- We will respect school property and that of others.

It is a pleasure to have your children in our school where we will strive to nurture them and provide a broad, balanced education. If you have any queries or concerns do not hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to advise and support you.

I hope that we have a happy and successful school year in 2018/2019 working in partnership with you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Mary McCallion
Principal