



St Brigid's Primary School

Website: www.stbrigidspsmayogall.com

St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter

November / December 2022

We all returned refreshed from our Mid-term break on Monday 7th November.

Tree of Remembrance:

During the month of November, we take time to remember and pray for those who have died. As a school community we wanted to remember all those people who have been special within our lives. Everyone was given the opportunity to either draw a picture or write the name of someone they want to remember on a leaf. The children then decorated these and added them to our whole school 'Tree of Remembrance'. Although we may still miss these people very much and feel sadness that they are gone, we remember that they are safely with God, and we are able to treasure our special memories with them.



Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent Teacher Meetings were held on the week commencing Monday 7th November. We are delighted to report a 98% turnout.

Shared Education:

As part of the Shared Education Programme Primary 5 pupils from St Brigid's travelled to Lavey Termoneeny Centre to meet up with P5 pupils from Knockloughrim Primary School on 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th November. Here they took part in their project – Physical Fitness, Mental Wellbeing and STEM. On their final meeting they entertained parents and friends in a coffee morning complete with a joint choir. It is great to be back to face to face meetings our shared education partners.

Entrance Test:

On Saturday 12th November five Year 7 pupils sat the Entrance Test in local grammar schools – we wish them well.

New Outdoor Play and Learning Area:

Our new outdoor play area has provided us with lots of opportunities to develop skills across all curricular areas. We love bringing our learning outdoors and have had excellent opportunities to develop our Literacy, Numeracy, WAU, ICT and PE skills. We are looking forward to spending much more time outdoors.



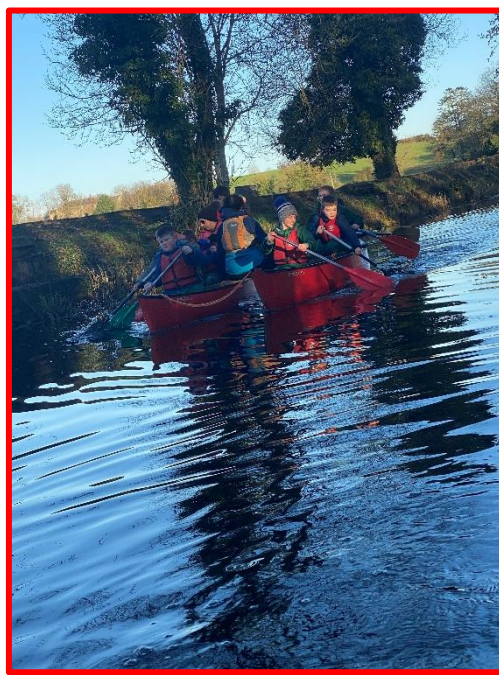
P7 RESIDENTIAL

Primary 7 had a wonderful time on their residential trip to Woodhall Education Centre in Kilrea from the 14th to 16th November. They had a fantastic three day trip and took part in many outdoor activities such as: canoeing, night time orienteering, crate tower building, high ropes climbing, low ropes climbing, the leap of faith, teambuilding puzzles and ziplining. On the second night Ms O'Kane lit the campfire and all the children toasted marshmallows! They had a sing-a-long and danced around the fire. All our P7 pupils had a great time and they were extremely well looked after by the Woodhall staff. Thank you also to Clodagh, Jemma and Ms O'Kane for their hard work and dedication to our children enabling them to avail of this wonderful opportunity.











Makaton Training:

On Thursday 10th and Friday 11th November the majority of our staff completed Level 1 Makaton training. We have increasing numbers of children who require Makaton to communicate so it is important that as a whole school we are committed to serving our school community. Well done everyone.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

“REACH OUT”

Monday 14th to Friday 18th November we started our Anti-Bullying week with our pupils wearing Odd Socks to school.



Odd Sock Day



Primary 1:

Odd Sock Day - P1 enjoyed learning all about being a good friend and ways we can show kindness to each other. They decorated their own pair of odd socks, making each one different and unique.



Primary 1/2 Odd Socks





Super odd
socks in P2!

PICCOLLAGE

More Odd Socks in the Primary 2 Class



Anti-Bullying Week Monday 14th-Friday 18th November 2022

This year for Anti-Bullying week we came together to “Reach Out” to stop bullying. All the children wore Odd Socks to celebrate their uniqueness on Odd Socks Day. Every class had lessons on how they can “Reach Out” to help other kids who might be feeling sad or lonely. Mrs Mc Crum held special assemblies for each Key stage. She told the children of the actions to take if they see bullying taking place and what to do if they feel they are bullied. They also watched videos and discussed what bullying is and how it can be stopped. Mrs Mc Crum read a story and whilst the story was being read, the children passed a picture of a child around. Each time they felt the child was being hurt in the story the children ripped the paper picture. This was a very visual way for the pupils to see that words really can be very hurtful and “rip” the person to pieces!





Road Safety Week 2022

Theme: "Keep Your Eyes on the Road"

On 14th November we commenced our Road Safety Week celebrations the theme is "Keep your eyes on the Road". All classes participated in a variety of activities aimed at highlighting different aspects of Road Safety.

Be Bright and Be Seen

PSNI Road Safety Talk:

On Thursday 17th November Neil and Michael from the PSNI visited our school to tell us about road safety both in the car and when out walking. We know the importance of always wearing our seatbelts in the car (Clunk and click for every trip!) and that we should all sit in a booster seat until we are 12 years old or 135cm tall! When out walking with our family in the dark evenings we will wear bright and reflective clothing to 'Be Bright and Be Seen'.



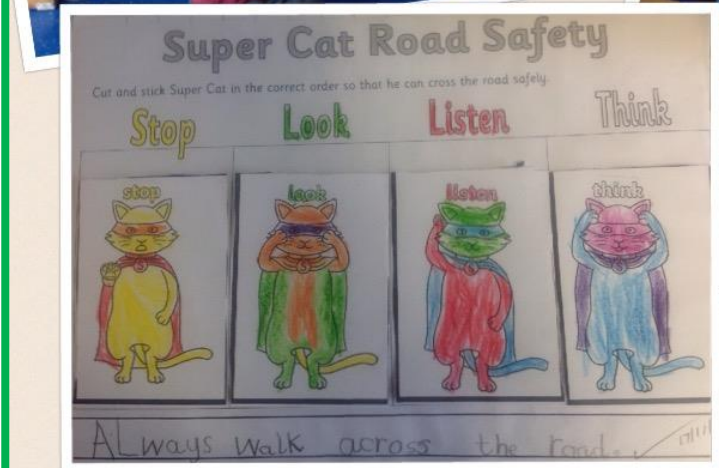
Road Safety

We listened carefully to the PSNI talk to us about keeping safe when in the car and when crossing the road.



Fitness Freddy

Friday 18th November Freddy did a Well-being day for all P4 – P7 pupils



Fitness Freddy:

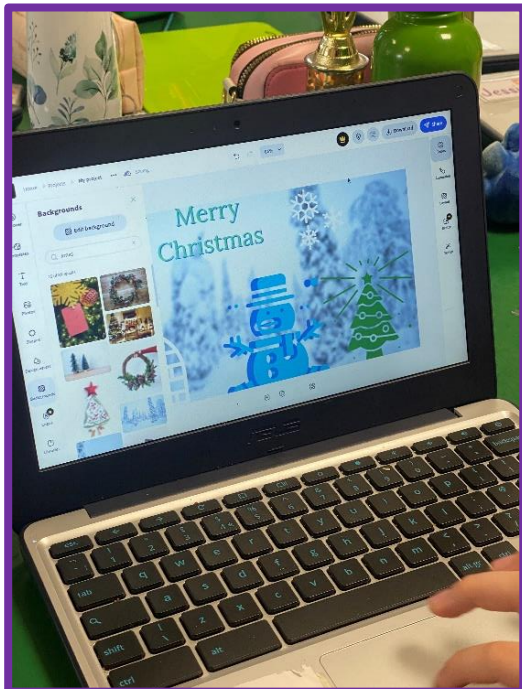
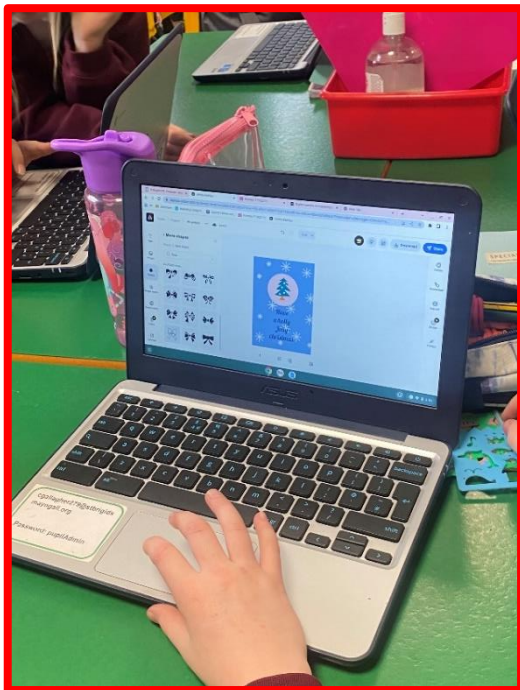
On Friday 18th November our friend Fitness Freddy returned to do a Mental Health and well-being day with all our pupils P4 – P7. It was very enjoyable and beneficial for all the children. Freddy's message was Take 5:-

- Give
- Take Notice
- Keep Learning
- Be Active
- Connect



Adobe Express Digital Leaders:

P7 took part in the Adobe Express Digital Leaders training by Dominic Traynor. The pupils learned how to create: posters, cards, videos and a web page. In term 2 our leaders will put their skills to the test as they teach other classes how to use Adobe Express.



Dogs Trust:

Cathy Clyde from the Dogs Trust visited our Key Stage 2 pupils to explain how best to look after their animals this winter. The children learnt lots about dog health and training as well as safety around animals. We had a lovely visit from Cathy and we promised to continue looking after our pets.

Primary 5



Primary 7



Daily Mile Santa Run:

On Friday 2nd December St Brigid's joined in with hundreds of other schools across Northern Ireland to take part in the Annual Santa Run set up by the Daily Mile Foundation to help promote children's health and well-being. Children from P1 to P7 tied their laces tight and made sure their Santa hats were firmly on their heads before taking off on their run. P1 - P4, including ASC1 ran their laps around the top playground while P5-P7, plus ASC2 ran laps around the school. The children had a great time and it was a great way to combine fun and fitness. The 15 minutes of daily exercise (weather permitting) will help our children to feel fitter, happier and healthier!

Primary 1/2



Primary 2







Primary 5



Primary 6



Primary 7



Paul Hughes Assembly:

It was a fabulous experience to have our past pupil and World Cage Warriors Featherweight Champion Paul Hughes visit our school on Monday 5th December. After an entertaining and informative Assembly from our P7 class, Paul spoke to all the children. It was inspirational to hear him advise our pupils to work hard, listen to your teachers and never give up. Paul recalled his favourite things about St. Brigid's P.S. – he loved Donna's scones and pancakes and Mrs McGlinchey was his favourite teacher.



Credit Union Art Competition



The theme of the Credit Union Art Competition this year was **"It's a Wonderful World"**.
Well done to all our winners in the Credit Union Art Competition.

7years and Under
1st ~ Mollie Duggan
2nd ~ Annie O'Sullivan
3rd ~ Molly Magee



8 – 10 years
1st ~ Caoimhe Murtagh
2nd ~ Rosie Birt
3rd ~ Ellen Rose Hughes



11 – 13 years
1st ~ Savannah Devlin
2nd ~ Cara Gallagher
3rd ~ Niamh Hendry

Specialist Joinery Group Fly-By!

Friday 9th December was a very special morning for everyone in St Brigid's as Santa and Mrs Claus flew overhead in a helicopter. The pilot took time to hover over each playground and we could clearly see Santa and Mrs Claus wave out to all of us.

Thank you to the O'Hagan family, the directors, management and staff of Specialist Group for spreading the magic of Christmas.



St Brigid's believes



Primary 3



Christmas Dinner:



Thank you to Donna, Katie, Danielle and Pauline in our school kitchen for our delicious Christmas dinner on Wednesday 14th December. 190 pupils and 19 staff availed of a school meal in a very festive school canteen. Everyone wore their Christmas jumper and the Christmas Music and added to the party atmosphere.

Primary 3/4



Primary 7





St. Vincent De Paul:

This year again our school community contributed to the St. Vincent De Paul family appeal. Our local conference of SVP was overwhelmed by your generosity as two cars were loaded up with your donations of food and toys for families in need in this area.

Thanks to everyone who donated.



F. P. McCann:

Thanks to the management and staff of F. P. McCann for their donation of five laptops to our school. We will certainly put them to good use in our Key Stage 1 classes.



Christmas Shows

Monday 12th December P1 – P4 Christmas Shows:

**Primary 1 and Primary 2 performed the ABC Nativity
(with Makaton Actions)**



Primary 3 and Primary 4 performed Ralph the Reindeer





Monday 19th December P5 – P7 Christmas Shows:

Primary 5 performed Scrooged



Primary 6 performed Chitty Chitty Bang Bang



Primary 7 performed The New Star



Christmas Raffle:

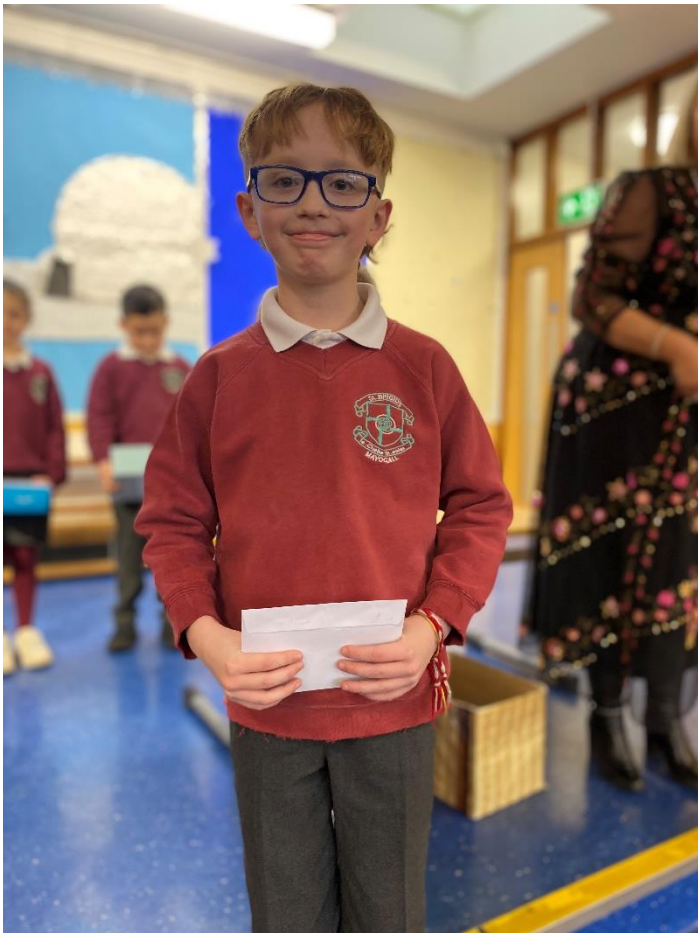
For the second time we held a Christmas Raffle after receiving prize donations. Tickets were printed by mcaprint.co.uk (Mr Martin McAllister father of Beibhinn P1/2).

We were given a large battery operated jeep by Childwood Play (this caused great excitement across the school). An Alexa Echo Show 5.5" and Facebook Portal 10" donated by Michael and Joanne Scullion. A Christmas Hamper donated by Damien and Joanne Duggan. We received two vouchers from Happy Minds, Grateful Hearts donated by Sean and Amanda Brennan. A family pass for the cinema. Thank you to all our donors.

The raffle raised £2220 which will purchase 10 new iPads for the school.

Prizewinners were: John Convery
Caolan McGurk
Ellie Dillon
Shannon McCrystal
Dara Curley







CROSS COUNTRY

St Mary's Grammar School:

Pupils from P6 and P7 enjoyed participation in the Cross Country event at St Mary's Grammar School Magherafelt. On 24th November when local schools were invited to take part. In the first race the P6 girls from St Brigid's P.S. put in a really strong performance with Sine, Saidhbhin and Cassie taking the first three places, while all six girls finished in the top ten. In the P6 boys' race Daniel ran well and gained the bronze in a very competitive race. The P7 girls and boys found the course conditions after the first two races more difficult and while none were placed in the first three all put in a very determined effort. The children all enjoyed their races and appreciate the invitation.



Flahavan's Cross Country Round 2:

On Wednesday 14th December the Flahavan's Cross Country was cancelled due to the inclement weather.

SPORTS EVENTS

Hurling, Camogie and Football Blitzs:

Our P6 and P7 pupils were invited on Tuesday 8th November to participate in a monthly blitz at Robert Emmet's Club Slaughneil, under the direction of Chrissy McKaigue. The competition was for the five direct feeder school of St Patrick's College and will alternate monthly between hurling/camogie and football.

Hurling and Camogie Blitz



South Derry Football Skills Test:

Well done to the 3 P7 boys who represented the school at the South Derry Football Skills Test in Meadowbank on the 24th November. The boys were put through their paces and judged on their accuracy of passing with both feet, soloing with both feet, handpassing with both hands and shooting from distance with both feet. On top of all of this they were timed for their efforts. The boys competed against other P7s from all over Derry with the top scorers getting the opportunity to represent Derry at half time games. We await the results – good luck!

Boys and Girls Football Blitz:

On Tuesday 13th December at Lavey Primary 6 and 7 Football tournament cancelled due to inclement weather.

Staff Training:

In St Brigid's P.S. we give a high priority to the professional development of all our staff. Listed below is a number of training and development events attended by staff:

In addition, lots of our staff training has been online through Webinars, Google Meets, Teams or Zoom.

November	10 th	M O'K MUPPI Cluster Meeting
	10 th & 11 th	All staff Makaton Training
	11 th	P McC Attention Autism Training
	16 th	M O'K to Independent Review of Education
	16 th & 17 th	O McA and A M to Educating the Heart – Compassionate Schools
	17 th & 18 th	M O'K AOE A Training
	18 th	P McC Attention Autism Training
	25 th	P McC Attention Autism Training
	29 th	M O'K AOE A Training) Evaluating the impact of curriculum on pupil learning.
December	1 st	M O'K AOE A Training) Compassionate curriculum for thriving schools.
	2 nd	P McC Attention Autism Training
	7 th	C McK Downs – developing numerary and memory skills.
	9 th	M O'K Cluster Meeting
	9 th	P McC Attention Autism Training
	13 th	M O'K AOE A – Revie, evaluate and support effective governance.
	16 th	P McC Attention Autism Training

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 4 th January	Term 2 begins
Tuesday 10 th January	Admission to P1 (Sept 2023) opens
	Fair Trade Coffee Morning
Tuesday 17 th January	Sacramental Talk for P4 and P7 parents and children
17 th & 18 th January	St. Patrick's College open evenings
Friday 27 th January	P1 Admissions close at 12 noon
Friday 10 th February	Class ends at 1pm
13 th – 17 th February (incl)	Mid-term break
Wednesday 1 st March	First Confession 7pm
Saturday 11 th March	Confirmation 12 noon
Friday 17 th March	St Patrick's Day
Wednesday 5 th April	Class ends at 1pm
6 th – 14 th April (incl)	Easter Holidays
Saturday 27 th May	First Communion

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



On Wednesday 21st December school closes at 1:00pm for Christmas Holidays and reopens again on Wednesday 4th January 2023. The Principal, Staff and Pupils of St Brigid's P.S. wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.





Mrs Cathy Donaghy
P3/4 Teacher
Designated Teacher

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Our most important duty in St Brigid's is to keep all our children safe. All our families received a copy of our Safeguarding information in September. Remember if you have concerns about the safety of any of our pupils speak to our specialist staff:



Mrs Paula McCrum
ASC1 Teacher
Vice-Principal
Deputy Designated Teacher

Recently some parents have endangered pupils by entering classrooms without express permission from the school office. Remember:

NO ONE CAN ENTER THE SCHOOL BUILDING ONCE THE DOOR IS SECURED AT 9:15AM

If P1 or P2 children arrive at school after 9:15am and the gate is locked, you go to reception, sign the late book and either the Principal or Secretary will take your child to class. You cannot escort your child to class. **SORRY!**

Pupils in other classes P3 – P7 who arrive after 9:15am must be signed in at Reception by the accompanying adult – no exceptions. Pupils should not go directly to Mobile Classrooms and press the Buzzer – they must be signed in.

As Santa Claus has again been very generous to the children of Lavey with lots of PS4s, Ipods, I pads etc we urge you to be aware of your child's online safety.

Remember

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?



13



Twitter Facebook Instagram Pinterest
Google + Tumblr Reddit Snapchat Secret

14

16

17

18

LinkedIn

WhatsApp

Vine
Tinder

Path

18 / 13 with parent's permission

Youtube Keek Foursquare
WeChat Kik Flickr

Age specified in the platform's terms of service as of 09/2014.

