



St Brigid's Primary School

Website: www.stbrigidpsmayogall.com

St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter
April / June 2023

Term 3 Takes Off:

On Monday 17th April we started Term 3 refreshed after our lovely Easter break.

Teaching Practice:



Bernadette Henry P4 and Dara McGuckin P7 both studying at the University of Cumbria started their teaching practice from Monday 17th April to Friday 23rd June. We wish these student teachers every success on their school placement here in St. Brigid's.

The S.E.E.D.S Programme:

Coach and Facilitator Hugo Mac Oscar worked with P7 pupils on 21st April, 28th April and 12th May as part of their transition programme to prepare for moving to post primary education. This excellent programme is designed to improve the children's self-esteem, enable them to regulate their emotions. Activities included how to introduce yourself to a new friend. Pupils participated in a variety of trust activities. Hugo really helped build confidence in our P7 pupils as they move on to their new schools.





**Our school Counsellor Jo is a one-to-one councillor for children in need of emotional support.
Thank you Jo.**



Whole School Photograph:

Monday 24th April we had a whole school photo taken to celebrate St Brigid's Primary School being opened 50 years. We had been practising for weeks, how to line up in height order. We are very pleased with the result. Whole school photographs are available to purchase.



**St. Brigid's Primary School, Mayogall
2022-2023**

Teachers' Strike:

School was closed for all staff on Wednesday 26th April due to the Teachers' Strike.

World Daily Mile Day

On the 27th April St Brigid's joined in with thousands of other schools across the world to take part in the World Daily Mile 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 before taking off on their run. P1-P5, including ASC1 ran their laps around the top playground while P6-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.



Red and White Days

On Friday 28th April and Friday 26th May, the children and adults put on their red and white colours to celebrate Derry Day in preparation for the Ulster Championship games. Derry hats, flags and headbands could be seen in every classroom as the pupil's played their part in supporting the team. Doire Abú.

In addition to the recent success of Derry Footballers, we also have the triumph of our Derry Hurlers under the management of Johnny McGarvey. They contest the Christy Ring All-Ireland Final in Croke Park on Saturday 3rd June, so our pupils and staff had another red and white day on Friday 2nd June. Doire Abú.





Closures:

We all enjoyed a lovely long May Mid-term break from 1st – 8th May.

Election:

School was closed on Thursday 18th May as it is used as a polling station for the Election.

After Schools Clubs:

After Schools clubs began on Tuesday 9th April for Term 3.



Term 3

DAY	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR	AGE GROUPS
Monday	Girls' Camogie	Miss D. McGuckin & Miss S. Darragh	P5 – P7
	Drama	Miss B. Henry	P4
Tuesday	Girls' Gaelic	Ms G. O'Kane	P6 & P7
	Hurling	Mr R. Doherty	P6 & P7
Wednesday	Girls' Gaelic	Miss A. Martin	P4 & P5
	Cookery Club	Miss B. Cassidy	P5
Thursday	Boys' Gaelic	Mr R. Doherty	P6 & P7
	Girls' Netball	Miss O. McAlister	P5 & P7

After School Cookery Club:

Well done to all the Primary 5 children who participated in the After Schools' Cookery Club. Each week we have been cooking lots of different recipes and have enjoyed getting to taste our delicious dishes! Have a look at some of the things that we cooked! 🧑🍳😊



Waffles and Ice-cream 🍦



PIC•COLLAGE



Toasties 🥪



PIC•COLLAGE



Smores



PIC•COLLAGE



Wrap pizzas



PIC•COLLAGE



Fifteens



After Schools Netball Club



Shared Education

As part of the Shared Education Programme Primary 1 pupils from St Brigid's meet with Primary 1 pupils from Knockloughrim primary school to take part in their project 'Fun in the Sun' on the 9th and 16th May. It was great to meet up with our friends from Knockloughrim Primary School for our Shared Education Programme! We had the opportunity to practice our fundamental skills for our upcoming Sports Day. We also enjoyed a range of summer themed play activities indoors and learned lots about how to keep safe in the sun and on the beach!



Primary 1 Shared Education



Primary One really enjoyed a celebratory Teddy Bears' picnic on Tuesday 23rd May with their friends from Knockloughrim Primary School. A huge thanks to all parents and grandparents who came along to spend the day with us. It was great to see so much support for our Shared Education Programme! 😊 We would also like to thank Donna and the kitchen staff who provided lovely sandwiches and biscuits for us all. 🧸



Primary 1 Shared Education



Teddy Bears' Picnic 🧸



PIC • COLLAGE

Shared Education Sports Day

St Brigid's P.S. joined our Shared Education partners from Knockloughrim P.S. for a Shared Sports Day on Monday 5th June at the Termoneeny Sports Centre. Parents from both schools were welcome to spectate and there were refreshments provided and the ice-cream van was also there.





Release of our Butterflies

Our school council agreed it would be a great idea for all classes to be able to observe the real lifecycle of a butterfly. We started off with little caterpillars and watched them grow before they formed a chrysalis. We waited patiently for them to hatch and yesterday we released all five butterflies 🦋🦋





Walk to School Week

Walk to school week began on Tuesday 23rd - Friday 26th May.

Pupils gathered outside Boyle's Shop and the 'Walking Train' left at 9am. Children were accompanied by school staff and parents and carers were welcome to join them as they walked to school. There was a theme for each Walk to School Day:

Tuesday – **HI-VIS DAY** – The traffic will definitely see us as we wear something fluorescent/reflective over our uniform (perhaps dad can lend us his work clothes!).....

Wednesday - **WACKY WIG DAY** – Who will have the best wig? Or Gallons of Gel Day! Who will have the most creatively gelled hairstyle? Prizes for creativity

Thursday – **NOISY NIPPERS** – bring your whistles, bells and rattles for a noisy walk (hope no-one was planning to have a lie-in).....

Friday – **RED AND WHITE, DERRY DAY** – supporting our county team ahead of the big match, wear your Derry gear or simply red and white. Doire Abú!





First Holy Communion

On Saturday 27th May 41 P4 pupils made their First Holy Communion. Again every pupil was involved in the ceremony, reading, singing and offertory procession. A lovely ceremony from Fr. Graham and nice weather added up to a great day for all. The pupils were very well prepared by Mrs Quinn, Mrs Donaghy and their classroom assistants Rachel, Louise and Shannon and student teacher Miss Bernadette Henry. The school choir led by Sean Scullion and were again amazing and added so much to the ceremony.





SPORTS DAY!

Our Sports Day was on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May. Children had received a note from Mr Doherty with all the details including their team and colours to wear. There was an ice-cream van and refreshments were provided to raise funds for Lavey Féile teams. This raised £2,058 towards the cost for these teams. Well done everyone.







Primary 6 Sports Coaching:

Mr Gavin McGeehan from St Patrick's College coached the Primary 6 pupils for Gaelic Games for six weeks. The boys and girls all had a great time working with Mr McGeehan. We thank St Patrick's College for their continued support.

Christopher McKenna:

On Wednesday 31st May paramedic Chris Mc Kenna visited Primary 7. His daughter Aleisha is a P7 pupil and she has been so excited these past few weeks telling him about all she has been learning in her World Around Us topic of the Human Body. The Primary 7 pupils have been learning about organs, the blood and body systems such as the respiratory system and the circulatory system. Chris called in after his shift to answer some burning questions that our pupils had. He even showed us inside his red medical bag. We thank him for his wonderful service as a paramedic and for teaching us so much about his job. Thank you Chris!



FAMILY AUTISM FRIENDLY FUN DAY:

Cora Diamond organised a Family Fun Day on Saturday 3rd June at the Termoneeny Centre. Activities on the day included – face painting, bouncy castles, balloon modelling, Go Games, Sweetie Cart, refreshments were served. All funds raised go to our Autism classes.



**This highly successful venture
Raised £7,627.38.**

**Thank you to Cora and all
Her helpers.**



P1 Induction:

On Wednesday 7th, 14th and 21st June 35 new P1s attended school as part of our familiarisation programme. We have found that this really helps pupils to settle into school life and takes away any fears about "big school".

P1 Induction Night:

On Monday 12th June we had our P1 Induction Night unfortunately not all parents attended. Mrs O'Kane, Mrs McCrum and Mrs Mitchell spoke to parents about what to expect from life in St Brigid's. We expect to have 35 pupils in Primary 1 in September.

School Council Talent Show

School Council presents---St. Brigid's Talent Show!

Friday 16th June was the date and WOW - it was THE BEST AFTERNOON. The pupils of St Brigid's certainly know how to put on a good show! All classes held heats to determine their top 3 acts and then the top 3 acts from each class got to perform in the Key Stage Final. Well done to every child who stood on the stage and entertained the whole school - boys and girls of St. Brigid's - you are AMAZING! Also thank you to the teachers and classroom assistants who helped to make props, provided soundtracks, co-ordinated routines etc. It was great to see our children feel comfortable and be confident to perform. ♡ Special thanks to School Council - you are just brilliant! 😊

Mass in Clonard Monastery, Belfast

On Thursday 15th June our school choir had the honour of singing at the Clonard Novena. They were superb and we have received numerous cards and letters from all over the world and 10,000 viewers plus positive social media comments. After a hard day's singing we stopped off for lunch in McDonald's and we enjoyed a treat of McFlurrys from very generous parents. **Well done everyone.**





West Midlands Theatre.

On Monday 19th June West Midlands Theatre performed 'The Lost Emerald of Aswan'. Pupils loved to participate and cheer along to this excellent performance.



Work Experience Students:



On 19th and 20th June we had Ella Shaw, Carla Collins, Ellen McCormick and Delaney O'Neill from the 26th – 29th June on work experience.



SCHOOL TRIPS

Primary 1, Primary 2 and Rainbow Room School Trip:

On Friday 12th May Primary One, Primary Two and Rainbow Room had the best day at Sperrin Fun Farm! The excitement began as they climbed on the bus, and it wasn't long before they arrived at Sperrin Fun Farm. The pupils started their day with a little snack and then met Sean who guided them around the farm. He talked about all the birds and animals, and even encouraged them to have a look for some fairies. The magical fairy garden led to the giant outdoor slide and quad train ride which were both fantastic fun! It was then time for a lunch break, before getting a chance to explore the soft play area, bouncy castles, and pedal trucks. The day passed so quickly but everyone had so much fun. A great day had by all!





Primary Two and Rainbow Room

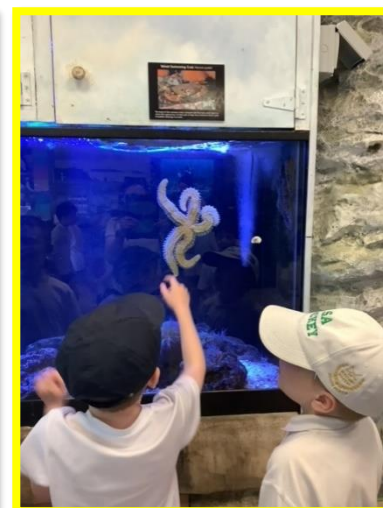


PIC•COLLAGE

Primary 3 and Primary 4 School Trip:

On Wednesday 14th June Primary Three and Four had a fantastic day at the play area in Portrush and at Alley Cats. Some of us also enjoyed visiting the Portrush Coastal Zone to look at some sea animals we have been learning about in our topic.

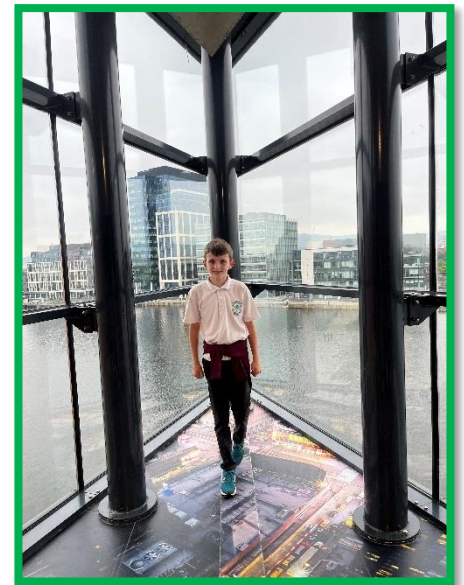
A fantastic day had by all 🌟





Primary 5 School Trip:

Primary 5 enjoyed a very educational and explorative trip to W5 on Tuesday 6th June. They explored the different exhibitions W5 has to offer such as energy, the environment and illusions. Primary 5 also had the opportunity to take part in several scientific experiments linked to the three different states of matter, which P5 already knew so much about thanks to their WAU topic! Everyone had a fantastic day and learned so much.



Primary 6 School Trip:

On Wednesday 17th May Primary six went on their school trip to Navan Centre Fort in Armagh. They learned all about the stone age, the bronze age and the iron age. Darragh and Fergal welcomed them into their Celtic house and told them all about their lives. They discovered that Celts love the symbol of the circle, they stored food underground in docken leaves and salt, they traded goods, and all slept in the one bed on goat skins. They taught us how to be Celtic warriors and how to use their weapons. They looked at artefacts and made their own shields decorating them with Celtic designs. It was a fascinating and fun educational experience.

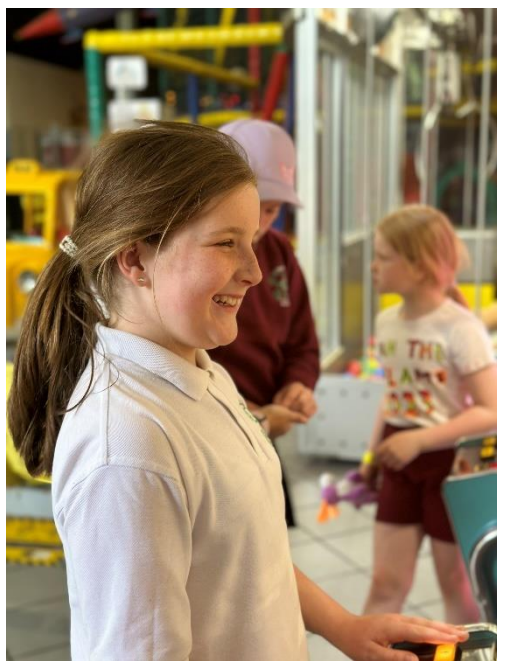


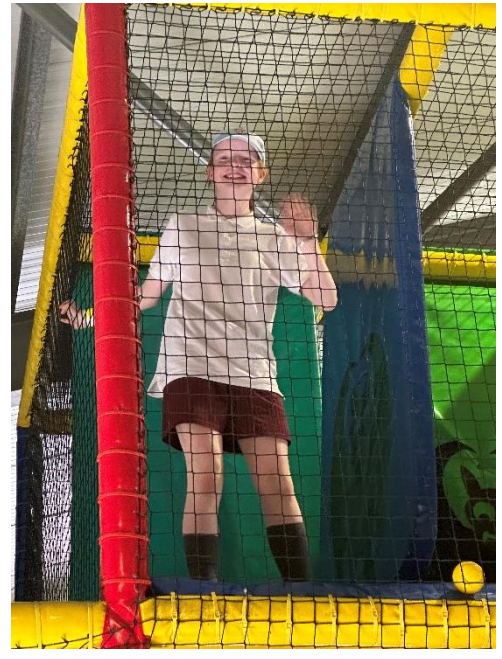


P7 to Fan the Flame Mass:

Thursday 8th June P7 pupils attended Fan the Flame Mass at Celtic Park. It was a lovely service and we thank Bishop Dónal for his kind words and his blessing. His message for the Primary 7's was; have an attitude of gratitude, don't let the hard times of the past bring you down but rather to propel you into the future. After Fan the Flame, the Primary 7's went to Leisureland at Redcastle. They had a yummy hot lunch and have had lots of fun playing together. What brilliant memories they will now have!







LEAVERS' MASS:

On Thursday 22nd June we had our Leavers' Mass and Prizegiving in Our Lady of Mercy Church. Mass was celebrated by Fr Graham and the school choir added so much to our Liturgy. After Mass gifts were presented to those leaving our school and trophies to our pupil award winners. Well done everyone we wish you every success in the future.



PRIZE GIVING:



Mrs O'Neill, Miss McAlister and Miss Martin receiving their certificates for our Gold Award Compassionate Schools.



Daniel Boyle P6 who won NI Water competition and £200 for our school.



School Councillor ~ Adam Harris



Courtesy ~ Lena Young



Girls' Football ~ Ria O'Neill



Camog ~ Ava Hughes



Footballer ~ Liam Devlin



Hurler ~ Michéal McNally



Sports Person ~ Éabha Holleran



ICT ~ Jessica Cushnahan



Music/Drama ~ Bethan Allen



Pupil of the Year ~ Cara Gallagher



Tracey O'Connell



Louise McKenna



Rachel Caulfield



Mrs Ciara Trolan



Miss Cassidy, Miss McAlister and Miss Martin on successful completion of the NI Beginning Teacher Programme.

Year 7 Class



School Prizegiving on Monday 26th June





School Councillors 2023/2024

P.3 new school councillors are ... Ellen McAllister, Callum Cushnahan, Emily Glackin

P3/4 new school councillors are... Annie O'Sullivan, Jack Dillon, Cillian McCloy

P4 new school councillors are... Eadaoin McCloy, Connlaach Mullan, Evie Boyle

P5 new school councillors are ... Niamh McGarvey, Ted Curley, Maggie Doherty

P6 new school Councillors are... Cassie McCloy, Keelan Shaw, Ben Harris



Craft Fair

On Monday 26th June our P7 pupils held a craft fair as part of the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. The pupils studied how to set up a business and all about the world of finance. They then made many craft products such as: clay monsters, keyrings, keep sake boxes, bracelets and hand puppets, to sell at their craft fair raising a fantastic £700 profit, which will be used to buy resources for school. Thank you to everyone for their support especially in the wet weather, our craft fair sold out within one hour. What a super achievement for our Primary 7 pupils!





Compassionate Schools Gold Award

On Tuesday 27th June we held a celebratory Compassionate Schools' Assembly with special guest Richard Moore (Children in Crossfire). The Assembly was fabulous ~ entertaining and informative and whilst we had whole school singing, the highlight was a Rap composed by P6 pupils. Richard and the staff of Children in Crossfire were so impressed by the knowledge and talents of our children and were delighted to present the Compassionate School's Award Gold-Level. Well done to Mrs O'Neill who led this programme across the school, assisted by Miss Martin and Miss McAlister.





Autism NI Impact Award

On Tuesday 27th June Emma McAllister from Autism NI presented the Autism NI Impact Award to St Brigid's Primary School. It is indeed an honour to receive this award.



Sports Events

All County Hurling Championships:

Well done to the boys hurling team who reached the semi-final on Tuesday 25th April in the Division 1 Hurling Championship. In the qualifying stages the boys were grouped with St Patrick's Glen, St John's Swatragh and St John's Dernaflaw. They played brilliantly and recorded 2 wins and a draw. A superb effort was displayed from this young team, up against older and bigger teams! In the semi final they faced the reigning champions St Brigid's Tirkane who out scored us and we're the better team on the day. Tirkane went onto the final to win the championship. Keep up the hard work boys and good luck in the next tournaments.



All County Camogie:

Camogie success!

Congratulations to our school camogie team who were runners up at the All County Camogie Championship in Ballinascreen on Tuesday 9th May. With 4 schools in their Division 1 group, the girls played: St. John's P.S Swatragh, St. Patrick's P.S Glen and St. Mary's P.S Bellaghy. With a loss, win and loss the team were entered into the Shield Competition. With great determination and fighting spirit, the girls came out on top against St. Mary's P.S Draperstown which set up a semi-final clash with St. Patrick's P.S Glen. Having beaten them earlier in the day, the girls put on another stellar performance to beat Glen once again with now only one team left to go! In the Final, they came up against tough opposition in Anahorish P.S. The game was very tight with neither team able to put a score on the board in the first 5 minutes. In the last few minutes of the game Anahorish managed to get ahead and victory was theirs!

Today was not meant to be for the girls from St. Brigid's but they represented themselves, their families, their school and their club with great pride. They had a very positive mindset from the beginning of the day, they were respectful towards referees and fellow players, they tidied up their part of the stand and they all said thank you when receiving their medals. They are super role models for the younger children in our school. Well done our camogie stars onwards and upwards!



Saint Canice Football Blitz:

On Wednesday the 10th May the boys travelled to a very wet Owenbeg to play in the St Canice Football Blitz. Two teams we entered in a very competitive day of football. Not only were the boys up against the opposition but they were battling against the elements as the wind and rain continued throughout the day. In these tough conditions some great scores were taken, and super blocks were made in defence.



South Derry Boys' Football Championships:

The South Derry Boy's Football Championship was held in Watty Graham's Glen on the 24th May. The boys were placed in a very tough group with New Row, Greenlough and Holy Family. The boys put in a super performance in their first game to beat Holy Family. Next up were two very tough game New Row and Greenlough. They boys reached the shield semi final where they played Derrychrin. After a very good first half the boys ran out of steam in the second. The team can be very proud of the effort they put in during all the games.

South Derry Girls' Football Championships:

Congratulations to our Girls' Gaelic team who played so well today in the Division 1 Competition of the South Derry Football Championship on Tuesday 6th June. In the group stages of the Cup Competition our girls went up against St. Columba's Kilrea, St. Mary's Glenview, St. Brigid's Tirkane and Holy Family PS. Unfortunately we were unable to make the semi-final of the Cup Competition so the team were entered into the Shield Competition. We met St. Patrick's PS Glen in the quarter final and progressed to the semi-final in which we played St. Mary's PS Draperstown. After a tough fought battle we came out on top and set up another match against Holy Family. After 10 minutes of play in the Final, a draw was the outcome and the girls had to battle hard for another 5 mins. They gave it their all but were pipped at the post by a strong Holy Family side. Congratulations to all our players today, they showed great spirit, skill and determination. To finish runners up in the Division 1 Shield Competition is a super achievement. Well done



Rounders:

South Derry pupils had a Rounders coaching day at Erin's Own GAC on Friday 9th June. Our Primary 7 class attended as did pupils from Kilrea, Bellaghy, Greenlough and Ballynease. Our Primary 7 pupils will now teach Rounders to the other KS2 classes.



Castle Cup Hurling and Camogie:

On Wednesday 14th June the boys and girls travelled to Glen to compete in Hurling/Canogie Castle Cup. Two boys teams represented the school on the day with some great performances. The teams they faced were Glen and Dernflaw but they were stopped in their tracks by Swatragh in the quarter final who then proceeded to the final. In the camogie, the girls played brilliantly in their group stages. They won 2 games and lost one match against Anahorish. They unfortunately missed out on progressing due to score difference. The girls put in a super effort. Thanks to the parents who brought ice lollies to keep both teams cool in the hot weather.



Castle Cup Football:

On the 20th June it was the boys turn in the Football Castle Cup. They were placed in a group with Glenview and Bellaghy. They finished 2nd in their group after a good win over Bellaghy which meant they faced New Row in the quarter final. The boys tried their best but unfortunately the New Row side were too strong – who progressed on to the win the competition. Well done to all the pupils who have represented the school in all codes this year and put in hard work at after schools and during the competitions.

South Derry Sports Day:

A group of girls and boys (P7) had a really enjoyable and fun day at their final sports event of the year – Cumann na mBunscol South Derry Primary Schools' Track and Field Day at Meadowbank on Wednesday 21st June. They took part in a range of events and enjoyed meeting the challenges of the activities and making friends with competitors from the other schools. Well done to the girls and boys for their enthusiasm and their efforts and thank you to the organisers of the programme of events.



Soccer Tournament:

On Monday 26th June the soccer team travelled to Knockloughrim PS to play in the Shared Education Cup. Two teams played in the tournament against Knockloughrim in a round robin format and reached the finals. The B final was very tense. After the game ended 1-1 it went to penalties and then sudden death. Knockloughrim PS got the crucial penalty to win at the very end. In the A final, the team were always in control and won 2-0. They kept a clean sheet for the whole tournament! Well done to everyone involved and thank you to Knockloughrim PS for hosting. The tournament was played in the true spirit of shared education and everyone had fun and it was smiles all round at the end.



Heart Start



Swimming



Cycling Proficiency



Records of Achievement



Staff Who Are Leaving:



Mrs Tracey O'Connell



Mrs Louise McKenna



Miss Rachel Caulfield



Mrs Ciara Trolan



St Brigid's Primary School opened on 1st September 1972. The new School, designed to replace Gulladuff Primary School (now Mayogall Nursery) was built at a cost of £51,990 ~ at a time when a pint of milk cost 5p. Fr Graham Celebrated Mass, concelebrated by Fr P. Doherty. Again, for many the high point of the service was our excellent school choir, under the leadership of Sean Scullion. Many staff participated in Mass making a wonderful evening of celebration. Following Mass, light refreshments were provided by Donna and the school canteen staff and everyone had a chance to view old photographs and documents.











Staff Training:

In St Brigid's P.S. we give a high priority to the professional development of all our staff.

Lots of our staff training has been online through Webinars, Meets, Teams or Zoom. However, we are now back to face-to-face training. Mrs O'Kane has been on courses in the Radisson Limavady and the Glenavon.

April	17 th	M O'K to MUPPA Cluster Meeting
	19 th	M O'K meeting Department of Education
	27 th	C D ICT Cluster Meeting in school
May	12 th	M O'K to Cluster Meeting
	17 th	M O'K to Cluster Meeting in St. Patrick's College
	24 th	G O'K to Learning Spark Course
June	6 th	O McA to Outdoor Play Course
	9 th	M O'K to Cluster Data Share Day

Dates For Your Diary

Term begins	Friday 1st September 2023
Hallowe'en	30th October – 3rd November 2023 inclusive
Christmas	22nd December – 2nd January 2024 inclusive
Mid-term	12th – 16th February 2024 inclusive
St Patrick's Day	18th March 2024
Easter	28th March – 5th April 2024 inclusive
May Bank Holidays	6th – 10th May 2024 inclusive
May Bank Holiday	27th May 2024
	Term Ends 28th June 2024

These dates are subject to change

SAYING FAREWELL

We said a big farewell to our 28 Primary 7 pupils transferring to their new schools.

We wish all our pupils and their families a pleasant summer break and look forward to seeing everyone again on Friday 1st September.

To all our leavers we wish you well and hope that you will always think of St. Brigid's with pride and fondness.

