



St Brigid's Primary School

Website: www.stbrigidsmayogall.ik.org

St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter

September / October 2023

Term 1 Takes off:



Term started on Friday 1st September with 263 pupils enrolled. We were joined by 37 new Primary 1 pupils. We do hope that everyone will be happy here.



Primary 1



ASC Units:

On the 1st September we welcomed Tyler Baillie, Connie Bell and Emily Coles all P1 pupils who joined our Rainbow Room.

In our ASC2 room we also welcomed Stephen O'Kane P5, Conan McGill P6, Ronan Stewart P6 and Matthew Scott P7.

We do hope that everyone will be happy here.

NEW STAFF JOINING OUR TEAM



We have a number of new staff who have joined us this academic year. Laura Scullion, Máire Crawford, Rhonda Burns, Oonagh McCloskey, Ciara Doherty, Rachel Wilson, Eoghan Grant, Aoife Strathern, Chloe McIvor, Clodagh Burke and Clare Gunning are our new Classroom Assistants. Terry Ledgewood our Building Supervisor, Loretta Farrelly our new cleaner and Yvonne McGill our lunchtime supervisor.



Start of Year Mass:



Our start of year Mass was on Friday 8th September. Thanks to Mr Scullion and our choir for the lovely singing. Well done to all our pupils who contributed to the Mass – reading, offertory procession etc.



Music Tuition:



Music Tuition started on Monday 11th September EA tutor Ms Helena Nicholl began violin tuition and Mrs Lauren Stewart began flute, clarinet and saxophone tuition on Thursday 14th with our pupils. We have been very fortunate this year to be able to offer more pupils the opportunity to start music tuition.



School Photographer:

On Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th September C S Moments Photography took our school photographs and feedback has been very positive.

Mass:

Pupils from P4 – P7 have a rota to attend Mass on Friday morning in Our Lady of Mercy Church.

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|--------|--------|
| Primary 7 | 15 Sept | 13 Oct | 17 Nov |
| Primary 6 | 22 Sept | 20 Oct | 24 Nov |
| Primary 5 | 29 Sept | 27 Oct | 1 Dec |
| Primary 4 | 6 Oct | 10 Nov | 15 Dec |

Reading Buddies:



Our P7 pupils read to their P1 reading buddy each Friday morning, modelling good practice in reading and sounding out all their phonics! Well done everyone.



Swimming:



P7 pupils started swimming lessons on Monday 18th September at Greenvale Leisure Centre. Already those in the beginners group are making good progress. This is a compulsory aspect of N.I. P.E. Curriculum.

Pupils from ASC2 started swimming on Wednesday 4th October. We have subsidised transport for P7 pupils as part of a legacy agreement with the Education Authority. However, we could not access affordable transport for ASC2 pupils. Thanks to Lorcan Totten (dad of Caragh Rós) who approached Creagh Concrete for financial assistance to help meet the cost. Creagh Concrete have very generously supported our pupils by their donation of £4,719 to meet the costs for this academic year.

Work Experience:

On 20th, 21st and 22nd September we had Sophie Karicos a pass pupil of St Brigid's P. S. now a student at St Conor's College Kilrea on work experience.

James Bradley Music Therapy:



On Wednesday 27th September James started a five week programme in music therapy with pupils in the Rainbow room and ASC2 classroom.



Teaching Practice Student:

Miss Shannon Houston from Stranmillis University College Belfast is in school each Monday preparing for her teaching practice in P6 and P4. We wish her every success.

A Lecture by Dr Séamas Ó Donnghaile

On Tuesday 3rd October Dr Séamas Ó Donnghaile spoke to a small crowd of interested people on the foundations of Irish Education. His lecture was based on Padraig Pearse's pamphlet – 'The Murder Machine'. This was a fascinating presentation and highly informative.

Flu Vaccination:

On Friday 6th October the majority of our pupils received the Flu vaccination.

School Census:



On the 6th October the annual DE school census took place. In St. Brigid's we had 246 pupils, 113 boys and 134 girls. 12 pupils had a Statement of Educational Needs. We have a total of 17 pupils in our two Autism specific Classes.

World Mental Health Day:

On Tuesday 10th October we marked World Mental Health Day with a special Assembly. In St Brigid's we know what to do when we are worried or sad. Each classroom has a Worry Box or "Worry Jar". We can talk to our Classroom Assistants our teacher, Mrs Donaghy or the Principal Mrs O'Kane.

Shared Education:

As part of the Shared Education Programme Primary 4 pupils from St Brigid's travelled to Lavey Termoneeny Centre to meet up with P4 pupils from Knockloughrim Primary School on 3rd, 10th and 17th October. Here they took part in their project – Physical Fitness, Mental Wellbeing and PDMU.







Shapes and sounds to Perform



PIC•COLLAGE



Getting to know each other.



PIC•COLLAGE



Ten Foundations Charity:

On Thursday 5th October Ian Campbell (founder of the charity) spoke to all the pupils at a special assembly to explain what the charity did. The Ten Foundations Charity support vulnerable children, families, and communities in the Philippines. At the school assembly we were delighted to present Ian with a donation on behalf of St Brigid's Mayogall, which will help towards buying a sewing machine. This will allow the charity to continue to help women get out of impoverished situations by providing them with the necessary skills and resources to learn how to use an industrial sewing machine.

Ian kindly left behind some bags which can be purchased directly from the school.





Merit Assembly:

Our September Merit Assembly was held on Tuesday 10th October. Award Winners were:

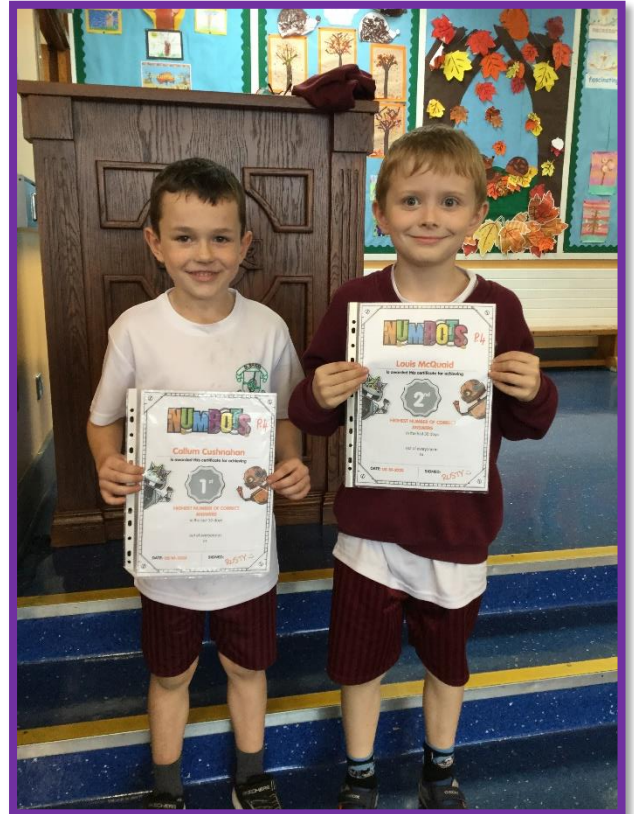
| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| P1/2 | ~ | Daithi McCrystal, Annie Magee |
| P2 | ~ | Sadie Harris, Jamie Hughes |
| P3 | ~ | Cillian Convery, Orlagh Dorrity, Eilish McCloy, Eoin Mulholland |
| P4 | ~ | Caitlin McTaggart, Saoirse McNally, Grace Scullion |
| P4/5 | ~ | Keavy Dillon, Liam McGinnis, Cian Scullion, Annie O'Sullivan, Rosa Kehoe |
| P5 | ~ | Caitlin McGarvey, Catháin Grieve, Dara Mullan |
| P6 | ~ | Christopher Convery, Maggie Doherty, Eimear Duggan |
| P7 | ~ | Aimee Glackin, Caoimhe Murtagh, Dylan Stokes |
| Rainbow Room | ~ | Caragh-Rós Totten, Dáire Brennan |
| ASC2 | ~ | Emmett O'Dwyer |

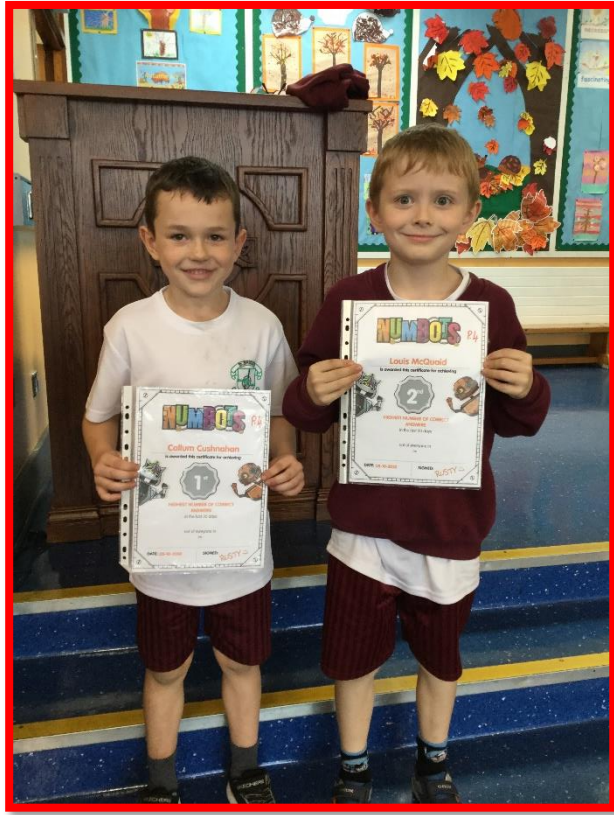
Accelerated Reading:

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| P4/5 | ~ | Sarah Jane Duggan, Mollie Duggan |
| P5 | ~ | Cathair Scullion, Orla McPeake, Charlie McCormick |
| P6 | ~ | Emma Ward, Caoimhe Boyle, Peadar Boyle |
| P7 | ~ | John O'Neill, Leo McAllister, Aoibhe Burke |











Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent Teacher Meetings were held on the week commencing Monday 23rd October. We are delighted to report a high turnout. Parent Teacher Meetings enable the school and home to work in partnership for the good of all our children.



CREDIT UNION PRIZE WINNERS

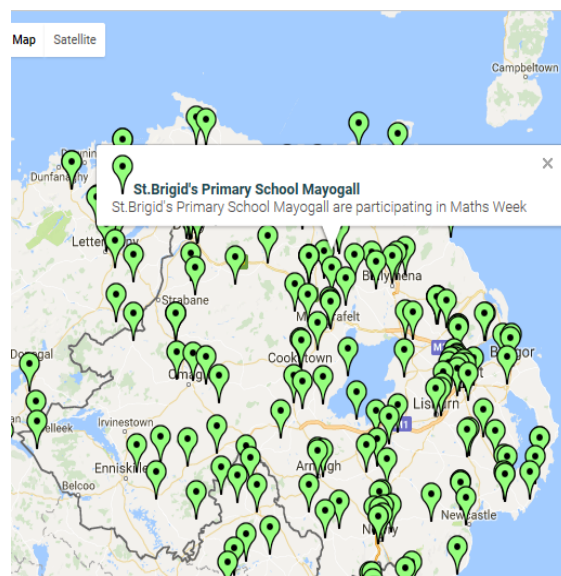


All pupils had the opportunity to participate in the Annual Credit Union Art Competition and the theme of the 2023 competition was 'My Community & Me'. On Tuesday 24th October Michelle from Carn Glen Credit Union presented prizes to this years winners.

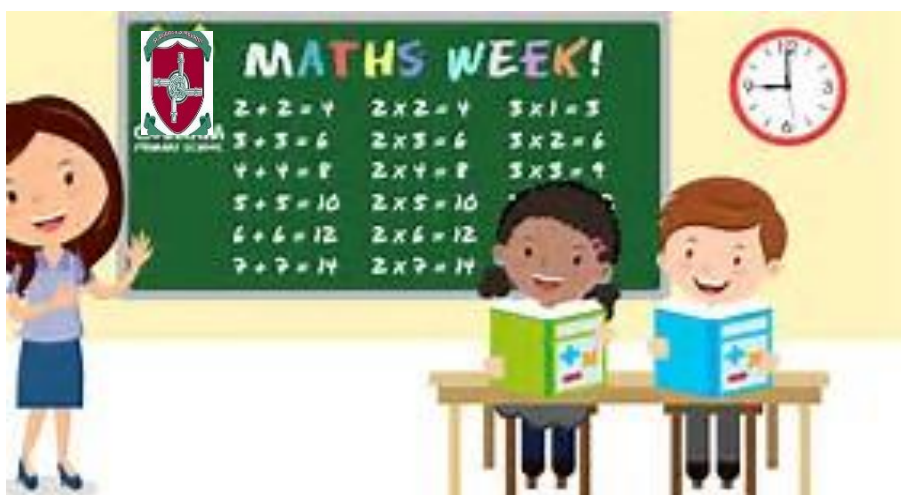


St. Brigid's celebrated Maths week Ireland from 14th- 22nd October.

St. Brigid's pupils were among 500 000 pupils throughout Ireland participating in fun Maths Activities in support of "Maths for All". From Primary 1 to Primary 4 there were *Dino Problems* to solve and from Primary 5 to primary 7 we did Give Maths a Try with Rugby World Cup '23 problems too!



We all enjoyed a variety of Mini and Mega quizzes during the week, and we all improved our Times Tables during the Island of Ireland Rock Contest.



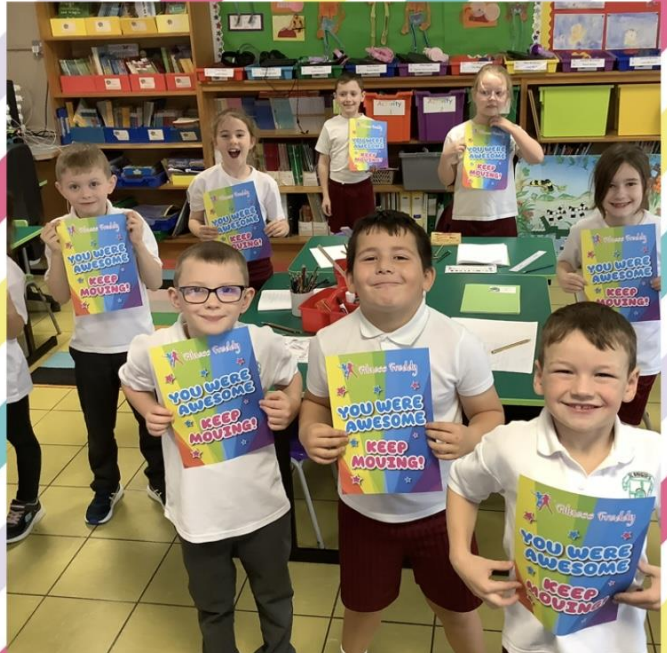


On Thursday 19th October we had a visit from Fitness Freddy. Each class enjoyed a fitness session with Freddy whose enthusiasm and commitment are legendary! We raised a fabulous £2,991.50 which will go towards the purchase of additional play equipment. Thank you for your support.

Primary 4



Primary 4



Primary 7





GREAT
WORK!!

A great morning
with Fitness
Freddy 🙌💪

PIC•COLLAGE

HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS AND FUN DAY



As always we were very impressed by the creativity of our parents as the pupils dressed up for Hallowe'en. A list of the prize winners are:-

Primary 4



Primary 4



Primary 4



Primary 4



Primary 5





Rainbow room
were very excited
to get our spooky
costumes on for
Halloween dress
up day!



Halloween Dress Up Parade











CROSS COUNTRY

The first race of the new school year took place at Coleraine on 25th October. The children had been looking forward to the event. The girls' team: Aoibhe, Caitlin, Cassie, Saidhbhin, Sarah and Sine put in a very strong performance and were delighted when the team took 1st place with Saidhbhin securing gold as the individual winner in the girls' race.

The boys' team: Charlie, Ciaran, Daniel, John, Kealan and Peadar were spurred to match the determination and achievement of the girls and were equally delighted when the team was also placed 1st and Daniel took bronze for 3rd place. The teams are now looking forward to the next race in the series.



All Primary 7 children have a partner that they communicate with regularly using their Google Chromebooks. The children complete a range of Literacy, Numeracy and World Around Us activities each month with their partners. We are very grateful to the J.D.O. Foundation for supplying our pupils with a Google Chromebook. The use of our JDO Chromebooks has placed us in a very good position for distance/blended learning and our children and staff are highly competent in ICT.

JDO Hangout:

On Thursday 14th October Primary 7 have had their first JDO google meet with their Spanish partners from CEIP Nuestra Senora De Belen which is in Murcia, Spain. They have had two video conferences with the pupils; the first one was a whole class meet and greet and in the second meeting they worked in small groups. In these small groups they got to talk about our families, our school and our community. Later this month they hope to meet again to learn more about their partners. Ms G. O'Kane has been invited to the JDO conference this summer. We wish her well.



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:

August 28th – 31st Baker Days

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

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| September | 19 th | M O'K to a Cluster Meeting in St Patrick's College |
| | 27 th | P McC to Inclusion of SLD in Mainstream |
| | 27 th , 28 th , 29 th | O McA to Roots of Empathy Training |
| October | 2 nd | M O'K meeting regarding Looked After Children |
| | 4 th | R D to Holy Family Primary School – G.A.A. |
| | 16 th | M O'K and G O'K at Education and Learning Conference |
| | 20 th | M O'K to AOEA Training – Compassionate Curriculum |

Dates For Your Diary

22nd December ~ 2nd January 2024

Wednesday 17th January 2024

12th ~ 16th February 2024

Sunday 3rd March 2024

Wednesday 13th March 2024

18th March 2024

28th March ~ 5th April 2024

6th ~ 10th May 2024

27th May 2024

Saturday 1st June 2024

28th June 2024

Christmas Holidays

Service of Enrolment & Light ~ 7:00pm

Mid-Term Break

Sacrament of Confirmation ~ 2:00pm

First Confessions ~ 7:00pm

St Patrick's Day

Easter Holidays

May Mid-Term

Sports Day

First Holy Communion ~ 11:00am

School Ends

School Website!

Our school website is LIVE!

Please log on to www.stbrigidpsmayogall.com and see all our information.

We are adding information to our site so remember to check in regularly for updates.

In addition to school news there will be a class area where you can see samples of work.

In the Parents Area you will find:

❖ The School Calendar

❖ Dinner Menu

❖ Newsletters

❖ Holiday List

Our termly school Newsletter is also posted on the website you will be able to see it online and in colour! Be sure to read it for all the news and photographs of life in school.

Our website is linked to our social media sites Facebook and Twitter. In addition, there will be a school App which you can download so that all the latest news will go straight to your phone!

Get school updates via your phone

Our school is now listed in the **Schools NI** app, which allows you to view and receive messages via your phone or tablet. The app is available on Android devices, and will give you access to our school news, calendar letters.

To install the app, open [**School Website**] on your phone or tablet and click App' button that appears at the top of the screen.



school updates
both Apple and
events and

the 'Download



Next time you open the Schools NI App our school will be listed at the top of the list. You don't need to have the app open to receive messages.

Log on and look in