



# St Brigid's Primary School

Website: [www.stbrigidspsmayogall.com](http://www.stbrigidspsmayogall.com)

## St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter

November / December 2023

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

## SHARED EDUCATION

As part of the Shared Education Programme Primary 3 pupils from St Brigid's travelled to Lavey Termoneeny Centre to meet up with P3 pupils from Knockloughrim Primary School on 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November. Here they took part in their project – STEM, Mental Wellbeing and PDMU.

### **Entrance Test:**

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November twelve Year 7 pupils sat the Entrance Test in local grammar schools – we wish them well.

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

### “MAKE A NOISE ABOUT BULLYING”

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November we started our Anti-Bullying week with our pupils wearing Odd Socks to school.



## Odd Sock Day



This year Anti-Bullying Week took place from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November with the theme ‘Make A Noise About Bullying’.

Each class had special lessons and activities exploring what bullying behaviour looks like. The younger pupils focused on how they could show kindness and the importance of feeling happy and safe in school. The older children discussed how to tell the difference between ‘banter’ and bullying and how we (as a school community) can make changes to reduce bullying.

Odd Socks Day 2023 took place on Monday 13th November. Everyone in school, including our principal Mrs O'Kane wore odd socks. This is always a fun day that allows the pupils to express themselves and celebrate their individuality. In addition, we held an Odd Socks colouring competition. There was a prize for the winning design from each class.

**Primary 5** had fun coming to school in odd socks to mark the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week. They wore odd socks to show that they are all different and unique. They also participated in an online lesson about bullying, and designed some super odd socks! They particularly enjoyed working together to show our odd socks during their gymnastics lesson in PE. Check out some of our fabulous moves!



Odd sock day in our Primary 6 class



# Roots of Empathy

This year, on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November Primary 5 took part in the Roots of Empathy Programme led by Miss McAlister. This is an award-winning programme which supports children's positive mental health and wellbeing. Primary 5 were introduced to Baby Ruby - their "Tiny Teacher," who they will get to know through nine monthly visits to the classroom. Over the course of the school year, they will watch the baby grow. The children will predict and celebrate when their Roots of Empathy baby reaches the 'developmental milestones' of the first year: The children will also observe and read the emotional cues of the baby and will use this knowledge when talking about their own emotions and to understand how their classmates feel. Roots of Empathy is founded on the loving relationship between a parent and baby, which is where empathy starts.

Roots of Empathy is a tried, tested and proven effective programme that increases children's kindness, caring, including, sharing and helping behaviours as they develop empathy. Research from 3 continents shows that as empathy develops, aggression and bullying behaviours are reduced.

Primary 5 pupils were excited to participate in Roots of Empathy and are looking forward to updating everyone on Baby Ruby's journey through her first year.





## ULSTER LADIES FOOTBALL FINALS

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November we held an orange and black day to support Lavey Ladies Football team who were playing in the finals on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November.



## Road Safety Week 2023

### Theme: "Let's Talk about Speed"

On 20<sup>th</sup> November we commenced our Road Safety Week celebrations the theme is "Let's Talk about Speed". All classes participated in a variety of activities aimed at highlighting different aspects of Road Safety.

## Be Bright and Be Seen

# WORRY BUSTERS

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November Primary 6 started the 'Worry Busters' programme, designed by RISE NI Clinical Psychology to educate young children about anxiety and to offer strategies to help cope with worry and to build resilience. Five workshops were offered to children, based on the following themes;

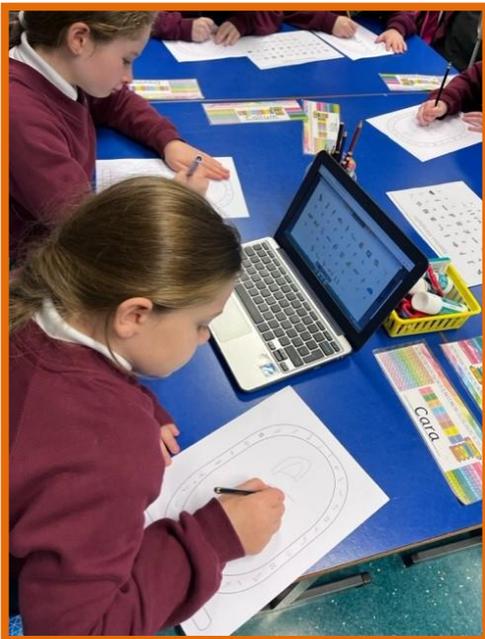
- Emotions
- Anxiety and Our Bodies
- Anxiety and Our Thoughts
- Thinking Traps
- Goal Setting and trying out coping strategies.

The aim of this programme was to develop an awareness of emotions and the effect of anxiety on our bodies, and to provide children with the breathing strategies, relaxation skills and cognitive approaches to challenge any worries or anxious thoughts they may have.



# ANCIENT EGYPT

This term, Primary 5 have been learning all about Ancient Egypt. We loved writing our name in hieroglyphics and used teabags to stain our cartouches to make them look ancient!



# Sustrans

## Sustrans- Active School Travel Programme

We were delighted to inform you that St Brigid's Primary School has been selected to join the Active School Travel Programme and their first visit was on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. This is part of a three year project delivered by Sustrans, which aims to encourage more pupils and parents to travel actively to school.



# P7 RESIDENTIAL

Primary 7 had a wonderful time on their residential trip to Woodhall Education Centre in Kilrea from the 30<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December. They had a fantastic two 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 day the children lit the campfire and toasted marshmallows under the careful eye of the instructors! All our P7 pupils had a great time and they were extremely well looked after by the Woodhall staff. Thank you also to Ms Gráinne O’Kane, Mrs Susie Kuczogi and Miss Maire Crawford for their hard work and dedication to our children enabling them to avail of this wonderful opportunity.











## Irish Dancing After School Club 🍀 🎵

In Miss Cassidy's Irish Dancing club, we have had great fun learning new moves and dances each week! Over the past 9 weeks, we have enjoyed learning how to dance the Reel, the Light Jig and we even created our own team dances! We also had lots of fun incorporating Irish Dancing moves into some games.

**Well done everyone!** 😁 🍀



# Irish Dancing Club 🍀 🎵



PIC•COLLAGE

## Daily Mile Santa Run:

Like many schools across the North, we participated in running the Daily Mile on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Each class ran the route, wearing their Santa hat.

## Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day:



Thank you to Donna and all the staff in our school kitchen for our delicious Christmas dinner on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. 215 pupils availed of a school meal in a very festive school canteen and everyone wore their Christmas jumper.



## Christmas Party Boxes:



## Merit Assembly:

Our September Merit Assembly was held in December. Award Winners were:

P1	~	Sadie Scullion, Dáire Milne, Hannah Shaw, Charlie Keenan
P1/2	~	Tomas Mullan, Tiarna Dodds, Chloe Cushnahan, Ruairi Gillan
P2	~	Dylan McQuaid, Bláthnaid Higgins
P3	~	Suzi McAllister, Finn Grieve, Rory McCloy, Ger Boyle, Finn McPeake
P4	~	Tomas McCloy, Gustavo Costa, Grace Heron, Rónán Conway
P4/5	~	Eoghan Kelly, Keavy Dillon, Annie O'Sullivan
P5	~	Olivia Keenan, Eireann Rose Collins, Connlaoth Mullan, Riona McPeake, Ethan Doyle
P6	~	Kai Tsang, Róise Melaugh, Rose O'Kane,
P7	~	Leo Pat McAllister, Ellen Rose Hughes, Charlie Dillon
Rainbow Room	~	Tyler Baillie, Lewis Hamill, Dáire Brennan, Noah McLaughlin, Caragh-Rós Totten
ASC2	~	Stephen O'Kane

## Accelerated Reading:

P6	~	Dáire McMullan, Erica Davey
P7	~	Ciarán McCloy, Aimee Glackin, Ava Scullion





**Feast of the Immaculate Conception:**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December the whole school went to Mass to mark this important feast day. Tiegan in P2 was so proud that her mummy provided the music for Mass (Una McGill).

## Play School Visit:

On Tuesday 12 December Lavey Early Years pupils and staff all came down to see the dress rehearsal of our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 shows. Everyone had a very enjoyable morning.



# Christmas Shows

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils performed their production of Baarmy Bethlehem







Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December Primary 3 and Primary 4 pupils performed their production of the Twelve Days of Christmas.







Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December P5 – P7 Christingle ~ An evening of song and reflection in Our Lady of Mercy Church. Well done to our P5, P6 and P7 children who provided us with a very moving nativity story. Despite a high number of pupils being absent due to illness, our children worked very hard to cover all roles in the performance. Fr Graham and all those who attended commended the children on sharing the true meaning of Christmas. Well done everyone. Thanks to your generous donations at the door, this night of song and reflection raised £576 for the Church Building Fund.







## St Vincent de Paul Family Appeal:

Again, the generosity of our families and friends came to the fore with the brilliant donation of food, toiletries and gifts to the St Vincent de Paul Family Appeal. St Vincent de Paul members delivered these to families in need before Christmas.



## Christmas Raffle:

Prize winners were:-

Limited Edition Celtic Jersey designed to celebrate their 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary ~ Doherty Family

Childwood Play donated a 24v Drift Kart Racer in red ~ Siobhan O'Kane

Alexa Echo 5 ~ Megan O'Kane

Christmas Hamper ~ Denise Martin

Home-baked Christmas cake and pudding ~ Ciara Coyle

Hovis Hamper ~ Riona McPeake

We would also like to sincerely thank Martin McAllister (MCA Design and Print Ltd Belfast) for printing our tickets. Our raffle raised £2710 and this is going towards the purchase of new iPads.







# CROSS COUNTRY

## South Derry Cross Country and Flahavan's Cross Country Round 2:

The school's cross country teams had a very busy start to December competing in the South Derry Schools' race at St Patrick's College on the afternoon of Tuesday 5th December followed, next morning, by the Flahavan's race at Ballymoney.

Lady Luck was not really with the girls for the race at St Patrick's nor with the boys' team at Ballymoney. Cassie was ill and unable to run on 5<sup>th</sup> December and Daniel was forced to withdraw in the final stage of the race in Ballymoney.

All St Brigid's runners in both races, put in very good performances. At St Patrick's College Sine and Saidhbhin led from start to finish and were clear gold and silver winners. The girls' team which was second overall also included Caitlin and Sarah. The boys' team: Charlie, Ciaran, Daniel and Kealan ran strongly and took third place.

At Ballymoney, despite the exertion from the previous race, Saidhbhin and Sine were again medal winners and the girls' team was placed fourth. The girls who ran in Maghera were joined by Aoibhe and Cassie. The boys' team joined by John and Peadar was very well placed when Daniel was forced to drop out. Charlie stormed home in second place and the team finished third.

St Brigid's runners, the only competitors involved in both race days plan to get in several extra practice sessions during the Christmas holidays and hope to fulfil their potential in the next race in mid-January.







## Mass Rota for January – June 2024:

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

Primary 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	9 <sup>th</sup> February	23 <sup>rd</sup> February	1 <sup>st</sup> March	12 <sup>th</sup> April	7 <sup>th</sup> June
Primary 6	12 <sup>th</sup> January	8 <sup>th</sup> March	19 <sup>th</sup> April	14 <sup>th</sup> June		
Primary 5	19 <sup>th</sup> January	15 <sup>th</sup> March	26 <sup>th</sup> April	21 <sup>st</sup> June		
Primary 4	26 <sup>th</sup> January	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	17 <sup>th</sup> May	24 <sup>th</sup> May	31 <sup>st</sup> May 28 <sup>th</sup> June

## 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	7 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to CCEA training at ABC
	9 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K, U Q, C D and G O'K to Cluster meeting in St Patrick's College
	13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	A McG to PLP Training
	15 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K and G O'K JDO Zoom call
	17 <sup>th</sup>	G O'K, O McA, A M and B C to STEM Learning
	24 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to Derry Principals Conference
	29 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to ETI
December	15 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K Cluster Meeting

## Dates For Your Diary

22<sup>nd</sup> December ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

12<sup>th</sup> ~ 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

28<sup>th</sup> March ~ 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

6<sup>th</sup> ~ 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

27<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

28<sup>th</sup> 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



Mrs Cathy Donaghy  
P3 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  
Rainbow Room 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, Ipads 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

LinkedIn

16

WhatsApp

17

Vine  
Tinder

18

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.

# School Website!

**Our school website is LIVE!**

Please log on to [www.stbrigidpsmayogall.com](http://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 'Download App' button that appears at the top of the screen.



school updates both Apple and events and

click the



**Schools NI**  
Receive school updates via your phone

Download App

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 . . . . .**