



St Brigid's Primary School

Website: www.stbrigidsmayogall.ik.org

St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter

January ~ March 2024

Term 2 Takes off:

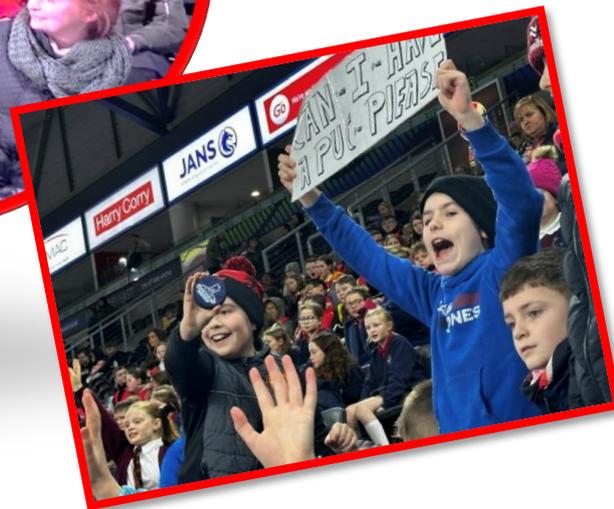
Everyone was due to start back for Term 2 on Wednesday 3rd January, but all pupils got an extra day off due to a fault with the electricity in our school kitchen. There were lots of New Year's resolutions that 2024 would be a great year for us!

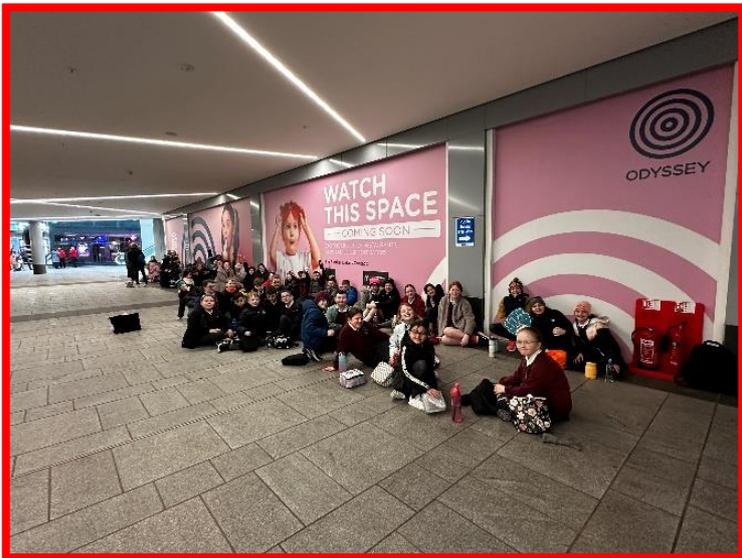
Friendship Fours Ice-hockey Tournament

On the 5th January, our Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils enjoyed an Ice Hockey match at the SSE Arena in Belfast. The game was part of the Friendship Series 2024 and our children were so fortunate to attend. For many, today was their first time at such an event, and it was wonderful to see such happy faces!

The high-profile tournament, organised by The Odyssey Trust, brings two top North American women's college ice hockey teams – Princeton University and Providence College – together for an action-packed double-header at the home of the Belfast Giants.

The Friendship Series is the first and only NCAA Division 1 women's hockey tournament to be held outside of the United States. The event is an extension of the Friendship Four tournament, which was devised by The Odyssey Trust in 2015, and has been developed year on year to promote education, social welfare, and community integration in Northern Ireland, building on the sister cities agreement between Belfast and Boston.





Swimming:



P6 pupils started swimming lessons on Monday 8th January 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 continued swimming lessons from Tuesday 9th January.

Golf Lessons

Starting on Tuesday 9th January for five weeks P5, P6 and P7 pupils all had the opportunity to participate in Golf lessons. The coach is PGA professional Tony Mulholland. Following afternoon sessions with the P7 pupils, Tony held After School Golf Club with P5 and P6 pupils who opted to stay in. This proved very popular – who knows we could have the next Rory McIlroy!



Online Admissions:

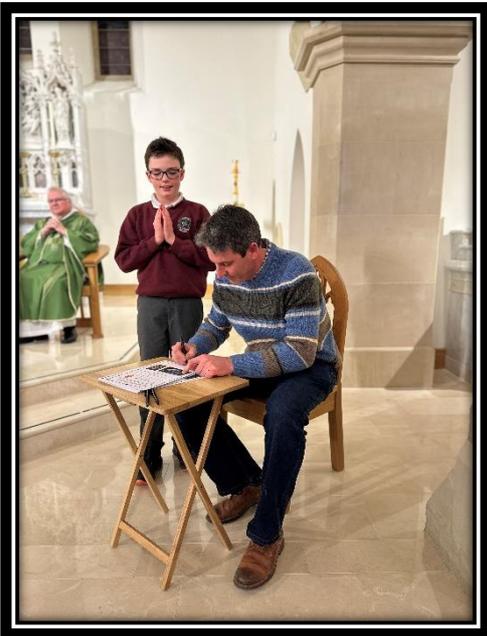
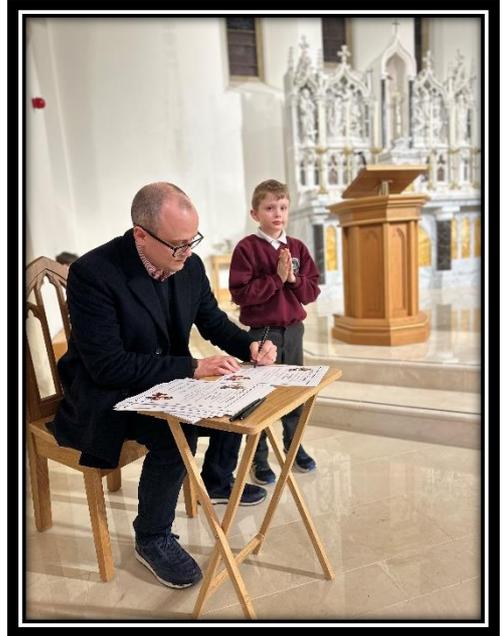
The online admissions process for our new P1 pupils for September 2024 became live on Tuesday 9th January at 12noon and closed again on Friday 26th January at 12noon. We have 41 applicants and are hopeful that they will all be granted a place in St. Brigid's.

Digital Leaders:

Miss McAlister and eight P6 pupils attended the Digital Leaders training St Mary's Primary School Glenview on Wednesday 10th January.

Service of Light and Enrolment Ceremony

On Wednesday 17th January P4 and P7 children and their parents were invited to a Service of Light and Enrolment Ceremony as they prepare to receive the sacraments. This was held in Our Lady of Mercy Church at 7pm.



Planned Strike:

On Thursday 18th January there was a planned full day strike by a number of public service trade unions. Therefore, the school was closed that day for all pupils.

Snow Day:

School was closed on Friday 19th January because of the snow and untreated roads due to industrial action.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK

We celebrated Catholic Schools' Week from 21st January to 27th January. The theme of 2024 Catholic Schools Week was **'Communities of Service'**. In St Brigid's pupils across school took part in a range of different activities to promote Catholic Schools' Week at school, at home and in the local community.

Primary 5 children had a wonderful time celebrating their local community by litter picking around Gulladuff.

We were also joined by councillor Sean McPeake who helped us fill 6 bags of litter!

Well done boys and girls, you did a fantastic job 🍌







Grandparents:

Primary 6 and Miss McAlister attended Mass on Wednesday morning to celebrate the gift of each member of our family, with a particular focus on grandparents. At Mass, the children gave all grandparents, parents and parishioners a small token to show that they appreciate everything they do for them.



Lavey Early Years:

One important place in our community is Lavey Early Years. To celebrate the gift of our community, Primary 6 visited both the morning and afternoon sessions of Lavey Early Years. They had great fun playing with the boys and girls and enjoyed sharing memories of their time at nursery school. Some pupils even got to see their younger brothers and sisters. **Thank you for having us!**





Morning Mass:

After participating in and attending morning Mass on Friday, Ms O’Kane and our Primary 7 pupils, visited Patrick in the Parish Office. He told them all about his roles and responsibilities in the office and the Church and he showed them the beautiful new Paschal Candle. Primary 7 really enjoyed a guided tour of his office and it was so interesting learning about the day to day running of the Church.



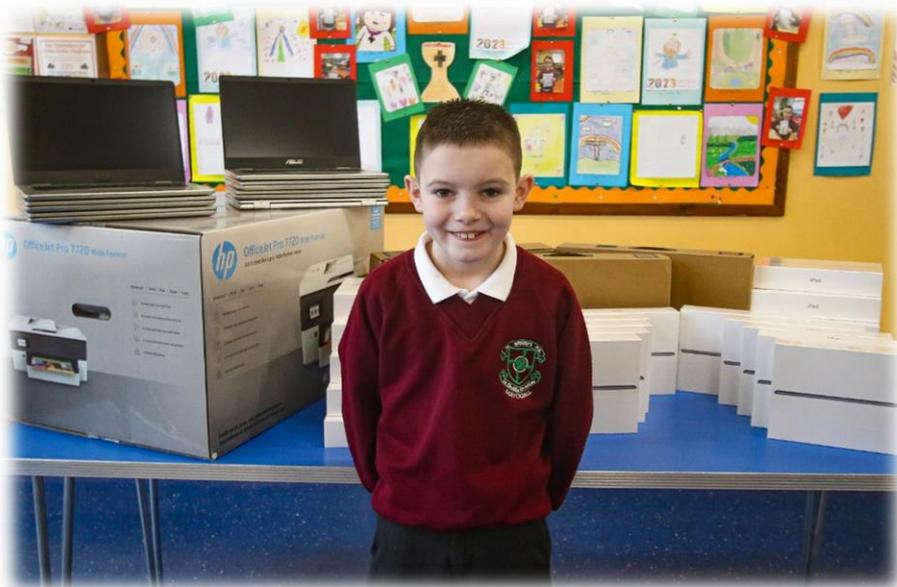
Visit from Emma Sheerin MLA:

Primary 7 also had a visit from Emma Sheerin MLA and local council representative Sean Mc Peake. The children put our politicians in the hot seat and had many tough questions for them. We would like to thank them for taking time out of their busy schedules to talk to us.



New iPads, Chromebooks and Printers

On Thursday 25th January we thanked all those who had contributed to ICT provision in our school. A number of local businesses gave donations, and our parents and community supported our fund-raising efforts (Fitness Freddie, Christmas Raffle, Christmas Show etc). The funds raised enabled us to buy 20 iPads, 10 Chromebooks and 3 printers. Thanks to everyone for their generosity and we can assure you our new devices will be put to good use.





GL Results:

On Saturday 27th January some of our P7 received their GL Assessment results. Well done to all those who sat the test – your hard work paid off!

Teaching Practice Students:

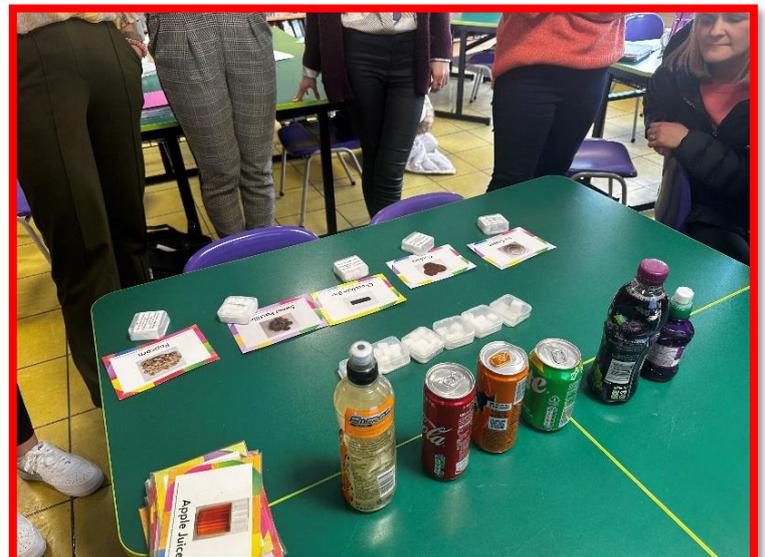


On the 29th January Miss A-nna Rafferty started her teaching practice in P1/2, Miss Anna McErlean in P5 and Miss Caoimhe Glass in P7. Miss Shauna Hueston started her teaching practice on 2nd February in P6 for four weeks and in P4 for four weeks. Miss Máire Bryson started her teaching practice in P2 on 11th March for four weeks. We wish these student teachers every success on their school placement here in St. Brigid's.

Energise

On Monday 29th January Emma from Community Sports Network started an Energise Programme. Primary Six and Seven have really enjoyed taking part in the Energise Programme, which has been designed and created by the 'Community Sports Network', in partnership with 'Northern Healthy Lifestyles'. The aim of this programme is to blend key nutritional messages with fun physical activity games. Energise is made up of six sessions, each with a different theme. Topics include; the Eatwell Guide, Fruits and Vegetables, Sugars and Fats in Foods and Hydration. The children have found all sessions to be very informative and are much more aware of the choices they are making each day.

Primary 7







Primary 6



Feast of St Brigid

The feast of our patron Saint – St Brigid was celebrated on 1st February. Mr Francis Kelly and Mrs Jean McNally showed all classes how to make St. Brigid's crosses and gave them all a history lesson whilst doing so.



Primary 1

During Mass Primary 1 pupils told the story of St Brigid. We were all enthralled by their performance on the altar.





Sacramental Talk:

On Tuesday 6th February there was a Sacramental Talk in school for P4 and P7 children and parents hosted by the staff of the Catechetical Centre Derry.

Primary 7 really enjoyed taking part in the series of live lessons from the Derry Catechetical team. The children loved taking part in all the activities and listened so attentively to Therese and Mary. A lovely way to begin their Faith Journey as they prepare for Confirmation.



Merit Assembly:

Our Merit Assembly was held on Friday 9th February. Our Merit Assemblies are held to celebrate pupil success in all aspects of school life. Award Winners were:

- P1 - Isla Dodds, Caoimhe O'Neill, Shea Duggan, Dalton Martin
- P1/2 - Mya Scullion, Paddy Bennett, Bronagh McCloy, Aodhan Dillon
- P2 - Oisín Nesson, Rose O'Neill, Eoin Conway, Fíadh McGurk
- P3 - Claire Young, Fionn O'Boyle, Joseph McHugh, Erin Scullion
- P4 - Eirinn Boyle, Ellie Dillon, Scarlett O'Neill
- P4/5 - Éabha O'Neill, Liam McGinnis, Molly Magee, Isla-Rose Coyle, Erin Gallagher
- P5 - Bridget-Marie Stokes, Bethany McDonald, Michael Duggan, Paidi Holleran, Eliza McAteer
- P6 - Aoibhín Ward, Cara McHugh, Cataleya Magill, Ted Curley, Enda Maguire, Emma Ward, Nessa Young
- P7 - Erin McDonald, Ciaran McCloy, Nathan O'Kane, Alice Gribbin, Cassie McCloy, Ada Scullion, Caitlin McCloy
- ASC2 - Stephen O'Kane
- Rainbow Room - Connie Bell





Digital Leaders:

On Wednesday 10th January, eight Primary 6 pupils (Niamh, Sarah, Cataleya, Maggie, Kai, Dáire, Charlie and Marc) participated in a digital leadership training event hosted by St Mary's P.S. Glenview. They enjoyed a variety of workshops, equipping them with a range of skills within ICT and the use of Apple technologies. The activities involved;

- ✓ Using Keynote to create a digital 'All about me' profile.
- ✓ Coding on laptops to create shapes, patterns and tessellations.
- ✓ Building a Viking longboat using Minecraft.
- ✓ Using Sphero to program robots. Pupils had to use their knowledge of shape, direction and angles.
- ✓ Exploring Augmented Reality as a way of merging the virtual and real world.



Our digital leaders will now share this knowledge with their class and lead ICT development throughout the school. All pupils displayed wonderful ICT skills and interacted so well during the training sessions.

Superhero Dress Up Day:

On Friday 9th February as part of our commitment to being an Autism Friendly School, everyone had the chance to dress up as a superhero. We had some fabulous costumes as we increased awareness of Autism in our school community. **Well done everyone!**



Mid-Term Break:

Both staff and pupils had an enjoyable mid-term break from 12th – 16th February.

After School Clubs:

After Schools clubs began on Monday 19th February.



Term 2

| DAY | ACTIVITY | FACILITATOR | AGE GROUPS |
|---------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Monday | Singing Club Spanish Club Board Games | Miss A. R. Mulligan Miss A. Strathern Miss M. Crawford | P7 & P7 P5 P4 |
| Tuesday | STEM (Boys) Art Club Girls' Gaelic Football | Ms G. O'Kane Miss A. McErlean Miss A. Martin, Miss A. R. Mulligan, Miss A. Rafferty | P6 & P7 P4 & P5 P4, P5 P6 & P7 |

| | | | |
|-----------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Wednesday | Irish Conversation Cookery Club Camogie Club | Miss C. Glass Miss B. Cassidy Miss A. Martin, Miss A. Rafferty, Miss A. Madden | P5 - P7 P4 P4, P5, P6 & P7 |
| Thursday | Netball Club Boys' Gaelic | Miss O. McAlister Mr R. Doherty | P6 & P7 P5, P6 & P7 |
| Friday | Girls' Soccer Boys' Hurling | Ms G. O'Kane, Miss S. Gallagher Mr R. Doherty | P6 - P7 P5, P6 & P7 |

A very successful first Day at Cookery Club





Birds of Prey:

On Thursday 22nd February Ian Patterson brought a selection of birds of prey to school. We learned all about the birds and their natural habitats. Some of us had a chance to get up close to the birds.





CELEBRATING WORLD KINDNESS DAY

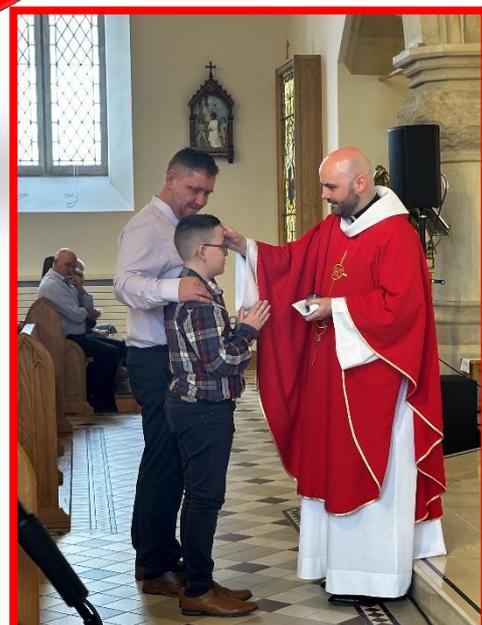
On Thursday 29th February we celebrated world kindness day with a visit from our favourite ice-cream man Pasty Mullin. As children continue to face emotional challenges in this stressful world, so we took time out to notice how we felt and to be kind to one another.





Confirmation

Thirty-four P7 pupils made their Confirmation on Sunday 3rd March. Fr McDermott administered the sacrament to the children in a very moving ceremony. Every child had a role to play in the Sacramental Mass and their talents greatly enhanced the Liturgy. The music was provided by the Mr Sean Scullion, Mrs Oonagh McFerran and the school choir which added a great deal to the occasion. Thanks to P7 teacher Ms G. O'Kane, Miss Caoimhe Glass student teacher and classroom assistant Susie Kuczogi for their preparation of the children to receive the sacrament.



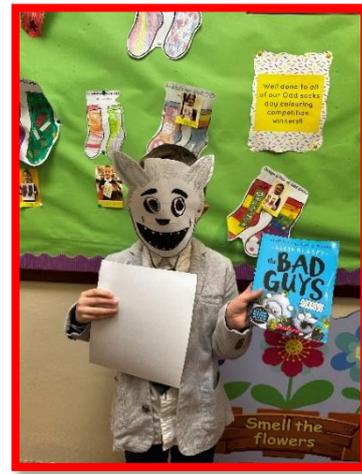
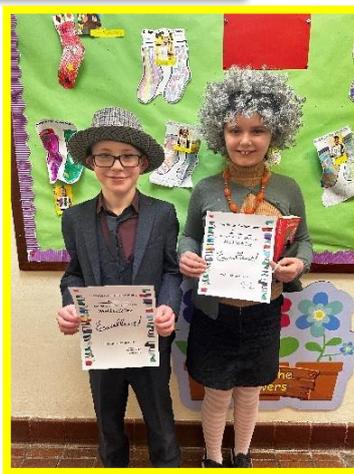
WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 7th March all the boys and girls in St. Brigid's completed a wide range of activities in honour of World Book Day. Each class completed a series of lessons about their favourite books, characters and authors. Some classes created bookmarks, others did a show and tell and some pupils even got hot-seated as characters from stories! Pupils and teachers also took part in a World Book Day Workout hosted online by Gary Wallace from Core Kids in Omagh- this was a great way to start the day!

Everyone dressed up as their favourite book character and took part in a costume parade. The pupils also spent time together as a whole school during a reading assembly. Awards were presented to pupils for their costumes and also for wacky reading pictures. In the afternoon Primary 7 pupils hosted a book sale. Thank you everyone for your kind book donations. Funds raised £302 will be given to countries in conflict in this instance UNICEF for Gaza. To finish off a day of celebration, the Primary 6 and 7 pupils took part in a World Book Day Quiz hosted by our principal, Mrs O'Kane. The boys and girls showed great book knowledge and only a single point split the teams in first, second and third!

Thank you boys and girls for coming together to celebrate this special day and remember everyone 'You are never alone when lost in the magic of a book!'

| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| P1 | - | Caoimhe Magee, Isla Dodds |
| P1/2 | - | Paddy Bennett, Tierna Dodds |
| P2 | - | Bláthnaid Higgins, Dan Doherty, Fíadh McGurk |
| P3 | - | Cathal Magee, Erin Scullion |
| P4 | - | Scarlett O'Neill, Ronan McKee |
| P4/5 | - | Thomas Hearty, Sarah Jane Duggan, Carra-May Canavan |
| P5 | - | Rose McPeake, Michael Duggan |
| P6 | - | Peadar Boyle, Eimear Duggan |
| P7 | - | John O'Neill, Sine McMullan |
| ASC2 | - | Ronan Stewart, Conan McGill |
| Rainbow Room | - | Caragh-Rós Totten |







Love for Life Talk

On Tuesday 12th March P6 and P7 had their Love for Life education sessions. The P6 workshops “choices and changes” focused on the need for hygiene and sleep as we grow and how important it is to respect each other as we change.

The P7 workshops “What’s Inside” examined the changes in our bodies and our moods, with the onset of Puberty.

As always, the Love for Life team presentations were fantastic and sensitively delivered.

First Confession



On Wednesday 13th March 40 pupils made their First Confession in Our Lady of Mercy Church Lavey. The boys and girls first confessions were heard by Fr Graham and Fr Donnelly. Mr Scullion and the school choir provided the music for the occasion.





St Patrick's Assembly



School was closed on Monday 18th March to celebrate St Patrick's Day. On Friday 15th March we celebrated St Patrick's Day with a performance from Caitlin McCloy on her violin. She played Patricks' Reel.



Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service:

On Tuesday 19th March Primary 5 had a visit from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service telling them about the dangers associated with fire at home. We were very grateful to the NIFRS for taking the time out of their busy days to come and see us.



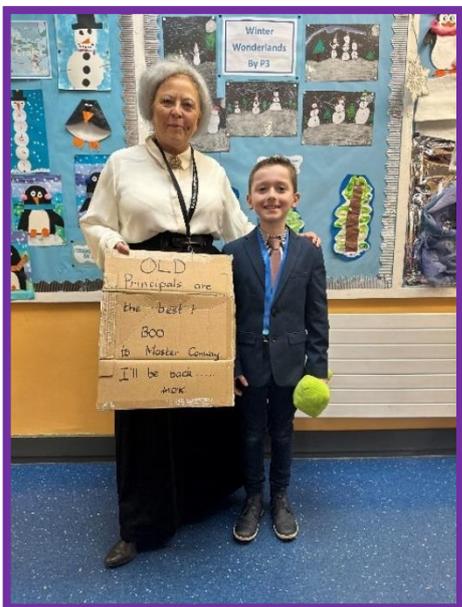
Break the Rules Day

On Thursday 21st March, the children of Saint Brigid's P.S. enjoyed a very special 'Break the Rules' Day to raise money for Fr Magill's missionary work in Myanmar. The day started with a special assembly which was led by our newly appointed Principal and Vice Principal for the day, Master Conway and Miss Ward. Master Conway and Miss Ward were then treated to a cup of tea made by Mrs McEldowney, before beginning their duties for the day. To begin, it was straight to business as Master Conway and Miss Ward met with our school Trustee Fr. E. Graham PP to discuss the planned extension for our school. Master Conway expressed his concerns and explained that the government had no money to do the job! It was then time for a meeting with Sacristan, Mr Tom Magill who cuts the grass and looks after O'Donnell Park. Tom outlined the problems of cutting the grass, especially if he has to keep stopping the lawnmower to pick up litter! Miss Ward and Master Conway are going to arrange for regular clean ups of O'Donnell Park and the school playgrounds.

At Breaktime they joined all the staff for break in the staff room. Master Conway and Miss Ward brought some biscuits for their colleagues to acknowledge all their hard work. It was then back to work for Miss Ward as she had a manuscript call with Mrs Carville, Principal of Mount St. Michael's P.S Randalstown. They discussed school leadership and Mrs Carville suggested that children should get more homework. Miss Ward did not agree with this suggestion. Master Conway and Miss Ward then visited each class to see all of the 'Wacky hairstyles'. They had a meeting to choose the winners and presented them with bespoke certificates. Both the Principal and Vice Principal found it tiring having to sign their names so many times. At noon Master Conway had an official Zoom meeting with his uncle Mr Ciaran Conway, Principal of St. Anne's P.S. Finaghy which has an astonishing 28 classes! Master Conway is now a 3rd generation Principal as his grandfather was also a Principal.

In the afternoon the Principal and Vice Principal visited the classes and presented the winners of 'Wacky Hairstyles' with their certificates. Ronan and Emma were surprised by the number of different duties they had to do today, but they had a very enjoyable day, and the most exciting part is that the total raised for Fr. Magill's mission to Myanmar is £1752. This was a whole school effort, and many rules were broken. Some pupils decided to ditch their uniform for the day, others brought a cuddly toy to school and some even wore their bedroom slippers in the classroom. What an incredible amount of money. Mrs O'Kane and Miss McAlister were overwhelmed by the incredible response to this fundraiser. Thank you Everyone!

What a brilliant day which was summarised by many children as the 'Best Day Ever'.







The Way of the Cross

Primary 7 pupils from St Brigid's PS performed the very moving 'Mary's Way of the Cross' in two local churches during Holy Week. 'Mary's Way of the Cross' tells the story of the Stations of the Cross from Mary's viewpoint - as a mother watching her Son suffer and die. Simeon told Mary at the beginning of Jesus' life "a sword of sorrow will pierce your heart" and this dramatic story really enables the congregation to think about suffering and loss from a relative's perspective.

On Palm Sunday their first performance of 'Mary's Way of the Cross' was in St Mary's Church, Craigavole. The children told the passion story through drama and song with their emotional rendition including Daniel Boyle as Jesus carrying his cross, whilst wearing a crown of thorns. The role of Mary, superbly played by Caoimhe Murtagh, had the congregation enthralled. These young children re-enacted the story showing their considerable talents in music and drama. The school choir added so much to the performance with a selection of Taizé chants and hymns.

On Spy Wednesday they performed in their own parish church – Our Lady of Mercy, Lavey. Parish Priest and School Trustee, Fr Eamon Graham commended the children on their telling of the passion and death of Jesus from this moving perspective of Mary. He added that the pupils had created a very polished and professional performance which delivered a strong Easter message to all.

Well done to all the boys and girls who gave up their time and talents to this production.





School Council Easter Egg Hunt

On Tuesday 26th March pupils enjoyed a challenging Easter Egg hunt in the school grounds. The hunt was organised by the School Council under the guidance of Mrs McCrum. We wish to thank Tesco Stores Ltd and Mr and Mrs Hegarty (Peadar's parents) for generously donating some of the delicious Cadbury Crème Eggs. Despite the rain, the Easter Egg hunt was very egg-citing!





HAPPY
Easter



P1 and P1/2 loved the Easter Egg Hunt



Change the World this Lent

Easter Egg Raffle

Each year our Primary 7 pupils donate an Easter Egg for a raffle. On Wednesday 27th March they held their annual ballot with prizes for every class, overall prizes and staff prizes. Well done to P7 pupils for their generosity – they raised just over £800 which is going to Fr Magill for his missionary work in Myanmar. Thanks to everyone who donated Easter Eggs and who bought tickets. Fr Magill will ensure that all money raised goes to those in need in Myanmar.







Easter Vacation:

School finished on Wednesday 27th March for our Easter Vacation and we returned back on Monday 8th April.



Primary 7 are continuing their JDO work with their Spanish partners. They met online to discuss a their Take a Walk project. Each group discussed which city in the world they would like to research and then they walked through this city using google earth. What a fun morning!

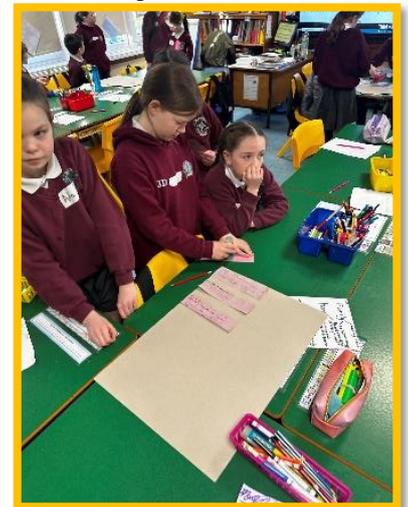




Shared Education

Primary 6 and 7 Shared Education:

As part of the Shared Education Programme Primary 6 and 7 pupils from St Brigid's travelled to Knockloughrim Primary School to meet up with Primary 6 and 7 pupils. Knockloughrim P6 and P7 pupils travelled to St Brigid's on 16th, 23rd and 30th January. Here they took part in their project – Literacy, Numeracy and PDMU.



Primary 5 Shared Education:

Primary 5 children enjoyed their Shared Education lessons with Knockloughrim Primary School at Lavey Termoneeny Centre on 6th, 20th and 27th February. They engaged in lots of different activities such as Dance, Art and Physical Education. They also enjoyed chatting about the values of respect, responsibility, honesty and fairness.





Primary 1 and 2 Shared Education:

Primary 1 and 2 had a great time meeting the boys and girls from Primary 1 and 2 in Knockloughrim Primary School on 5th, 12th and 19th March. We met in St. Brigid's, Knockloughrim Primary School and the Termoneeny Centre for lots of learning and fun! Our shared topic was 'Growth and Growing in Spring'. We read a range of stories including 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Tiny Seed'. We took part in lots of different activities together, including games, arts and crafts, planting, role play and many others. We met new friends and enjoyed getting to know each other. We look forward to meeting them again out and about and we can't wait for more learning and fun together next year.

Shared Education Primary 1 and 2





Roots of Empathy

On the 7th February we had the privilege of hosting Jan Gaudet from Roots of Empathy. Jan works with Roots of Empathy in Canada and was delighted to join Miss McAlister and Primary 5 for their fourth family visit based on 'emotions and feelings'.

Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom programme which started in Toronto, Canada. It consists of guided observations of an infant's development and emotions by primary school children. The project began in 1996, and was established by Mary Gordon, a Canadian social entrepreneur and educator. Jan was very impressed with our Primary 5 children and was pleased to see the programme working so well in our classroom.

Jan also had the opportunity to meet some of our previous Roots of Empathy babies who are now pupils in school. Together they are pictured alongside Mrs O'Kane.

A huge thank you to Baby Ruby and her mum Ashley for volunteering their time to take part in this programme, it is great to have it back in Saint Brigid's P.S. Primary 5 look forward to seeing Ruby each month and love watching her grow and develop.

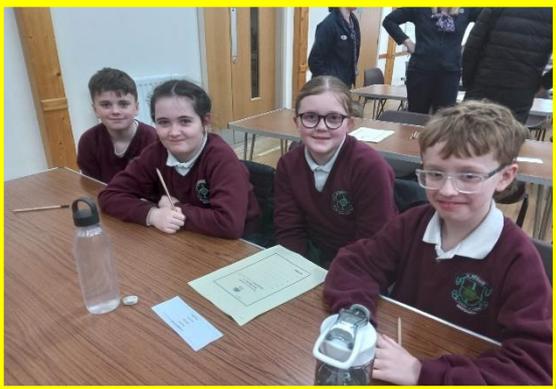


Our previous Roots of Empathy babies

QUIZZES

Credit Union Quiz:

Carn Glen Credit Union Quiz took place on Friday 26th January in the Lurach Centre Maghera. St Brigid's P.S. had four teams participating; two in Section A for younger pupils and two in Section B for older children. The questions tested the children's knowledge across a wide range of topics. The scores were given at intervals during the quiz and the closeness of the scores really added to the atmosphere of the competition. When the final results were announced St Brigid's teams took 1st and 3rd in Section B and joint 3rd in Section A. All of the St Brigid's pupils were delighted with their performances and Grace, Ciaran, Leo-Pat and Oliver were thrilled to collect their prizes and the trophy for the school. They are looking forward to the next round and hope to maintain their winning ways.



Road Safety Quiz:



The Mid-Ulster heat of the N. I. Road Safety Quiz 2024 was held in Glenavon Hotel on Thursday 1st February. St Brigid's was represented by Caoimhe, Ciaran, Grace and Oliver. The team had worked keenly to prepare for the very broad range of questions with a strong emphasis on Road Safety. Though scores were not given during the quiz the teams were told that the scores were very, very close and this was borne out when the scores were finally given placing St Brigid's in 2nd place; one point behind the winners. The children were proudly presented with their medals and certificates and as runners-up, will take part in the N. I. final.



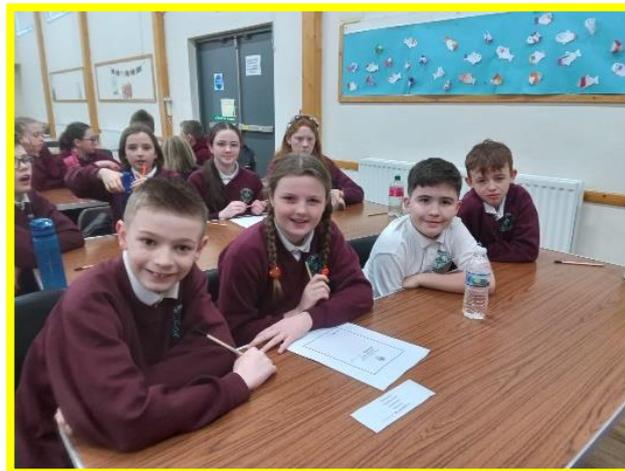
Cumann na mBunscol Quiz:

Holy Family P. S. Magherafelt was the venue for this year's Cumann na mBunscol Quiz (Doire) on Wednesday 28th February. The wide range of questions tested the children's knowledge on numerous topics, in particular those with an Irish connections – sport, literature, history to name a few. The score update during the quiz showed the closeness of the competition among the teams. St Brigid's team was certainly in contention and when the final scores were announced Grace, Ciaran, John and Leo-Pat were thrilled to hear they had taken first place, repeating the schools' success of last year. The team now looks forward to next week's Ulster final in Cavan.



Credit Union Quiz – Chapter 2 Stage:

The final was held in Glenavon Hotel Cookstown on Friday 1st March and involved the winning teams from the Chapter's local branches in areas of Derry and Tyrone. St Brigid's P.S. represented Carn Glen Credit Union in the B Section (older pupils) and the team Grace, Ciaran, Oliver and Leo-Pat had worked hard since the local heat, preparing for the final. The teams found quite a few of the questions difficult and this was reflected in the scores gained. When the results were announced after Round 12 there was a tie for 1st place and this involved St Brigid's P.S. and two other teams. Tie break questions were used to establish the winning team. After Round 1 tie break question: three teams tie, after Round 2: two teams tie and after Round 3: St Brigid's triumph. The team members were presented with their certificates and trophy and will represent the Chapter in the final in Dublin on Sunday 7th April.



Road Safety Final Quiz:

The children representing St Brigid's P. S. Caoimhe, Grace, Ciaran and Oliver travelled with their parents to Glenavon Hotel Cookstown on Monday 4th March for the quiz which had teams representing each N.I. Council area. The eight rounds of the quiz really checked out the children's knowledge and awareness of the Highway Code and related Road Safety issues. When the questions ended the tension rose while waiting the results. There was a tie for 3rd place and unfortunately St Brigid's team missed out on the tie break question. The parents and school were pleased with and proud of the children's performance in the quiz.



Cumann na mBunscol Ulster Final:

The hectic quiz schedule continued with this event taking place on Tuesday 5th March Cavan Crystal Hotel. Each county had its top three teams participating in this interesting, challenging and enjoyable quiz. The wide selection of questions challenged the children's general knowledge across a broad range of topics with a leaning towards Irish literature, sport, history, geography, culture and personalities. St Brigid's team: Grace, John, Leo-Pat and Oliver put in a major effort and can be proud to be one of the best teams from north of the border. The pupils enjoyed their visit to Cavan and also the lunch provided and returned to school with their own question, 'When is the next quiz?'



CROSS COUNTRY

Flahavan's Cross Country Round 3:

The third race in Flahavan's Cross Country League, postponed from earlier, took place on 31st January. The girls' team was ranked 5th and the boys' team took 3rd place and are waiting anxiously for the other teams' results to find out if St Brigid's will again qualify for the N. I. Final at Mallusk. They hope that their very strong performances in the first race, when both teams secured 1st place, will help secure inclusion in the final.



Flahavan's Cross Country Finals:

The N. I. Final of Flahavan's Cross Country was run at Mallusk on Friday 23rd February on a course where conditions were very difficult due to the recent weather. St Brigid's teams performed well and when the placings were totalled both the girls and the boys were really pleased that they had the best results of the schools from Causeway that qualified for the final. Given their excellent performances, Sine (7th) and Saidhbhin (11th) are invited to join Flahavans Athletics N. I. Junior Endurance Squad for additional training. Congratulations to all who took part in St Brigid's After School Cross Country practice during the year. **Both the girls' and boys' team were awarded a trophy as the best performing teams from Causeway Coast area in the Flahavan's Final.**

Sports Events

South Derry Camogie Skills Test:

Well done to the four P7 boys and four P7 girls who were selected to go to the South Derry Skills tests for Gaelic football and Camogie in Meadowbank on Thursday 11th and Tuesday 23rd January. They both faced a series of challenges using both sides while they were being timed around the course. Top scorers on the day will get the chance to represent Derry at the halftime National League games. Following the skills tests, we currently have had four boys and one girl playing for Derry in Celtic Park as part of the half time Gaelic games. We also have another P7 girl playing at camogie in Owenbeg in their upcoming fixture.



South Derry 5-a-side Indoor Camogie and Boys' Football:



Well done to our camogie team who represented St Brigid's at the South Derry indoor camogie blitz on Wednesday 30th January at Meadowbank. In the group stages, the girls were up against St Eoghan's PS Moneykena, St Patrick's PS Glen, St Columba's PS Straw and St Mary's PS Bellaghy. Some excellent talent and hard work was displayed, and as one of the winners of their group they went straight through to the playoff. The girls played St Columba's Kilrea and were unfortunately defeated after a tense 7 minutes. The girls represented themselves, their families, their school and their club with pride.

Well done everyone!

The boys INTO 5-a-side Gaelic tournament took place on Wednesday 30th January in Meadowbank. 28 schools from South Derry were represented with only four able to progress to the All-Derry finals. The boys played great football in attacking and defence. St Brigid's topped their group with wins against Crossroads (Kilrea), New Row (Castledawson) and Knocknagin (Desertmartin). They then faced Straw (Draperstown) in their quarter final and won to progress to the final's day. **Well done!**

Castle Cup Athletics:

The event was organised by St Patrick's College on Thursday 8th February for P7 pupils from the local feeder schools. A team of thirteen pupils from St Brigid's took part in the challenging competition where their athletic skills were certainly tested in a variety of well organised activities requiring speed, strength and agility. When the points were totalled St Brigid's team was placed second.



Netball Blitz:

On Thursday 8th February our netball team have had their very first outings to Cookstown Leisure Centre for both blitz and league day matches. The focus of these matches has been to create participation opportunities and enjoyment for all. The team have played extremely well and have demonstrated fantastic skills and teamwork. They achieved multiple wins and draws throughout the tournaments. This was a fantastic result and a testament to their hard work and determination. The girls will now take part in the second half of the Primary School League. A great start to Netball at St Brigid's P.S., well done girls!





South Derry 5-a-side Indoor Hurling and Girls' Football:



On Wednesday 21st February at Meadowbank our hurling team travelled to Meadowbank for the South Derry CNB Indoor Hurling Championship. The boys played 4 games with the top 2 teams in each section progressing into the County Finals on 5th March. The first game was a tough match against St Brigid's Tirkane with a narrow 2-1 win. After that the boys won their next 2 against Moneyneena and Gaelscoil na Speirni. The last game of the group was between top two teams, ourselves and St Columba's Straw. After another very intense game the boys scored a goal just before the final whistle to win 2-1.

Well done to the boys and good luck in the County Finals

Congratulations to the girls represented St Brigid's at the South Derry Indoor football blitz. The girls put in excellent performances all over the pitch, and topped their group with wins against New Row Castledawson, St Mary's PS Greenlough and Ballylifford PS. St Brigid's then played St Columba's Kilrea in the qualifiers, and were unfortunately defeated.

Well done to our team, we are very proud of you!



All County Hurling Final:



On Tuesday 5th March the boys made another trip to Meadowbank, this time for the Indoor County Hurling Finals. Top teams from across the County came to show off their skills in order to be crowned County Champions. The boys faced Ballerin, Kilrea, Banagher and Rosemount Primary Schools. After a few tough battles the team qualified for the semi-finals where they faced Dernaflaw. The boys played great hurling but it wasn't to be their day as Dernaflaw won the game 2-0 and were eventual winners of the competition. The team will now prepare for the outdoor tournaments coming later in the year.

Ulster Boys' Football Championship:

Well done to the 8 boys who not only represented their school, but also their county in the Indoor Ulster Football Championship on Wednesday 13th March in Meadowbank. As Derry champions they were placed in a group with the Kilcoo, Crossmaglen and Donaghmore. A very tough and competitive groups as all teams were eager to show off their skills. In the boys first game Kilcoo won by the narrowest of margins, 1 point. A fantastic comeback display saw the boys draw with Crossmaglen and the last game saw Donaghmore (eventual winners) win by 2 points. Luck wasn't to be on our side as each game could of went other way with shots crashing off the crossbar or penalties being saved. Well done to the boys who gave it their all to the final whistle and they can be proud of their efforts.



Celtic Park:

On the 4th February Charlie Dillon, Kealan Shaw and Ciaran McCloy got the opportunity to play at half time during the Derry/Tyrone football match at Celtic Park.

On the 2nd March Daniel Boyle got the opportunity to play during the Derry/Dublin football match at Celtic Park.

On the 9th March Ellie Selfridge got the opportunity to play at half time during the Derry/Meath camogie match at Owebeg.



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.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| January | 9 th | M O'K to CCEA N.I. Curriculum Refresher training |
| | 15 th | M O'K AOEА training |
| | 17 th | M O'K CEA training at ABC |
| | 23 rd | M O'K Teams meeting |
| | 25 th | M O'K to a Cluster Meeting |
| | 29 th | Staff training for all staff |
| February | 31 st | M O'K to a Cluster Meeting |
| | 6 th | O McA |
| | 22 nd | M O'K Zoom call |
| March | 23 rd | G O'K Literacy Cluster meeting in St Brigid's Tirkane |
| | 29 th | G O'K, A M, O McA and B C to STEM training |
| | 1 st | M O'K Social Services Zoom call |
| | 5 th | M O'K CEA Training |
| | 6 th | G O'K to Young Enterprise training |
| | 7 th | C D Designated Teacher Training |
| | 12 th & 13 th | U Q Numeracy Cluster meeting in St Brigid's Tirkane |
| 14 th | M O'K CEA training in Stormont | |
| | | M O'K to a Cluster Meeting |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

6th ~ 10th May 2024
27th May 2024
Saturday 1st June 2024
28th June 2024

May Mid~Term
Sports Day
First Holy Communion ~ 11:00am
School Ends