



# St Brigid's Primary School

Website: [www.stbrigidsmayogall.ik.org](http://www.stbrigidsmayogall.ik.org)

## St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter

November / December 2017

We all returned refreshed from our Mid-term break on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Fire Drill:**

We carried out our first fire drill of the school year on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November and completed it in a record time of 2 minutes and 57 seconds. Well done everyone!

### **Golf Lessons:**

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 P7s, Tony held after school Golf Club with P5 and P6 pupils who opted to stay in.



### **Work Placement:**



Conall Lee started work placement on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November and will be here every Friday until the end of June. He is a student at St. Mary's University College Belfast and hopes to pursue a career in teaching.



# ERASMUS +

## Erasmus+ Trip to Belgium:

From Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November Mrs O'Kane and Mrs O'Hara visited our partner school in Belgium as part of our project on teaching Mathematics using Multiple Intelligences. The school is near the town of Mons and it was lovely to see the children in the Kindergarten (some only 2 years old) right up to the 12 year olds. We had a very informative visit and even met the Minister of Education.

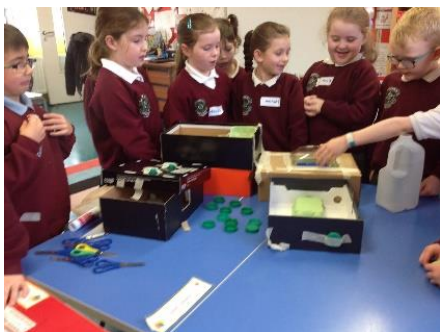


## Shared Education

### P3 Shared Education:



P3 pupils from Knockloughrim P.S. and St Brigid's P.S. got together in St Brigid's on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November to take part in a shared lesson on Growth Mind Set. We also worked together to build houses with junk materials and then cool construction sets. We had lots of fun.





### **P1 Shared Education:**

Primary 1 were joined by their new friends from Knockloughrim Primary School on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017. We had lots of fun getting to know each other and exploring our new shared topic 'Water'. It was a very busy day with plenty of interesting activities. We listened to water sounds and created our own water sounds using musical instruments, we mixed different coloured water to create new colours and investigated floating and sinking using a range of objects. We also read a story about 'Drippy the Raindrop' and sang water songs together. Afterwards we rehydrated with a water tasting activity. We cannot wait to meet up again in the new year.

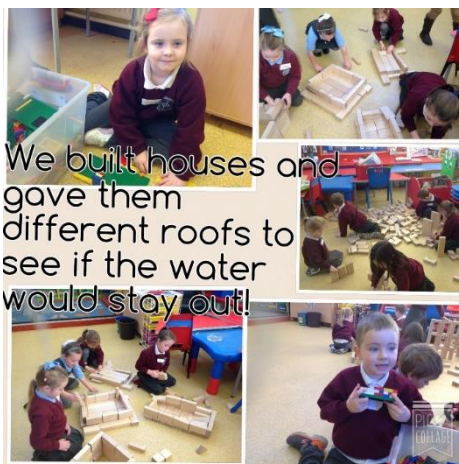


### **P2 Shared Education Trip:**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November P2 had a fantastic time with their friends from Knockloughrim P. S. when they went to visit them. They enjoyed playing with the parachute and had to pretend to be fish and sharks. They also built houses and discovered which roofs were waterproof. They had lots of opportunities to find out what they had in common and Primary 2 really enjoyed playing on Knockloughrim Primary School's outdoor play equipment.



Primary 2 had great fun with their friends from Knockloughrim!



We built houses and gave them different roofs to see if the water would stay out!



We had lots of different things to do and had lots of fun!

### **Entrance Test:**

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November nineteen Year 7 pupils sat the Entrance Test in local grammar schools – we wish them well.



### **Swatragh Christmas Market:**

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November P7 pupils took their produce from the Junior Entrepreneur Programme to sell at the Swatragh Christmas Market. We had our own pupils leading the sales supervised by Mrs Bronagh Currie and Mrs Patricia Cooke. After much haggling they made £275.25. the total now stands at £301 and there are some left over products if you wish to snatch that “Special Christmas Gift,”



We were very honoured that publicity posters for the event described our school choir’s “Special Guest Appearance” but the choir lived up to their reputation and sang from 2 - 4pm. Well done everyone.



### **Road Safety Week: ‘No need to speed’**

Road Safety Week 2017 had the theme “Speed down, save lives.” Pupils had a number of activities and lessons to promote road safety. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November Mrs O’Kane and Mrs O’Hara travelled to Cultra Manor to accept the N.I. Road Safety Award in the Primary School Category.

The school was commended for emphasising the road safety message due to our location on the busy A42, with no on-site parking and the need for parents to use the Church car park. The judges loved the idea of “Little Brigid” being placed outside the school to warn drivers to cut their speed.

The school acknowledged the emphasis placed on Road Safety from success in quizzes and public-speaking competitions and the strong links between the school and Magherafelt and District Motor Club.

The judges were also impressed by the continued promotion of the Cycling Proficiency Scheme and the work of the Junior Road Safety Officers.

Well done to everyone in our school and remember to **Belt Up, Be Bright and Slow Down!**





# Bushmills Residential Trip

Primary 7 went on their Residential to Bushmills Education Centre from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November with their Shared Education partners at Knockloughrim P.S. The children were accompanied by Mrs G. O'Hara, Mr E. Mulholland, Louise and Cathy McKenna. They spent four days at the centre taking part in various activities such as: walking the Giant's Causeway, visiting Dunluce Castle, walking the beach at Ballintoy Harbour, competing at orienteering, archery lessons and completing the High Ropes Course. They had a great time away and made many great memories.



## Anti-Bullying Week "Together we are Stronger":



School Council were very busy preparing for Anti-Bullying Week from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November. They strongly believe that there is very little bullying in St Brigid's but that there should be **NO** bullying. School Council decided to run a poster competition to showcase the forms of bullying and most **importantly** what to do if you feel you are being bullied. Mrs McCrum said that the posters were the most impressive she had seen. There were over 20 winners – with three overall winners. These posters are now displayed throughout the school. School Council put up an assembly for the whole council showing all the boys and girls how actions and words can be hurtful. School Council want to make sure that all children are **happy** and feel protected at St Brigid's. Mrs McCrum would like to thank the School Council for giving up their break and dinner times to prepare for the assembly and all the work they do!



### **Anti-Bullying Competition Winners were as follows:**

Clodagh McGarvey P3, Elaine O'Neill P5, Katie O'Kane P7, Anna Gribbin P4, Jude McGurk P7, Ella Hughes P5, Ronan Duggan P5, Rachael Duggan P6, Ciara Cooke P7, Caitlin McPeake P2/3, Aideen Currie P5, Michael McKenna P6, Sadie Kilpatrick P5, Emily Rose McIvor P4/5, Eva Bradley P5, Orlagh Boyle P6, Conall Moore P7, Cassie O'Connor P7, Roise Woulahan P6, Aine McCann P7, Liam McErlean P3.

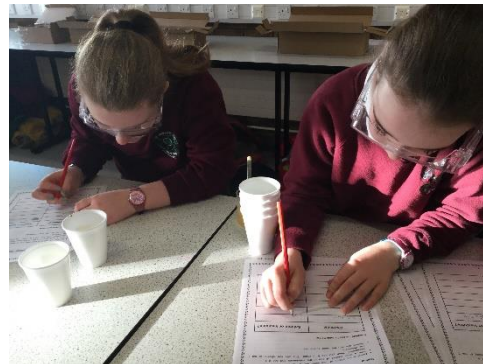
### **The overall winners were:**

Aine McCann, Michael McKenna and Caitlin McPeake



### **Science in St Patrick's College:**

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December Primary 7 continued their links with St Patrick's College by visiting Mrs Emma Armstrong for science lessons. They experiment using Bunsen burners, different chemicals and different gases.





### **Pantomime the Grinch:**

Primary 7 pupils were treated to a showing of 'The Grinch' at St Patrick's College on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November. They thoroughly enjoyed the show and had great fun spotting past pupils!

### **Fun Run:**

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December we held our first ever Santa Fun Run. We had 48 males, 65 females and 106 families take part on the challenging 5km course. Winners were:

Male: 1<sup>st</sup> Charlie Curley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jarleth Hughes, 3<sup>rd</sup> Michael

Female: 1<sup>st</sup> Clodagh McPeake, 2<sup>nd</sup> Katie Shivers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Anne O'Doherty

Families: 1<sup>st</sup> Stephen, Annemarie, Darragh and Aoibheann Pickering

2<sup>nd</sup> Declan and Emma Leung and family

3<sup>rd</sup> Paul, Nicola, Madison and Amber Sargent

We are indebted to Termoneeny Running Club, we could never have done this without their advice and assistance. Thanks are also due to everyone who donated food and gifts or helped out on the day. This event raised £1835 towards school funds and feedback has been very positive.



### **Cross-Country:**



On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December the cross country teams took part in Round 2 of the Flahavan's Primary School Cross Country League at the University of Ulster in Coleraine. Despite the difficult and muddy running conditions both the boys' team and the girls' team did extremely well! The girls made a huge improvement from Round 1 and finished joint second overall with Mary Queen of Peace Primary School. The boys successfully remained in the number one spot for Round 2 and have gained a place in the final. Huge congratulations to both teams for their hard work and to everyone who took part in the cross-country after school's club during Term 1.



### **Mass:**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December all pupils and staff walked up to St Mary's Church for 10:00am Mass to mark the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Well done to the school choir who added so much to the Liturgy.

### **Exceptional Closures:**

St Brigid's had to be closed on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> due to the treacherous weather conditions. Building Supervisor Paddy was up early, clearing paths and putting down salt, but it was still much too dangerous to move around the grounds. Remember we have 5 classrooms in the main building and 6 mobile classrooms!

### **Christmas Dinner:**



On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 216 pupils enjoyed their school Christmas Dinner. Thanks to Olivia, Monica, Katie and Tracey – it was delicious!

### **Soccer Tournament:**



Mr Doherty organised a soccer tournament at break time and the winning team was Juventus. The team players were: Eoin Young, Caoimhe McTaggart, Iona McDowall, Marc McGurk, Fionn McPeake, Shauna O'Kane, Jake O'Boyle, Emily Harris, Conor O'Neill, Eadaoin Doherty and Minnie McGahon.





# Christmas Carol Service

St Brigid's PS Mayogall held a Carol Service in St Mary's Church Lavey on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. A capacity crowd filled the church to hear the musical and dramatic talents of all the 262 children involved in the show. Fr Graham PP welcomed everyone on the snowy evening and began with a short reading to set the scene. The Carol Service began with over 60 Primary 1 and 2 children performing the "ABC Nativity" which received huge applause from the audience. Primary 3 had everyone clapping along to their catchy song – "It's Almost Christmas Morn" which they performed with great gusto. Then the Primary 4 class performed the mellow "Love Shone Down" which was very emotional. Primary 4/5 class marched to a drumbeat from the back of the Church to perform "Little Drummer Boy" their excellent costumes sparkling in the lights. Primary 5 presented "A Starry Night" another very moving performance which they sang beautifully. Primary 6 pupils then performed "The First Noel" with a very moving Nativity Tableau. Primary 7 pupils performed the play "Holy Joe" telling the Christmas story from the viewpoint of St Joseph. The school choir filled the aisles wearing Choir Robes, carrying candles whilst they sang the haunting "O Holy Night". The congregation joined the choir in singing the well-known carols "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night". The children were accompanied by Choir Director Sean Scullion with Oonagh Clarke on guitar, Emily Kelly on violin and John Hanson on drums.

Families had been asked to contribute food to the St Vincent de Paul hamper appeal. The local SVP Conference were overwhelmed with the generosity as packed hampers were carried forward and placed in the manger.

Following the Carol Service, the congregation crossed the road to sing Christmas songs as they switched on the lights of the Christmas Tree. Families were then treated to very welcome refreshments in Mayogall Hall provided by the Termoneeny Association and the John Paul II Award participants.

This proved to be a very successful night for the Parish of Lavey; showcasing the talents of the children and the spirit of giving to those in need during the festive season.





## **Merit Assembly:**

Merit Assembly was held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December and the Award winners were:

- P1 - Leo-Pat McAllister, Sarah Young, Kealan Shaw, Ciaran McCloy, Caitlin McCloy
- P1/2 - Rose Hughes, Eimear Conway, Aleisha McKenna, Eabha Holleran
- P2/3 - Niamh Hendry, Ruairi Duggan, Oran Currie, Caitlin McPeake
- P3 - Sean Birt, Riona McNeill, Jacob Larkham, Aleksandar Samardzija, Niamh McPeake
- P4 - Pete Broderick, Chloe Keenan, Serena O'Neill, Charley McGarvey, Lucas Shaw
- P4/5 - Aiobheann Pickering, Rian Downey, Cathal Duggan
- P5 - Sadie Kilpatrick, Leona Martin, Erin O'Boyle, Minie McGahan, Elaine O'Neill, Ciara Dillon
- P6 - Frank Shaw, Ronan Birt, Emily Harris, Sinead Scullion
- P6/7 - Joseph Birt, Marc McGurk, Naomi Stokes, Conall Moore
- P7 - Amy Martin, Tiarnan Melaugh, Madison Sargent, Cathal Craig



## **Maths Week Ireland:**

### **Accelerated Reading Awards:**

- P5 - Anton McCormick, Oisin Henry, Aidan Cooke, Emily Walls
- P6 - Ben Donelly, Michael McKenna, Orlagh Boyle
- P6/7 - Thomas Canavan, Luke O'Doherty, Cassie O'Connor, Laoise McNally
- P7 - Ciara Cooke, Cathal Mulholland, Clodagh McGarry





## **Christmas Holidays:**



On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December school closes at 1:00pm for Christmas Holidays and reopens again on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018. The Principal, Staff and Pupils of St Brigid's P.S. wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!



## **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:

November	7 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to Capita – C2k Inspire
	9 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to Mid-Ulster Principals Cluster
	10 <sup>th</sup>	G D to Beginning Teachers Course
	15 <sup>th</sup>	E M to Holy Family P S - Science
	17 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to Associate Assessors' Training
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	P McC and A McM to a (RISE) course in Magherafelt Hospital
December	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	A D to Helping Hands Course in Cookstown
	1 <sup>st</sup>	M O'K to INTO Conference in Cookstown
	5 <sup>th</sup>	U Q and P McC to St Patrick's College KS2/KS3 Literacy and Numeracy
	6 <sup>th</sup>	P McC to Mid-Ulster Cluster (S.E.N.) A M to Heaney Centre Global Learning Programme

## **Dates for your diary:**

- **P1 New Intake forms to be in on or before Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January Fun in Athletics and Sacramental Talk for P4 and P7 parents
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January Hurling and Girls Football at Meadowbank
- 28<sup>th</sup> January – 4<sup>th</sup> February Catholic Schools Week
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January Castle Cup Athletics
- 321 Travelling Book Fair arrives on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February
- Confirmation is on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 11:00am
- INTO Camogie & Football on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February
- Pupils home at 1pm from 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February to facilitate Parent Teacher Meetings
- Mid-Term Break from 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February inclusive
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March Ash Wednesday whole school will walk to Mass
- First Confessions on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm



## **Geraldine Lavery R.I.P.**

It is with deep regret that we mourn the passing of a dear friend and colleague Mrs Geraldine Lavery who died on 10<sup>th</sup> November. Mrs Lavery taught in St Brigid's for many years until her retirement 19 years ago. She taught in Primary 1 and made many, many children's first experiences of school the happiest of times reassuring smiles and 'Janet and John'! The legacy Mrs Lavery leaves us is truly of gentleness and a love of learning.



### **St. Brigid's P.S 1997-98**

*Back Row L to R : Antoinette O' Kane, Paul Mc Cavera, Geraldine Lavery, Moira Kelly  
Front Row L to R : Anne Cassidy, John Grant, Patricia Boylan, Sarah Magee*