



St Brigid's Primary School

Website: www.stbrigidspsmayogall.com

St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter

November / December 2020

We all returned refreshed from our extended Mid-term break on Monday 2nd November.

Flu Vaccination:

On Wednesday 4th November the majority of our pupils received the Flu vaccination.

School Census:



On the 6th November the annual DE school meals census took place. In St. Brigid's 189 pupils bought a school dinner and 24 pupils are in receipt of Free School Meals.

USA Election:



Primary 7 had lots of fun following the US Presidential Election. Every day they watched live coverage during lunch time and followed the live counts very closely. It was so much fun watching the results come in. They did some research on both candidates and decided that, like the majority of the American people, they wanted Joe Biden to win. P7 think he will make a good President and are glad that he chose Kamala Harris as his running mate. Together they will do a great job of leading the USA.



Credit Union Art Competition:



The theme of the Credit Union Art Competition this year was **"Imagine More"**.
Well done to all our winners in the Credit Union Art Competition.

Over 11

- 1st Charley Canavan
- 2nd Amber Sargent
- 3rd Maria Conway

Under 11

- 1st Aoife Brennan
- 2nd Anna Gribbin
- 3rd Emily Rose McIvor



Thanks to Bannvale Credit Union for their very generous prizes

School Council:

In St Brigid's PS we have a very active School Council, liaising between staff and pupils. We at St Brigid's pride ourselves in putting pupils first. Each class elects councillors to represent their interests on the school council. Class councils are held every month from P1 – P7; their concerns are passed to the School Council. A member of the Board of Governors, the Principal and Vice-Principal meet with the School Council to negotiate on a wide range of issues affecting the children. Our school councillors are not only hard-working, dedicated and responsible, but they act as ambassadors for school councils across Northern Ireland and are often used as a model of good practice.

The School Council effected many changes to school life eg. Break time provision, playground rules, non-uniform days, trips etc. School Council is elected each year, meets monthly and helps make important decisions in St. Brigid's P. S.

P7

Molly Grant
Cathal Duggan
Don Mulholland
Ríonach McNally

P6/7

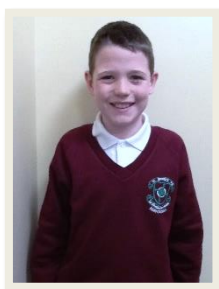
Tom Trainor
Alex Samardzija
Katie Hendry

P6

Matthew Shaw
Niamh Duggan
Jacob Larkham

P5

Cara Gallagher
Liam Devlin
Niamh Hendry



Anti-Bullying Week

P6 Anti-Bullying Posters



Monday 16th to Friday 20th November we started our Anti-Bullying week with our pupils wearing Odd Socks to school.

During his visit to St Brigid's the Minister of Education, Mr Peter Weir selected the winners of the Anti-Bullying colouring and poster competitions. The Minister deliberated carefully before choosing Sadie P1, Ellen-Rose P4 and Emily Rose P7. Well done everyone!



Odd Sock Day



Primary 1 Boys and Girls



Primary 1/2 Boys and Girls



Primary 2 Boys and Girls



Odd Sock Day
in P3



Primary 5 pupils



Primary 7 pupils



Road Safety Week 2020

On 16th November we commenced our Road Safety Week celebrations. All classes participated in a variety of activities aimed at highlighting different aspects of Road Safety. Each child designed a '**Be Bright, Be Seen**' jumper. On Friday 20th November we dazzled each other with our fabulous bright clothes to highlight the importance of making sure that we can be seen by traffic when we are out and about, especially now, in these darker evenings. Congratulations to everyone on making it a week to remember!

Be Bright and Be Seen

Primary 1





Fabulous Friday
Be Bright Be Seen

P3



Primary 6



Fluorescent Wall Art





Primary 7



Extra-Curricular Activities:

Kevin Himphney from the Derry GAA came into school for three Wednesday mornings to do extra-curricular activities with our P6 and P7 pupils.





Snowman Art work by our P6 Class:



Education Minister visit to School:

On the afternoon of Wednesday 25th November Mr Peter Weir Minister of Education visited our school. He was welcomed by a number of our Governors; Chair Brenda Henry, Trustee Fr Graham, Margaret McMullan and Sean McPeake. The Minister was taken on a tour of the school and deficiencies in our accommodation were pointed out to him. Each teacher took the opportunity to show the Minister the issues within their classrooms. Mr Weir listened to all our concerns and during our meeting had a full and frank discussion.

The Minister advised that the school accept the SEP (School Enhancement Programme) which was granted to St Brigid's in May 2020. This project is for a major renovation and extension building programme which may cost up to £4 million. Ideally, we would love a new school build on a green field site, but realistically this is not very likely at this time.

The Governors are taking advice on the decision to either accept the £4 million renovation, or turn it down, in the hope of getting a new school build. We would love to hear your views – please email mokane282@c2kni.net.

Media Stars ~ P7 Picasso's

In the lead up to the visit of Education Minister to our school, P7 pupils studied MLA's, the Stormont Assembly and the roles of the Ministers. As part of their study, they painted portraits of the Ministers. Mr Weir's press officer took a photograph of Mr Weir standing beside his portrait and he tweeted it.

Suddenly, we became famous! The next day the BBC asked if they could use our paintings at the end of "The View" programme with Mark Carruthers.

Then Twitter really went crazy, with lots of people commenting on Edwin Poots' ears and Naomi Long's eyebrows! We were really surprised by all the attention we received. Mrs O'Kane was interviewed on Radio Ulster. She was on BBC online. Our paintings were shown on Newsline. We were mentioned in the Irish News, the Derry Post, the Sunday Life and the Belfast Telegraph.

Then Mrs O'Hara, Donnacha and Maria were interviewed on Good Morning Ulster. BBC presenters challenged us to paint their portraits which we did and in return we each received a selection box. We have been very busy, but never expected to get so much publicity.

A number of famous people have changed their Twitter photo to our painting including: Naomi Long, Robin Swann, Jake O'Kane, Cecilia Daly, Joel Taggart, Chris Buckler, Tim McGarry and Barra Best.

Then the Deputy First Minister decided to use her portrait (painted by Lisa and Maria) on her official Christmas Card. **Life just can't get any better!**

New Pupil:



New pupil Savannah Devlin joined our P5 class on Friday 27th November.

Santa's Visit to School:

On Friday 4th December Mid-Ulster District Council Santa Claus visited St Brigid's. Foundation Stage children were out in the playground to wish him a Merry Christmas. Santa then knocked upon the window of each classroom and shouted "HO HO HO" to the excited pupils. Everyone received a bag of gold chocolate coins. What a wonderful start to the Christmas Season.

Primary 6's view of Santa as he walked around the school and waved in at them.



Specialist Joinery Group Fly-By!

Monday 7th December was a very special morning for everyone in St Brigid's as Santa and Mrs Claus flew overhead in a helicopter. The pilot took time to hover over each playground and we could clearly see Santa and Mrs Claus wave out to all of us.

Then a big Specialist Joinery Group lorry pulled up at the school gate and two glamorous elves delivered sacks of goodies to each class. Everyone received a selection box with a beautiful message:

**The virus has cancelled Project Santa this year,
But we still want to spread some
*Christmas cheer***

**So here's some Christmas treats from us,
And we wish you all a
*Merry Christmas***

**Enjoy fun time with family and friends,
Next year we'll celebrate Project Santa again.**

**Look to the skies to see who you see,
We are all so excited because
*Specialist believes***

Thank you to the O'Hagan family, the directors, management and staff of Specialist Joinery Group for spreading the magic of Christmas.



St Brigid's believes





Christmas Dinner:



Thank you to Donna, Monica, Katie and Danielle in our school kitchen for our Christmas Party Boxes on Thursday 10th December. As we are eating in our classrooms it would be difficult to provide traditional Christmas Dinner. The children very much enjoyed their Party Box. Everyone wore their Christmas jumper and the Christmas Music and DVDs added to the party atmosphere.

Primary 5





Christmas Jumper Day:



Pupils all wore their Christmas Jumpers on Thursday 10th December and donated a £1 towards school funds. A total of £211 was raised. Well done everyone!



Primary 6



St Vincent De Paul - Gift of Hope:



St Brigid's Primary School requested parents did not buy gifts for staff this Christmas. Due to Coronavirus, we were limiting movement of items between home and school and have decided rather that gifts this year, a donation to St Vincent De Paul, Family Appeal would be greatly appreciated.

We collected £774.64 and gave the Gift of Hope to a family in need, through the excellent work of St Vincent De Paul.

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, Meets, Teams or Zoom.

Dates For Your Diary!

15 th – 19 th February 2021	Mid-term break
17 th March 2021	St Patrick's Day
1 st April – 9 th April 2021	Easter Holidays
3 rd – 7 th May 2021	May Holidays
31 st May 2021	Bank Holiday

The school year ends on 25th June 2021

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

On Friday 18th December school closes at 12:00noon for Christmas Holidays and reopens again on Monday 4th January 2021. The Principal, Staff and Pupils of St Brigid's P.S. wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.





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
P1/2 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, I pads 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

16

17

18

LinkedIn

WhatsApp

Vine
Tinder

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.

The School Website!

Our school website is a valuable source of information. Please check it regularly.

Log on to www.stbrigidspsmayogall.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 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 both 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
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