



# St Brigid's Primary School

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

## St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter

September / October 2017

### Term 1 Takes off:

Term started on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September with 262 pupils. We were joined by 34 new Primary 1 pupils and Dara Hughes P4/5.



### New Staff:

We have a number of new staff who have joined us this academic year. They are Miss Gráinne Dobbin in P2/3 covering Mrs Vallyelly's maternity leave. Cathy McKenna and Catriona O'Kane as Classroom Assistants.



### Music Tuition:



Music Tuition started in September EA tutors Ms Helena Nicholl began violin and cello tuition and Ms Lauren Skelton began flute and clarinet tuition with our pupils.



### School Photographer:

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September C S Moments Photography took our school photographs and feedback has been very positive.

### Work Placement:



Tracey Nicholl is on work placement three mornings a week from N.R.C. Tracey will be based in Mrs Donaghy's class.

Claire Flanagan is on work placement every Monday and Friday from N.R.C. Claire will be based in Mrs Quinn's class.



### **Drama Student:**

Nuala McCloskey is a third year student at Queen's University studying Drama. As part of her course she is required to spend 100 hours on placement teaching Drama. Nuala works with all age groups and is proving a popular addition to school life. She takes Drama after school each Wednesday for P6 pupils.



In September we began Year 2 of our JDO programme. Primary 7 are partnered with Bradford Elementary in Denver Colorado, Primary 6 and Primary 6/7 are partnered with classes in Ava Bears in Ava Missouri and our Primary 5 children are partnered with Loretto Academy in El Paso, Texas. Each class have completed a range of activities so far this year.....

### **Primary 5 JDO**

In Primary 5 the children are enjoying their first year of the JDO programme. They have been partnered up with Loretto in El Paso in Texas. On the 4<sup>th</sup> October we held a whole class google hangout where the children video called each other and asked their partners a number of questions. The children look forward to their next hangout with their partners and will be creating google slides to learn more about each other's locations.

### **Primary 6 JDO**

Primary 6 have been working hard with their JDO partners at Ava Bear Elementary School in the State of Missouri. Mr Mulholland's class have been paired up with Mrs Copeland's Fourth Graders. Both classes spent September and October emailing each other, having Google hangouts and creating videos and PowerPoints to share.

### **Primary 6/7 JDO**

Primary 6 and 7 are linked with a school called Ava Bears in Missouri. To date we have exchanged school tour videos, information about our local area and created coats of arms to share. We have made contact with our partners through class hang outs, individual hangouts and emails.

### **Primary 7 JDO**



In September we created 'All About Us' videos and we shared them with our new friends in Denver. We had our first google hangout and we met our partners for the first time. In October we worked in groups to build a bridge using only drinking straws, sticky tape and wool. We uploaded pictures of our work to google classroom and then we had google hangouts to show off our bridges to our American partners. During November we will be creating Maths videos that we will email to our partners.





ERASMUS +

Despite Brexit, St Brigid's Primary School received EU funding from the British Council to co-ordinate three separate Erasmus+ projects: Our projects (where we are the co-ordinating school) for the next 3 years are:

1. Engaging Young Entrepreneurs
2. Robotics (through Lego)
3. Teaching Mathematics through Games using Multiple Intelligences.

Entrepreneurs	Robotics	Mathematics
St Brigid's PS	St Brigid's PS November 2016	St Brigid's PS January 2017
Poland May 2017	Ballysillan PS	Ballysillan PS
Spain	Spain	Spain
Croatia	Italy March 2017	Italy
Iceland	Belguim	Belguim November 2017
Italy	Turkey	Portugal
		Turkey

Teachers from our European Partner Schools have visited St. Brigid's P.S. last year, now it is our turn to visit them.

#### Erasmus+ Trip to Córdoba:

Mrs O'Hara, Mr Mulholland and Mr Doherty visited their Erasmus+ partners in Córdoba, Spain from the 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October. They visited their partner school C.E.I.P. Victoria Diez. They met the pupils and teachers and even had the opportunity to meet the Mayor of the city. Mrs O'Hara chaired the Project meeting and all the teachers from Italy, Iceland, Croatia, Poland and Spain who are involved in the Entrepreneurship project worked very hard to agree targets for this year.



Balazs Kecskemeti (a native of Hungary) but resident in Belfast is working in St Brigid's each Wednesday morning teaching Robotics to P6 and Mathematics using multiple intelligences to P5. Pupils love coding using all the gadgets – the Ozobots and EV3. Balazs has challenged our pupils to solve problems using the latest technology. He states that he is very impressed with our pupil's behaviour and attainment!



### Shared Education:

We are now in third year of the Shared Education Programme with our partner school Knockloughrim Primary School. Each year group will join their counterparts from Knockloughrim Primary School during the year to study P.D.M.U. topics. Teachers have met together to plan an exciting programme for the year ahead which in addition to shared lessons will have trips and a residential for P7 pupils. The budget for Shared Education in 2017/18 is £29,870 divided between St Brigid's and Knockloughrim Primary School to cover transport and substitute teachers.

### Swimming:

P7 pupils started swimming lessons on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at Greenvale Leisure Centre. This is a compulsory aspect of N.I. P.E. Curriculum.

### School Mass:

The whole school walked up to St Mary's Church for our annual Start of Year Mass on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Fr Graham welcomed all the children, many of whom had leading roles in the Ceremony. Mr Sean Scullion led the choir and the beautiful singing added so much to our Mass.

### International Day of Peace:

Primary 7 pupils presented a very informative assembly to mark International Day of Peace on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Our brilliant Building Supervisor Paddy Breen erected our two Peace Posts which bear the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in the four languages of our school – English, Irish, Polish and Serbian. We had a one minute silence to the chimes of the Angelus Bells.



### School Census:

On the 6<sup>th</sup> October the annual school census took place. In St. Brigid's we had 262 pupils, 128 boys and 135 girls. 9 pupils had a Statement of Educational Needs. 144 pupils bought a school dinner and 35 pupils are in receipt of Free School Meals.

### After Schools Clubs:

After Schools clubs began on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October:



#### Term 1

DAY	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR	AGE GROUPS
Monday	Irish Ceili Dancing (35) ICT Coding (11) Hurling (15)	Miss A. Doherty Mrs C. Donaghy Mr R. Doherty	P4 – P7 P4 – P5 P6 & P7
Tuesday	Entrepreneurship Craft Club (9)	Mrs S. Kuczogi	P7 Only
Wednesday	Boys' Gaelic (21) Camogie (11) Drama Club (19) Mindful Colouring (17) Drama Club (15) Golf (12)	Mr S. Downey Mrs J. O'Kane Miss G. Dobbin Mrs A. Mitchell Miss N. McCloskey Mr T. Mulholland	P4 & P5 P7 Only P4 - P5 P4 – P5 P6 Only P5 – P6
Thursday	Boys' Gaelic (23) Knitting Club (18) Girls' Gaelic	Mr R. Doherty Mrs U. Quinn Miss G. O'Kane	P6 & P7 P5 Only P6 & P7
Friday	Cross-Country (67)	Mr E. Mulholland	P5 & P7

Thanks to all our volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents.



### Bug Hunt:

Primary 4 and 5 had lots of fun going on a 'Bug Hunt' as part of their topic 'minibeasts'. They used a tally chart to collect data of how many of each minibeast they found then created a bar chart to compare our results. The most common minibeasts we found were beetles, spiders and earthworms.



### Merit Assembly:

Merit assembly was held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and the Award winners were:

- P1 ~ Ellen-Rose Hughes, Aoibhe Burke, Dylan McSwiggan
- P1/2 ~ Odhran Brady, Lena Young, Fionn McErlean, Rory Kerr
- P2/3 ~ Clodagh McGarvey, Charlie Scullion, Adam Harris, Cara Gallagher
- P3 ~ Kainagh O'Donnell, Clíodhna Moore, James Ward, Michael Convery
- P4 ~ Amber Sargent, Maria Conway, Ella McErlain
- P4/5 ~ Emily Rose McIvor, Conor Sargent, Carina Casey, Callum Coyle
- P5 ~ Jamie Lee O'Connell, Sinead McErlean, Caolan Selfridge
- P6 ~ Rian Collins, Rory McErlean, Roise Woulahan, Delaney O'Neill
- P6/7 ~ Eimear Chivers, Conall Moore, Aine McCann
- P7 ~ Orlaith Scullion, Eoin Young, Caoimhe McTaggart, Finbar Fleming, Eamon McNally, Tiarnan Melaugh, Kate McGirr



### Accelerated Reading Awards:



### Planting Daffodil Bulbs:

Primary 4 and 5 planted daffodil bulbs in the school gardens. They enjoyed coming together to do this and can't wait to see the flowers appear in Spring!





### Irish:



Miss Gráinne O'Kane began Irish tuition with Primary 7 pupils on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October. The children have one lesson per week and it has been such an enjoyable experience for all. Gráinne teaches Irish through games and activities. Go raibh.....



### Primary Health Action Programme:

Primary 7 and Primary 6 pupils took part in two sessions during October dedicated to the Health Action Programme created by Action Cancer. The first session taught the pupils all about the dangers of drinking and smoking and their attention was hooked by the wonderful resources created by the programme, including: jars of mucus, tar and even real lungs that showed us how we breathe!

The second session focused on the importance of healthy eating and how we can keep our bodies fit. All the pupils learnt valuable information during the session; from food groups to the amount of sugar hidden in our favourite drinks. Of course they were also reminded that you're still allowed to have the occasional treat!



### EU Code Week:

All the classes from P1 to P7 took part in EU Code Week from 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October. We used a variety of coding apps and devices to improve our programming skills. We used Scratch Jr, Beebots, Sphero, Hopscotch and lots more.



### Primary 6/7 Assembly:



Primary 6/7 are reading the novel "Carrie's War" this term in literacy and have been learning about World War II in The World Around Us curricular area. On the 10<sup>th</sup> October they performed "Evacuees and Air Raids", a short drama with musical numbers including Vera Lynn's wartime classic "The White Cliffs of Dover".

### P7 Assembly ~ World Mental Health Day:



Primary 7 held a special Assembly on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October to mark International Mental Health Day. The pupils told us that it was OK to feel angry, sad or stressed but it is important to manage our feelings. We learned a great deal about how to feel better. It is good to talk to family or friends, take some exercise or just smile. If we smile we trick our body into feeling better..... Well done Primary 7.



### Flu Programme:

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October a team of nurses came to the school to administer the vaccination to the majority of our pupils and all went very smoothly.

### Fireman to Primary 5:

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October local fireman Terry Scott from Maghera fire department paid a visit to the Primary 5 pupils. He discussed the importance of fire safety to the children in time before Halloween and Bonfire Night. The children learnt about fire escapes, avoiding danger, what to do and who to call. Each child received a fire safety pack to take home to become fire safety officers in their home.

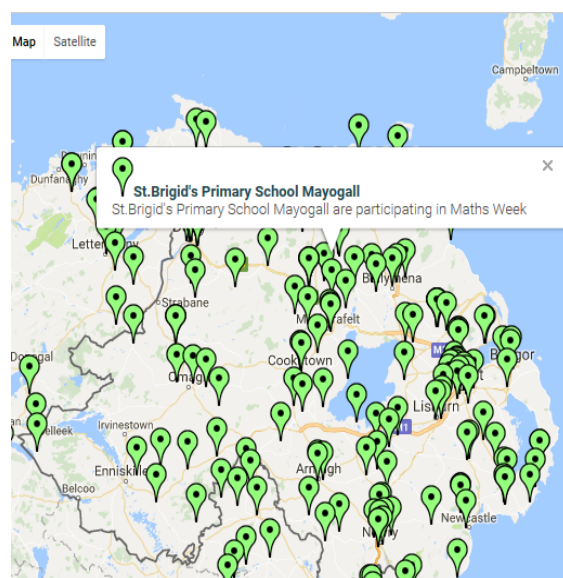


### Maths Week Ireland:



St. Brigid's celebrated Maths week Ireland from 4<sup>th</sup> ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

This festival celebrates a positive image of maths all over Ireland. St. Brigid's pupils were among 300,000 pupils participating in fun Maths Activities throughout the week in support of "Maths for All". Our teachers used lots of ideas to engage pupils and get the whole class excited about maths. There were problems to solve and using mathematical language was key. Both our teachers and pupils went on to use Keyword Ciphers and Numerical codes to uncover both inspirational and humorous Maths themed sentences.



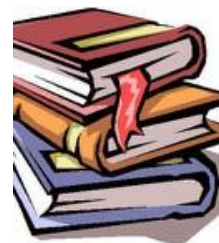
### Hurricane Ophelia:

Due to Hurricane Ophelia everyone enjoyed a surprise two days off school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Some of our school staff braved the elements and came into school to catch up on some work.



### Book Fair:

Travelling Book Fair was held in the school from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October. Our book fair this year proved very successful with a total of £1,627.52 worth of books being sold. This entitled the school to a commission of £916.51 which was spent by Mrs G. O'Hara on extra reading resources for our new Accelerated Reading Programme.



### Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent Teacher Meetings were held on the week commencing Monday 23<sup>th</sup> October. We are delighted to report a 98.1% turnout.

In Term 2 our PTMs will be in the week commencing Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you for your support.

### Work Experience:



Past pupils Caroline, Caoimhe and Brianna had their work experience in St. Brigid's during the week commencing Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. We try to give everyone on work experience the true flavour of life in schools, with lesson observation in all key stages, playground and canteen supervision – even directed time until 4pm!

Hannah Shaw a pupil at St Mary's Grammar School was on work experience. On 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October with pupils in Primary 1 and Primary 2.

## “Coffee and Craic” Afternoon!



In St Brigid's PS we are committed to supporting charities so that our pupils are aware of global goals, human rights and that many are less fortunate than themselves. Currently, we have two families we have two families involved in fund-raising for very worthy causes. The family of Joseph Hearty (P2) are raising funds for the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children. Maria Scullion (P5) has Achondroplasia and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October was World Dwarfism Awareness Day.

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October the school hosted two “Coffee and Craic” afternoons in the school Assembly Hall which raised £700 for Maria's charity and £870.50 for Joseph's charity. Both families greatly appreciate your generosity towards both charities.



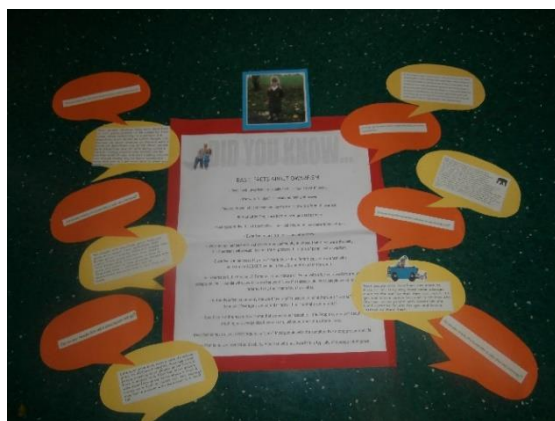




### P5 Assembly:



On the 25<sup>th</sup> October the Primary 5 class, led by Maria Scullion, held an assembly for International Dwarfism Day. Their aim was to raise awareness of Dwarfism and that we are all different in some way. The children talked about what Dwarfism is, some facts and celebrities who also have Dwarfism, followed by a story and a poem. Maria gave the school an insight into her life and the LPI organisation. Well done to all the children who took part.



### Scór na bpaistí:

Our quiz team Iona, Cathal, Lorcan and Rory represented the school on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October for Scór na bpaistí in An Carn, Tirkane. They came second losing to St Eoghan's Primary School, Moneyneaney by 1 point. Well done everyone! Thank you to Sharon McDowall who transported and supervised our team at the quiz.



### St Patrick's College Cluster:

The principals of the five direct feeder schools to the college, (St John's P.S. Swatragh, St Brigid's P.S. Tirkane, St Patrick's P.S. Glen, St Mary's P.S. Glenview and St Brigid's P.S. Mayogall) meet monthly to share good practice. In 2016/17 the schools' Literacy and Numeracy co-ordinators also met, as part of the Signature Project KS2/KS3 transition. This year Clustering has been extended to each year group of teachers who will be meeting to share best practice in ICT. All the primary one teachers got together on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

# Sports Events

## Cross Country:

The Cross Country team have had an incredibly successful start to the year. On October 5<sup>th</sup> eight boys and eight girls represented St. Brigid's at the Derry trials for the Mid Ulster Athletics Cross Country Schools competition. Despite incredibly muddy conditions both teams ran brilliantly; successfully moving on to the Mid Ulster finals in Cookstown. Despite fierce competition the St Brigid's boys pulled it out of the bag once again and came first – officially becoming the Mid Ulster Primary Schools Cross Country champions and bringing the cup back to school.

Additionally, both Cross Country teams took part in Round 1 of Flahavan's Primary School Cross Country League in Ballymoney on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. Once again the boys' team successfully came first and the girls' team finished in fifth place. Both teams will take part in Round 2 in December.

Massive congratulations to all the boys and girls who ran in the races and who attend the Cross Country after school club.



A true sign of the interest in running in our school is that 67 pupils signed up for Cross Country after school with 56 pupils attending regularly.

## Harry O'Loan Tournament:

St Brigid's Primary School hosted the Harry O'Loan Hurling tournament on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October at Lavey Club. Five teams from across Derry competed showing a high standard of hurling including some great team performances and moments of individual class. Well done to all the boys who competed! A special congratulations to our boys of St Brigid's who were unbeaten throughout the tournament despite a number of hard fought games against St Patrick's P. S. Glen, St Canice's P. S. Dungiven and a competitive final against St Brigid's P. S. Tirkane. James Sargent played a captain's role and lifted the trophy for St Brigid's P. S. Mayogall.





Thank you to Cathal O'Loan for presenting the trophy named after his late father Harry.

### **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	29 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Induction Meeting Anaphylaxis Training, Epilepsy and Diabetes Awareness Brenda Higgins and Catherine McCusker Thornfield trained staff on Speech and language development.
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Safeguarding Training
September	5 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to Graduation Board
	14 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to Cluster Meeting
	26 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to ETI Conference
	27 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to Cluster group meeting in St Patrick's College
October	6 <sup>th</sup>	U Q Numeracy Observations in school
	9 <sup>th</sup>	C D ICT Observations in school A M to St Brigid's PS in Tirkane for ICT Programme
	10 <sup>th</sup>	P McC Literacy Observations in school
	12 <sup>th</sup>	M O'K to Cluster Meeting

### **Dates for your diary:**

- 12<sup>th</sup> November Erasmus+ trip to Belgium
- 13<sup>th</sup> November Anti-Bullying Week – "Together we are stronger"
- 19<sup>th</sup> November Christmas Crafts at Swatragh Market
- 20<sup>th</sup> November Road Safety Week – 'No Need to Speed'  
P7 to Residential in Bushmills Mon 20<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup>
- 29<sup>th</sup> November P7 to St Patrick's College for Science
- 8<sup>th</sup> December Whole School to Mass  
School Carol Service in St Mary's Church
- 20<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Holidays



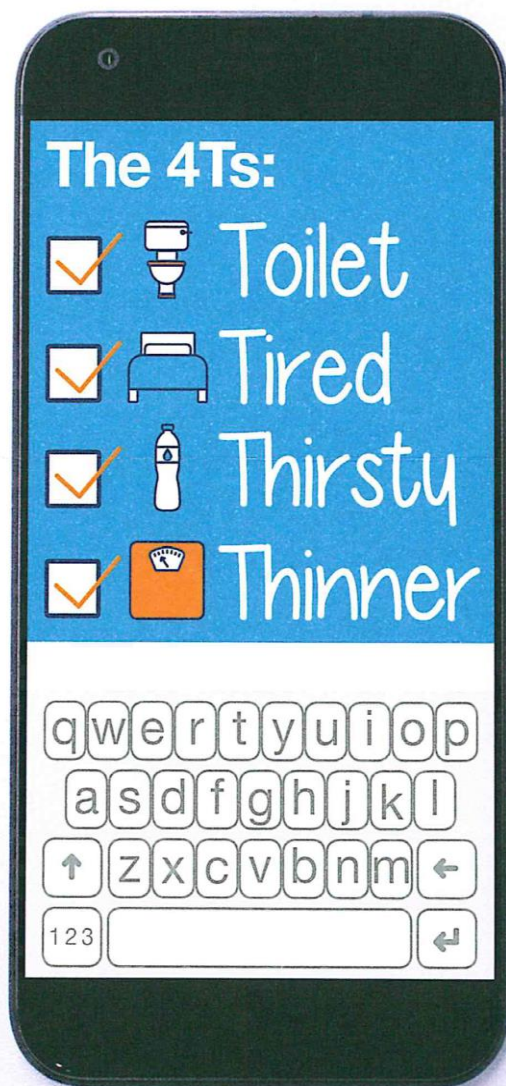
### **Note to Parents:**

No adult is permitted to enter any classroom in St Brigid's without reporting to the office first. This is a Child Protection issue and everyone must adhere to this. If you wish to speak to the

teacher, or leave pupil belongings to your child you must always do this through the school office – no exceptions!

**DiABETES UK**  
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

# Know the 4Ts of Type 1 diabetes It could save a child's life



If your child is experiencing any of the 4Ts,  
visit your doctor immediately for a test.

Don't delay. Type 1 diabetes can be fatal.  
**[diabetes.org.uk/The4Ts](https://diabetes.org.uk/The4Ts)**

