



St Brigid's Primary School

Website: www.stbrigidsmayogall.ik.org

St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter
April / June 2021

Term 3 Takes Off:

On Monday 12th April we started Term 3 refreshed after our very cold Easter break.

Teaching Practice:

Shona Costello began her teaching practice in P7 on Monday 19th April until the end of June. Shona is a student at the University of Cumbria studying Primary School Education.

School Photographer:

All Primary 1 and Primary 7 pupils got their photo and class photo taken on Tuesday 13th April.

Primary 1



Primary 7



P6/7 Nature Walk:

Master Kelly, Cathy and the P6/7's went on a nature walk on Tuesday 13th April. Master Kelly taught the pupils all about trees and the local mountains. The children had so much fun on their walk.





New Speed Signs:

On Thursday 29th April the new 20mph speed restrictions came into force and are operational during school days. We are hopeful that this will improve the safety of all our children as they arrive and leave school. Our thanks to the Department of Infrastructure and our local political representatives who campaigned to have St. Brigid's included in this scheme. We ask all parents and childminders to be very careful dropping off children and strongly urge you to use the chapel carpark. You are not permitted to drop children off at the school gate – we even have had children get out of the car in the middle of the road. Please use common sense!

Mid-Term Break:

School was closed from 3rd to 7th May for Mid-term. It was lovely to have a break.

Athletics N. I.:

Some of our P5, P6 and P7 pupils participated in the 'Primary Schools Virtual Run' in May and they all received a certificate.

Primary 5

Jessica Cushnahan
Éabha Holleran
Cara Gallagher
Lena Young
Liam Devlin
Micheál McNally
Michael McCloy
Adam Harris





Primary 6

Clodagh McGarvey
Niamh McPeake
Caitlin McPeake
Niamh Duggan
Aoife Boorman
Charlie Scullion
Daithi Holleran
Traolach McMullan
Sean Birt
Jack Scullion
Andrew Murray



Tony McErlean
Liam McErlean
Callum Casey
Aleksandar Samardzija
Conan Boyle
Daithi McDonnell
Roisin Magee
Clíodhna Moore

Primary 7

Isabelle Regan, Amber Sargent, Rionach McNally, Emily Rose McIvor, Aoife Brennan, Anna Gribbin, Molly Grant, Chloe Keenan, Charley Canavan, Sean McPeake, Don Mulholland, Callum Coyle, Seamus Óg Woulahan, Donnacha Collins, Conan O'Doherty, Conor Selfridge



First Confession:

Due to Covid restrictions our 34 P4 pupils made their First Confession during the school day on Wednesday 19th May. In a very moving ceremony the children carried out their roles with great confidence. After Confessions, the P4's played in the Parochial Garden and enjoyed a party with sweets and drinks and the chocolate Krispie buns they had made in class. The party was concluded with a visit from the ice-cream man. A very memorable day!



Fr O'Donnell:

Tuesday 25th May the death of Fr Brian O'Donnell was a sad day for St Brigid's Primary School. Fr O'Donnell (as he was affectionately known, was a stalwart supporter of the school, who campaigned tirelessly to improve our accommodation and resources. He was a regular visitor to the school where his personality and quick wit were evident. Pupils formed a guard of honour outside the Church at his funeral, and whilst his remains were being taken to the grave Key Stage 2 pupils and staff lined out in O'Donnell Park (named after Fr O'Donnell) as a mark of respect for this gentle, loyal priest. Rest in Peace Fr O'Donnell.



May Holiday:

School was closed on Monday 31st May.

Louise McKenna's Wedding:



Staff surprised Miss Louise McKenna (P1/2 Assistant) on 28th May with a surprise Hen Party (socially distanced of course). Gifts were presented by the pupils and staff and a delicious tea provided by the school kitchen staff. Following her wedding on Friday 4th June in St Patrick's Glen Mrs Louise McKenna returned to work on Monday 14th June. We wish her and Lorcan, years of happiness and harmony together.

Maghera Heritage Centre:

Maghera Heritage Association have had 1:50 scale models made of local heritage sites - Knockoneill Court Tomb, Tamneyrankin Court Tomb and Tirnoney Portal Tomb. These were displayed in our Assembly Hall on Tuesday 8th June, with information banners, so that the children could learn about Stone Age life in our local area. The models were very high quality and the information provided was very informative. Each class had an opportunity to visit the exhibition and learn about ancient construction and burial practices.

The models proved an excellent stimulus for World Around Us lessons in this primary school. Their use enabled the teaching of abstract historical concepts through these concrete materials, which ensured that learning was deepened. The models are an attractive and beneficial teaching and learning resource for primary pupils. A number of our families have already visited the heritage sites at Tirnoney, Knockoneill and Tamneyrankin due to the interest expressed by their children.



P1 Induction:

On Friday 11th June 34 new P1s were scheduled to attend school as part of our familiarisation programme. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions we were unable to do this. Our Year 1 teachers visited Lavey Early Years to meet most of the children.

CONFIRMATION

Due to Coronavirus restrictions, our 40 P7 pupils were divided into two ceremonies 11am and 1pm on Saturday 12th June. Every child participated in the ceremony – either as a reader or doing Offertory procession. The pupils were excellently prepared by Mrs O'Neill and Mrs O'Hara and the ceremony was very reverential. Our thanks to Mr Sean Scullion, Miss Oonagh Clarke, Miss Kate Quigley and Miss Clara Quinn for the excellent music and singing. Sincere thanks to all our parents and families who conformed to the Covid-19 rules.





SPORTS DAYS!

Another casualty of Coronavirus, we were unable to hold our annual Sports Day up at the Club. However, each class bubble had their own Sports Day in O'Donnell Park. We were blessed with good weather and each class had a very successful and enjoyable experience. Pupils loved taking their place on our new podium, receiving medals or stickers. Well done everyone!

Primary 7



Primary 6/7



Primary 6



Primary 5





Foundation Stage







Picnic Lunch:

On Friday 18th June Donna and the kitchen staff provided all the children with a picnic lunch.

Primary 2



Primary 6



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Saturday 19th June P4 children made their First Communion in Our Lady of Mercy church. Again due to Coronavirus restrictions we had two ceremonies 11am and 1pm. The children were brilliantly prepared by Mrs Quinn and again the children carried out their roles to perfection. Our thanks to Mr Sean Scullion, Miss Kate Quigley and Miss Clara Quinn for the excellent music and singing. Sincere thanks to all our parents and families who conformed to the Covid-19 rules.





Ice-cream Treat!

School life has been tough for our children since lockdown began in March 2000. Our children had 63 days of remote learning last year and 54 days this year a total of 117 days when families were learning from home. In school, they are restricted to their class bubbles, segregated in the playground and eat lunch in their classroom. We have had no Christmas shows and no whole school Sports Day with parents as spectators. Sacramental Masses were limited in attendance also and divided into two ceremonies.

But our children have been very resilient and have complied very well with the revised restrictions and regulations. As a treat the Ice-Cream Van visited school on Monday 21st June and everyone got a very large whipped ice-cream cone. Some children felt it was their best day ever!

Primary 1/2



Primary 2



Primary 5



Primary 6 enjoying their ice-cream



P7 Visit to Stormont

On Wednesday 25th November the then Education Minister, Peter Weir visited our school as we tried to convince him that we needed a new school. I hardly need to tell you what happened next. He said NO to a new school, but he did have his photograph taken next to a P7 portrait of him. Suddenly some P7 artwork went viral and after lots of publicity at that time, we were invited to Stormont by the Finance Minister, Conor Murphy; the visit was delayed due to Coronavirus and took place on Tuesday. These very talented P7 children were great ambassadors for our community. They talked to the politicians with great pride about the excellent facilities up at the Club. They asked about support for farmers' post-pandemic. They asked about the support for working class families, they wanted to know about the easing of restrictions. MLAs said that their questions were better than those asked by many journalists!

The pupils took part in a Stormont Woodland Trail, led by Estate staff. They enjoyed a picnic lunch in the warm sunshine then enjoyed the excellent facilities of the Mo Mowlam Play Park. They zip-lined and climbed and swung and run - so much excitement! Then they were met by six Executive Ministers - First Minister Mr Paul Given, Deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill, Finance Minister Conor Murphy, Agriculture Minister Edwin Poots, Education Minister Michelle McIlveen and Minister for Infrastructure Nichola Mallon. Every conversation was captured by a barrage of reporters and cameras - it was like a red-carpet press frenzy!

After the Press Call, pupils were treated to an ice-cream or ice-lolly before returning home.

The Stormont Communications Team commended **ALL** of these children, they had never before experienced such well-behaved, well-informed children. Every family should be so proud of these well-adjusted, thoughtful and articulate young people.









HAPPY HAMPERS



Primary 7 Anna and Ríonach



Primary 6/7 Lucas



Roisin



Primary 5 Aleisha and Matthew



Primary 2



Primary 1/2



P7 TRIP TO BENONE BEACH

As P7 pupils could not have a residential trip this year, they had a day trip to Benone Beach on Wednesday 23rd June. You can take the children out of Lavey, but you can't take Lavey out of the children, as their favoured game was hurling/camogie on the beach! Some participated in a sand-castle building competition but for most the attraction was digging very deep holes. Mrs O'Neill and Mrs O'Hara were lucky to escape burial! Pupils had lunch at McDonalds before returning to school. A great day was had by all.





P7 Puberty Talk:

On Thursday 24th June for the first time we used the Love for Life team to do the P7 puberty talk. From the laughing and shouts of the children this was a very successful and enjoyable morning.



Leavers' Mass:

Fr Graham celebrated our Leavers' Mass on Friday 25th June. The beautiful Mass was enhanced by the Liturgical Music from Mr Sean Scullion, Miss Kate Quigley and Miss Clara Quinn flautist.

Principal Mary O'Kane paid tribute to the Class of 21. She commended their work ethic (particularly during Remote Learning), their empathy and care for each other and for younger children. She stated that although they had missed out on a number of sporting competitions – they would experience success in the future as they were so talented. Mrs O'Kane wished them well in their studies in St Patrick's College, St Conor's Kilrea, St Mary's Grammar School, Rainey Endowed College and St Pius X College. She told the children that they have the potential to achieve very well in their new schools. She passed on the good wishes of all the school staff who had had the privilege to work with these young people over the years'.



We also said farewell to Conor Duffy P3 who is moving to Crossroads P.S. And good luck to Miss Johann Rainey who begins her PGCE in England in September. Goodbye also to Kate O'Neill. Presentations were made by Emily Rose and Donnacha to Kate and Johnny and Isla to Johann.



Cathy McKenna

Following a hen party for her sister Louise, it was only fitting that Cathy McKenna got the same surprise! On 25th June, pupils Roise and Lucas on behalf of the pupils presented a gift to Cathy and Mrs McCrum presented a gift on behalf of the staff. Cathy is getting married on 13th August and we wish her and fiancé Peter McKeefry well. Cathy will be a farmer's wife in the hills of Tamneyrankin.



Records of Achievement!



Staff Training:

In St Brigid's P.S. we give a high priority to the professional development of all our staff. Lots of our staff training has been online through Webinars, Meets, Teams or Zoom.

April	23 rd	MO'K Cluster Zoom Meeting
May	7 th	MO'K and AMcG SIMS Zoom SEN Training
	20 th	MO'K
June	15 th	MO'K CCMS
	18 th	MO'K Data Cluster

Dates For Your Diary

Term begins	Wednesday 1 st September 2021
Hallowe'en	25 th – 29 th October 2021 inclusive
P.T.M.	29 th and 30 th November 2021 School finishes at 1pm
Christmas	23 rd December – 5 th January 2022 inclusive
Mid-term	14 th – 18 th February 2022 inclusive
St Patrick's Day	17 th and 18 th March 2022
Easter	14 th – 22 nd April 2022 inclusive
Mid-term	2 nd May 2022
Queen's Jubilee	2 nd and 3 rd June 2022
	Term Ends 30 th June 2022

These dates are subject to change

SAYING FAREWELL

We said a big farewell to our 40 Primary 7 pupils transferring to their new schools.

Johann Rainey

Kate O'Neill

Conor Duffy P3

We wish all our pupils and their families a pleasant summer break and look forward to seeing everyone again on Wednesday 1st September.

To all our leavers we wish you well and hope that you will always think of St. Brigid's with pride and fondness.

