



# St Brigid's Primary School

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

## St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter

September / October 2021

### Term 1 Takes off:



Term started on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September with 253 pupils enrolled. We were joined by 35 new Primary 1 pupils we also welcomed Aodhan Marshall to ASC1 and Odhran McAllister to P7A. We do hope that everyone will be happy here.



Aodhan



Odhran



### New Staff Joining our staff team:



We have a number of new staff who have joined us this academic year. They are Miss Faoiltiarna Burke in ASC1, Miss Niamh Heron in P3A and Miss Deirbhle McNicholl our Engage teacher. Kate O'Neill, Jemma O'Kane and Chloe McMullan are our new Classroom Assistants and Christine Marron our lunchtime Supervisor.



### Extra-Curricular Activities:

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September Tiarnan McHugh our Derry GAA Sports coach started with P7pupils. They very much enjoyed their afternoon sessions with Tiarnan.



### Music Tuition:



Music Tuition started on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September EA tutors Ms Helena Nicholl began violin tuition and Ms Lauren Skelton began Flute and clarinet tuition with our pupils. We have been very fortunate this year to be able to offer more pupils the opportunity to start music tuition.



### School Photographer:

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

### Swimming:



P7A pupils started swimming lessons on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September at Greenvale Leisure Centre. The P7B pupils will commence their swimming lessons on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January. This is a compulsory aspect of N.I. P.E. Curriculum.

# New ASC1 Unit

We were very fortunate that in September we opened our Autism Specific Class. With the support of the Education Authority, a mobile classroom was renovated – new floors, doors, double-glazed windows and complete painting and redecoration. We were also part funded to set up a Sensory Room adjacent to our ASC.

In order to avail of an Autism Specific Class, a child must have a “statement” from an Educational Psychologist. Our ASC is for children from P1 – P4 and we currently have four pupils enrolled, P1, P2 and two P4s all of whom are boys.

The teacher in ASC1 is Miss Faoiltiarna Burke and the assistant is Mrs Susie Kuczogi, both of whom are specialists in working with children who have Autism. The ASC is proving to be an excellent asset to our school.

## Our new classroom

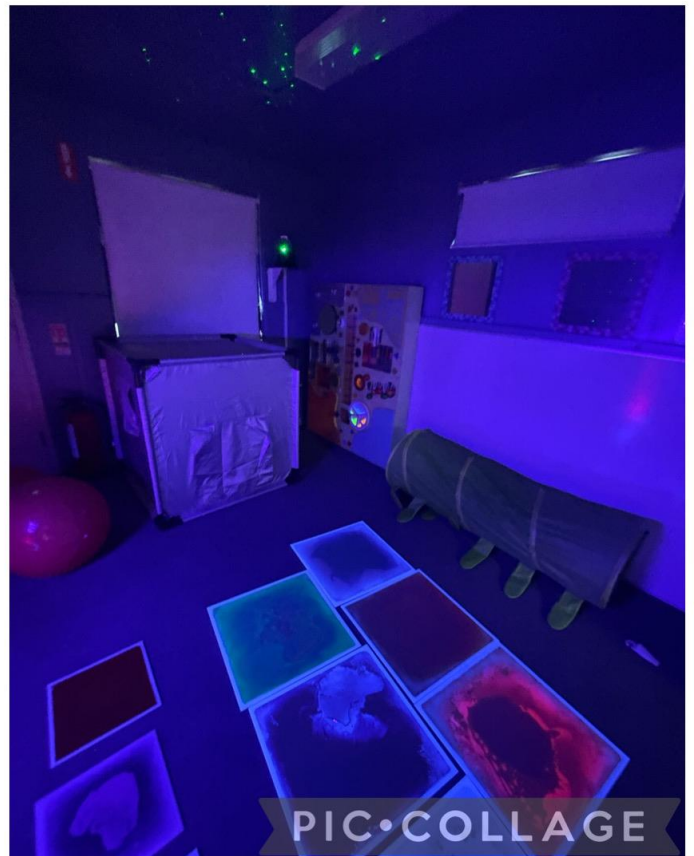
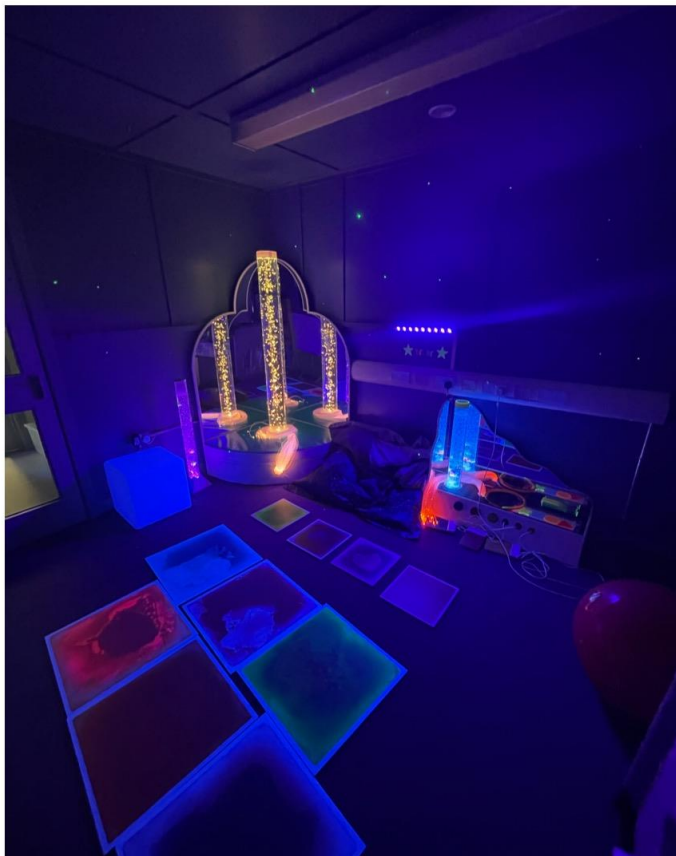


## Everyone working hard





**Our new Sensory Room**



# AFTER SCHOOLS CLUBS:

After Schools clubs began on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September:

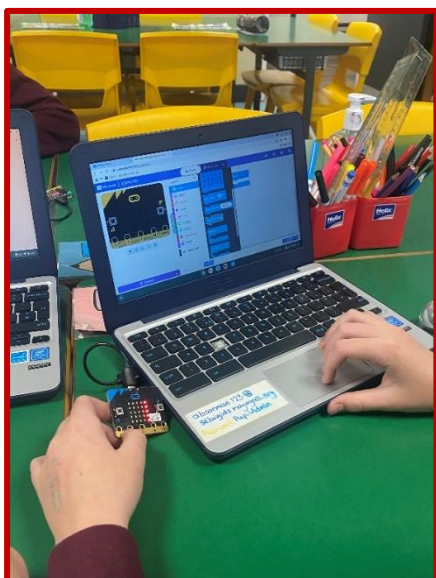


## Term 1

DAY	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR	AGE GROUPS
Monday	P7 Girls' Robotics Boys Gaelic	Ms G. O'Kane Mr R. Doherty	P7 P6 – P7
Tuesday	Girls' Gaelic Hurling Homework Club	Ms G. O'Kane Mr R Doherty Ms N. Heron	P6 – P7 P6 – P7 P4 – P7
Wednesday	Camogie Singing Club	Mrs J. O'Kane Ms K. Quigley	P6 – P7 P4 – P5
Thursday	Mindfulness Ambassadors Singing Club	Mrs C. O'Neill Ms F. Burke	P6 – P7
Friday	Cross-Country	Mr F. Kelly Ms C. McMullan	P5 – P7

### After School Girls' Robotics and Coding:

Primary 7 girls have been enjoying an after schools Robotics and Coding club. They have used their chromebooks to code BBC micro bits so they make a heart shape or a written scroll. They have also made paths for ozobots to follow. They are now using junk materials to create outfits for their robots. Well done girls!



# MINDFULNESS AMBASSADORS:

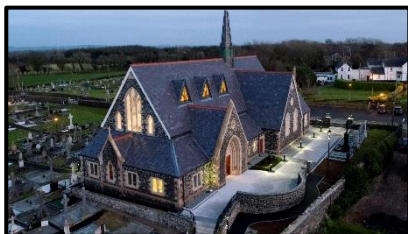


This term all Key stage 2 classes have been introduced to mindfulness through the 12 session programme Paws B. Mindfulness has been proven to offer benefits for emotional wellbeing, mental health, the ability to learn and physical health. In order to sustain and champion daily mindfulness practice, children have been appointed as Mindfulness Ambassadors. Presently they are very skilled at leading their peers in a range of practices. There are also plans afoot for them to share their expertise beyond the classroom to the whole school community in terms two and three.

These children have already shown dedication and commitment to their role. They completed a 4-week afterschool training programme alongside study on google classroom. They were delighted to be presented with their Ambassador badges by Mrs O'Kane and it is hoped they will wear them with great pride.



### Start of Year Mass:



Our start of year Mass was on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September. When all our pupils and staff are in the Church we have it filled to capacity. Thanks to Mr Scullion, Oonagh and Kate for the lovely singing. Well done to all our pupils who contributed to the Mass – reading, offertory procession etc.



### School Census:



On the 8<sup>th</sup> October the annual DE school census took place. In St. Brigid's we had 253 pupils, 122 boys and 131 girls. 11 pupils had a Statement of Educational Needs.

## Neuronimo Lessons

Neuronimo is a mental and physical health programme designed to target resilience, manage impulse control, sleep and mood. It shows our children how to calm their anxieties. The children have been learning all about how their brains work and each day in class they practise their "Bursts of Brilliance." In St Brigid's we have funded these lessons as part of our Recovery Curriculum.



# New School Councillors:

Our School Council consists of pupils from P4 to P7 who have been elected to represent their class. School elections are held in June and a new School Council is elected each school year. Involving pupils in real issues through class and school councils helps them to develop important life skills that promotes positive mental health and social welfare. From P1 each class holds a class meeting monthly and the issues raised from these meetings are sent to School Council. This can range from asking for new equipment in the playgrounds to raising money for a charity. School Council have organised numerous activities and experiences for the whole school community – including Coffee Mornings, surveying parents and pupils to ascertain their views, adding to the school uniform with the introduction of a half-zip and creating Easter Trails to name but a few. School Council have played an integral role in improving the experiences in the school for all the pupils. Our school councillors make a positive contribution to the school environment and school ethos.

On the 12th October 2021 we are delighted to have a newly elected School Council. We have councillors from P4, P5, P6, P7A and P7B. These children have been voted by their peers to represent their class. School Council meet with Mrs Mc Crum and Mrs O Kane each month. They discuss the issues and suggestions generated from their monthly class council meetings. Congratulations to the new School Councillors! We wish them every success in this special position and look forward to having their help to improve school experiences for all the children of St. Brigid's.



Clodagh and Charlie



Clíodhna and Sean



Peadar, Caoimhe and Daire



Liam, Cara and Adam



Daniel, Ellie and Kealan





On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October we had a visit from Fitness Freddy. Each class enjoyed an outdoor session with Freddy whose enthusiasm and commitment are legendary! We raised a fabulous £2627 which will go towards paying for our outdoor play equipment. Thank you for your support.

Primary 7B



All Primary 7 children have a partner that they communicate with regularly using their Google Chromebooks. The children complete a range of Literacy, Numeracy and World Around Us activities each month with their partners. We are very grateful to the J.D.O. Foundation for supplying our pupils with a Google Chromebook.

The use of our JDO Chromebooks has placed us in a very good position for distance/blended learning and our children and staff are highly competent in ICT.

**JDO Hangout:**

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October P7B had a google hangout with their JDO partners from Bradford K8 in Denver, Colorado. The children worked together on a water usage project and used their hangout as an opportunity to discuss their findings. They had so much fun working with their American partners.





# ERASMUS +

Thanks to Ms G. O'Kane for her very hard work in co-ordinating two Erasmus+ Projects, which are due to finish in June 2022. Our European partner schools are:-

Project 1 STEAM	Project 2 Entrepreneurship
Spain - CEIP Victoria Diaz	Greece - 4Dimotiko Sxolelo Lamias
Croatia - Osnova Skola Glina	Spain - CEIP la Santa Cruz
Poland - Szkoła Podstawowa Wjciecha	Italy - Istituto Comprensivo G. Toniola
Ireland - St Dominic's NS Tallagh	Finland - Myllyojan Koulu, Oulun Kaupunki
Iceland - Grandaskoli Reykjavik	Sweden - Apelgardsskolan

**Project 1** is designed to enhance ICT skills through STEM activities. The project will provide opportunities for integrated learning, hands on discovery and adaptations to ensure lessons will reach all students and their ability levels.

**Project 2** is aimed to open the minds of pupils in Primary Schools to the joy of entrepreneurship. The project will provide pupils with a set of skills that they will need to enhance their future employability. Pupils will be encouraged to own and run their own mini-business.

Due to the ongoing Covid restrictions travel to our partner schools may not be possible, but we continue to meet virtually. The children enjoy their partnership projects and the opportunity to see life in European schools – they are amazed that they are the only school who wears a uniform! Schools in the UK can no longer participate in Erasmus+ due to Brexit so we are making the most of this while it lasts.

## Maths Week Ireland!

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October began Maths Week Ireland in St. Brigid's we promoting positive attitudes towards Maths this week as we joined with over 395,000 pupils taking part in Maths Week Ireland. Our theme this year was Exploring Maths in the Jungle. Each class completed a jungle themed competition and had some fun working with their teachers and class groups to develop problem solving skills. Pupils also got to play maths games and to solve puzzles to test their skills. This year, for the first time all classes also used Maths Week TV and enjoyed the different presenters who shared their Maths lessons across the whole of Ireland.

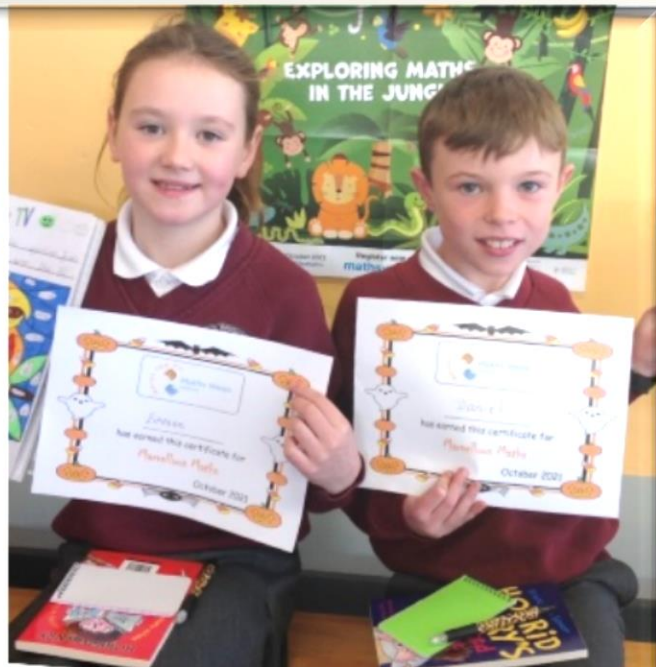
As part of the events of the Maths Week Ireland Keystage 2 classes watched a live lesson about magic in Maths.





Here are our competition winners!





PIC•COLLAGE

# HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS AND FUN DAY



As always we were very impressed by the creativity of our parents as the pupils dressed up for Hallowe'en. We raised £220 which will go towards additional play equipment.





# 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            26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>      Baker Days

In addition, lots of our staff training has been online through Webinars, Google Meets, Teams or Zoom.

## Dates For Your Diary

25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021  
23<sup>rd</sup> ~ 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Halloween Break  
Holiday  
½ days for Parent Teacher Meetings  
Christmas Holidays  
Mid-Term Break  
St Patrick's Day  
Easter Holidays  
May Day  
Queen's Jubilee  
School Ends

# School Website!

Our school website is LIVE!

Please log on to [www.stbrigidspsmayogall.com](http://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 termly school Newsletter is also posted on the website you will be able to see it online and in colour! Be sure to read it for all the news and photographs of life in school.

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 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 the 'Download App' button that appears at the top of the screen.



school updates  
both 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 . . . . .