



St Brigid's Primary School

Website: www.stbrigidspsmayogall.com

St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter

November / December 2021

We all returned refreshed from our extended Mid-term break on Monday 1st November.

New Staff:



We have another two new member of staff who joined us. On Monday 1st November Katie Mitchell started here as a classroom assistant in the P3A classroom. On 15th November Megan Fleming started as a classroom assistant in ASC1. These are both temporary posts, but we hope that both ladies enjoy their time in St. Brigid's.



New Pupil:



New pupil Peadar Hegarty joined our ASC1 class on Tuesday 2nd November. Peadar is a P4 who enjoys playing tin whistle and running. We hope that Peadar settles into his new class and new school. We are delighted to have him join us.

District Inspector visit to School:

On the afternoon of Monday 8th November Mr Peter Dennis District Inspector arrived in our school for a pastoral visit. He commented on the excellent, nurturing atmosphere across the school, and the vibrant displays of children's work.

Mr Dennis said that our whole school focus on mental health and well-being was very appropriate. He observed a lesson in our ASC which he deemed to be "outstanding", he described Miss Burke and Susie as an excellent team who showed innovative and creative practice. Mr Dennis also commended the provision of After School Clubs in a safe environment.

Entrance Test:

On Saturday 13th November eighteen Year 7 pupils sat the Entrance Test in local grammar schools – we wish them well.

Credit Union Art Competition:



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



Thanks to Carnglen Credit Union for their very generous prizes.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

“ONE KIND WORD”

Monday 15th to Friday 19th November we started our Anti-Bullying week with our pupils wearing Odd Socks to school.



Odd Sock Day



ASC 1



ODD SOCKS DAY IN ASC1



PTC•COLLAGE

Primary 2



Primary 4



Odd Socks Day 2021



Primary 6



PIC COLLAGE

Primary 7B





Primary 4





Road Safety Week 2021

Theme: Be a Road Safety Hero

On 15th November we commenced our Road Safety Week celebrations the theme is “Be a Road Safety Hero”. All classes participated in a variety of activities aimed at highlighting different aspects of Road Safety. Pupils from P1 to P4 took part in a colouring in competition and pupils from P5 to P7 designed a poster. The prizes were Toymaster vouchers sponsored by The Elk and MRF Tyres as part of the Magherafelt & District Motor Club Targa Rally which took place on 27th November. On Friday 19th 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!

**Colouring in Competition and
Design a Poster Winners**





Be Bright and Be Seen

Primary 2



Primary 3B



Be Bright, Be Seen!



P3b

Primary 5



Primary 6



Primary 7B



Flu Vaccination:

On Tuesday 16th November the majority of our pupils received the Flu vaccination.

Extra Holiday:

School had an additional holiday to mark the Queen's jubilee on Monday 22nd November.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Parent Teacher Meetings were held on the week commencing Tuesday 23rd November. Parents were given the choice of either a face-to-face meeting or telephone consultation due to the current coronavirus restrictions. We had excellent parental uptake and engagement – it was lovely to see so many parents back in school, albeit socially distanced.



CROSS COUNTRY

The Flahavan's Primary School Cross Country League, which was suspended last year due to Covid-19, was back on track this year, though in reduced form. Rather than the usual three qualifying rounds there was just one round. The pupils in St Brigid's were keen to take part and this was reflected in the large number attending the few practice sessions. The school's teams were chosen with Clíodhna, Sine, Olivia, Niamh and Aoife making the girl's team while Conan, Sean, Callum, Daniel, Micheál and Tony represented the boys. Micheál was unable to take part and Ciaran was his replacement.

At the race, held at University of Ulster, Coleraine on 24th November the girls got off to a good start. Clíodhna challenged for the lead from early on and her strong performance was rewarded with 2nd place and was followed by a good team effort which totalled 62 points, pushing the team into 4th place, just one point off sharing 3rd place.

The boys' team followed a similar pattern. Conan and another runner competed for the lead which changed a few times with Conan finishing in 2nd place. The boys all put in a big effort and grouped well together to finish with 81 points giving them a tie for 3rd place. All the runners deserve credit for their huge efforts and enthusiasm to continue the schools' competitive cross country challenge.

MINDFULNESS AMBASSADORS:



Mrs O'Neill is leading a therapeutic programme 'Paws B' across all Key Stage 2 classes. Pupils who applied to be Mindfulness Ambassadors, were trained by Mrs O'Neill in after school clubs and these 'Mindfulness Ambassadors' now lead mindfulness sessions in their own classes. We are very grateful to Mrs O'Neill for sharing her expertise with us, at this time when so many children are anxious about the pandemic.



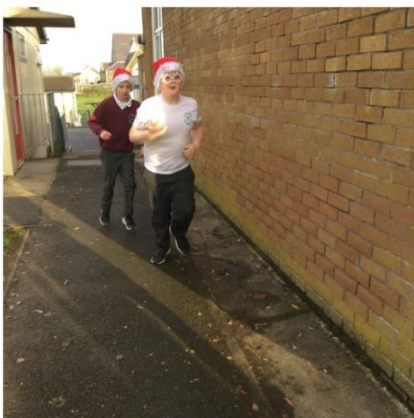
More Mindfulness Ambassadors



Daily Mile Santa Run:

Like many schools across the North, we participated in running the Daily Mile on Friday 3rd December. Each class ran the route, wearing their Santa hat.

Primary 6





Primary 7B







Christmas Jumper Day:



Pupils all wore their Christmas Jumpers on Wednesday 8th December and donated a £1 towards our outdoor play fund. A total of £206 was raised. Well done everyone!



Christmas Dinner:



Thank you to Donna, Monica, Katie and Danielle in our school kitchen for our delicious Christmas dinner on Wednesday 8th December. 210 pupils availed of a school meal in a very festive school canteen. Everyone wore their Christmas jumper and the Christmas Music and added to the party atmosphere.







Specialist Joinery Group Fly-By!

Monday 13th 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 van pulled up at the school gate and two glamorous elves delivered sacks of goodies to each class. There was huge excitement in Foundation Stage as the elves said that Mrs Claus had been filling in the Naughty or Nice list and everyone in St Brigid's is on the NICE LIST! Everyone received a selection box with a beautiful message:

A Specialist Christmas

*Project Santa is on hold for another year.
But look to the skies for some Festive cheer.*

*The Magic of the Holidays never ends.
And it's greatest gifts are family and friends.*

*Here's a Specialist wish, especially for you.
To have a wonderful Christmas
And a Happy New Year too!*

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





Online Christmas Shows:

With increasing Covid positive cases and the dangers of the new variant, we continued to keep our classes in 'bubbles; so instead of performing our Christmas Show in Our Lady of Mercy Church as planned, each class practised and performed in school and then posted their show on the school website and social media. We certainly have budding stars in our midst. Thank you to all the staff of the school for giving the children such lovely creative experiences.

ASC



Primary 1



Primary 1/2



Primary 2



Primary 3A



Primary 3B



Primary 4



Primary 5



Primary 6



Primary 7A





Mid-Ulster Council Selection Boxes:

Mid-Ulster District Council gifted a selection box to each pupil and we had a video message from Santa Claus so we are all being very good!

Christmas Raffle:

For the first time we held a Christmas Raffle after receiving prize donations. Tickets were printed by MCA print Belfast (Mr Martin McAllister father of Odhran P7 and Beibhinn P1).

We were given a large battery operated jeep by Childwood Play (this caused great excitement across the school). A fabulous Christmas Hamper from Boyles' Shop Gulladuff and a lovely Drinks Hamper from Boyle's Bar Mayogall. We received Meal Vouchers for Walsh's Hotel and the Wild Duck courtesy of Mr Kieran Bradley. We also received a homemade cake and Christmas Pudding from Mrs Anna Duggan. Finally, we received two vouchers from Happy Minds, Grateful Hearts. Thank you to all our donors.

The raffle (and donations) raised £3,067.00 for outdoor play equipment. Play co-ordinator Mrs Vallelly thanked the community for their generosity and all those families who participated in this fundraiser. Our two best ticket sellers were:

Molly Bell O'Neill who sold £100 of tickets and Niamh Hendry!

Prizewinners were:

P3B Jack O'Neill	~	Happy Minds Voucher
Seana Boylan	~	Happy Minds Voucher
Anne Convery	~	Meal Voucher ~ Wild Duck
P1 Joseph McHugh	~	Meal Voucher ~ Walsh's Hotel
Ciara Mullin	~	Drinks Hamper
Christopher Convery	~	Christmas Cake and Pudding
P4 Mazie Bradley	~	Hamper
Ava, Cathain & Finn Grieve	~	Battery operated Jeep



Our fabulous fundraisers



Prizewinners in our Christmas Raffle



Photographers:

We have had photographers from the Derry Post and the new Mid-Ulster Courier take Christmas pictures of each class, so watch out for all our media stars.

Dates For Your Diary

23rd – 5th January 2022
14th – 18th February 2022
17th – 18th March 2022
14th – 22nd April 2022
2nd May 2022
2nd – 3rd June
30th June 2022

Christmas Holidays
Mid-Term Break
St Patrick's Day
Easter Holidays
May Day
Queen's Jubilee
School Ends

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



On Wednesday 22nd December school closes at 1:00pm for Christmas Holidays and reopens again on Thursday 6th January 2022. The Principal, Staff and Pupils of St Brigid's P.S. wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

