



St Brigid's Primary School

Website: www.stbrigidsmayogall.ik.org

St Brigid's Bulletin

News Letter
March / April 2022

Pancake Tuesday:

Tuesday 1st March was Pancake Tuesday and everyone had lots of fun making and eating their pancakes.

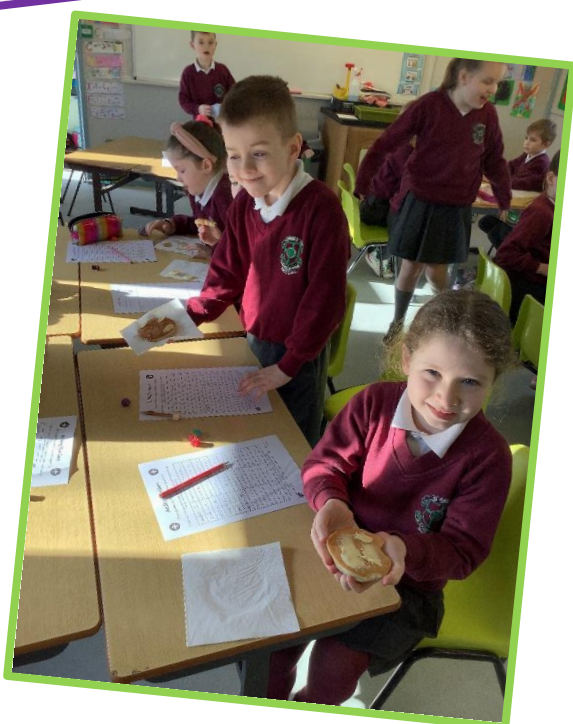
ASC1







Primary 3A



Primary 6



Ash Wednesday:

On the morning of Wednesday 2nd March Fr Graham said special prayers for the children of St Brigid's Primary School and they all received their ashes in the church.

World Book Day

World Book Day was on Thursday 3rd March.

ASC1





Primary 3A





P3A loved creating their own book cover for their favourite book



EXTREME READING IN P3A

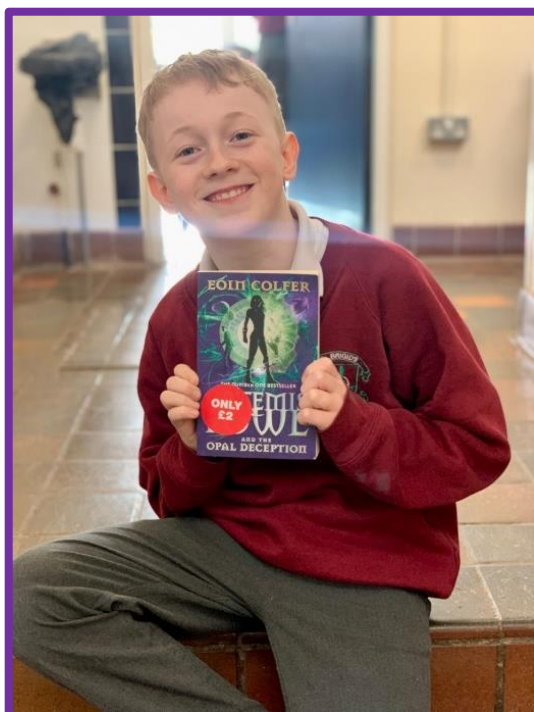


Primary 4





Primary 7A



World Book Day winner Daithi



Sensory Circuits!

Pupils in ASC1 enjoying their sensory circuits.



Teaching Practice:



Anna Martin from University of Ulster Coleraine spent her teaching practice in P1. She fitted in very well into school life and worked well in the class settings. Miss Martin brought in some caterpillars and the whole school had great fun watching them change into butterflies. We wish her well in her future career.

CONFIRMATION

On Saturday 5th March at 12noon, we were able to come together all 45 Primary 7 pupils, their sponsors and parents for one ceremony of Confirmation. On a lovely, sunny day we enjoyed an excellent service, officiated by Fr Graham and Fr Harkin. A number of children were involved in the ceremony. The pupils had been prepared to a high standard by their teachers Ms Sile O'Kane, Mrs Anne McGlinchey, Ms Gráinne O'Kane and student teacher Miss Marcella Kelly, assisted by Jacquelyn Laws and Cathy McKenna. Well done to all our P7 pupils, may you always portray the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.





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School Counsellor:



The Department of Education has funded a pilot scheme called Healthy Happy Minds which funds Counselling Services for schools. Our Counsellor is Katie Harley from Family Works at Barnardos. Katie sees the children for a one-to-one session in the school library each Monday and it is proving very successful for those children who are having counselling. If you believe that your child would benefit from Counselling, contact the principal, in strictest confidence either by phoning the school office (028 796 42014) or by email (mokane282@c2kni.net)

Twilight for Staff:

School closed half day on Wednesday 16th March to facilitate staff training on Post-Covid Catch-Up. Lockdown was not a universal experience for all children – for some it was positive, for others it was a negative experience. Our school test data has captured the regression of individual children and of whole year groups. All staff are clearly focussed on addressing the 'lost learning' and ensuring that all pupils benefit from a clear focus on Literacy and Numeracy.

Primary 4

Primary 4 pupils all busy making their St Patrick's Day Cards and practising their Irish dancing with Mr McPeake who was on teaching practice in their classroom.





St Patrick's Assembly:

School was closed on Wednesday 17th and 18th March to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Student teachers Mr Shea McPeake and Miss Marcella Kelly held a St Patrick's Day assembly for each Key Stage. Mr McPeake is a talented Irish dancer, with the Waves of Tory proving quite a challenge for KS2 pupils. Miss Kelly played the fiddle and we all enjoyed a wonderful morning of Irish culture and music.



Visitors to ASC1:

We are indebted to MLA Emma Sheerin and Councillors Sean McPeake and Cora Corry for visiting our ASC on Friday 25th March to check out local provision. After watching an Attention Autism lesson, they viewed the classroom and Sensory Room and expressed their delight at the high level of provision and resourcing. Chair of Governors Mrs Brenda Henry presented a bouquet to Emma Sheerin and endorsed their findings on the outstanding quality of education within ASC. Well done everyone.



Swimming:

P7B have completed their swimming lessons on Monday 28th March at Greenvale Leisure Centre. Each child was assessed and passed with flying colours. **Well done everyone!**



Fireman to visit P5:

On Friday 25th April, Primary 5 had a visit from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue service. Local fireman Trevor spoke to P5's to raise awareness of Fire Safety. He informed the class about dangers around the house that can cause a fire and how we can avoid them. Each child was given out a pack of resources to help plan escape routes at home in case of an emergency.



First Confession:

On Wednesday 30th March 33, Primary 4 pupils made their First Confession in Our Lady of Mercy Church. We had some excellent readings and wholehearted participation in the sacrament. Fr Graham and Fr Harkin heard the Confessions and commended the children for their preparation and attentiveness. Following Confessions, the pupils enjoyed an extra playtime treat in the gardens of the Parochial House, including ice-cream!





National Reflection Day:

Primary 7 pupils held a special reflection on the anniversary of the first Covid lockdown. They remembered all those affected by Coronavirus especially those families who suffered a bereavement.



Danske Bank:

On Friday 1st April Anne Convery and Ryan Smith from Danske Bank visited our P7 pupils to discuss their "Money Smart" programme. The pupils enjoyed learning about the different types of banking and they completed a budgeting activity – this was great fun and even the adults learned something new. Thank you to Danske Bank for providing useful insight into money matters for our P7's as they are about to embark on their post-primary journey.





CROSS COUNTRY

On Thursday 3rd March pupils from St Brigid's P.S. took part in Flahavan's NI Cross Country Finals at Mullusk. Clíodhna, having finished 2nd in the first round in Coleraine, qualified to take part as an individual in the Girls' Final. The runners in the boys' team were: Callum, Conan, Daniel, Micheal, Tony and Sean. Clíodhna got off to a good start and continued to put in a very strong and determined performance in the damp conditions and finished 13th in a field of 174 runners. The boys' team found the congested start and the heavy course conditions challenging. Though the boys were not in contention to retain the trophy they enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to take part in other competitions.



Cross Country:

The girls' and boys' teams were delighted the South Derry Primary Schools cross country event was held at St Patrick's College on 6th April. The girls representing St Brigid's were Caitlin, Cassie, Clíodhna and Sine and the boys' team included Charlie, Conan, Daniel and Sean. Both teams enjoyed the well, attended and very competitive races. Well done to the boys' team on their strong performance and congratulations to the girls who were presented with runners-up medals and a special word of congratulations to Clíodhna who also won silver for achieving 2nd place overall. **Well done everyone!**



New Pupil:



New pupil Emmett O'Dwyer has joined St Brigid's Primary School from St Canice's Primary School Dungiven. We hope that he will be very happy in ASC.

Camogie:

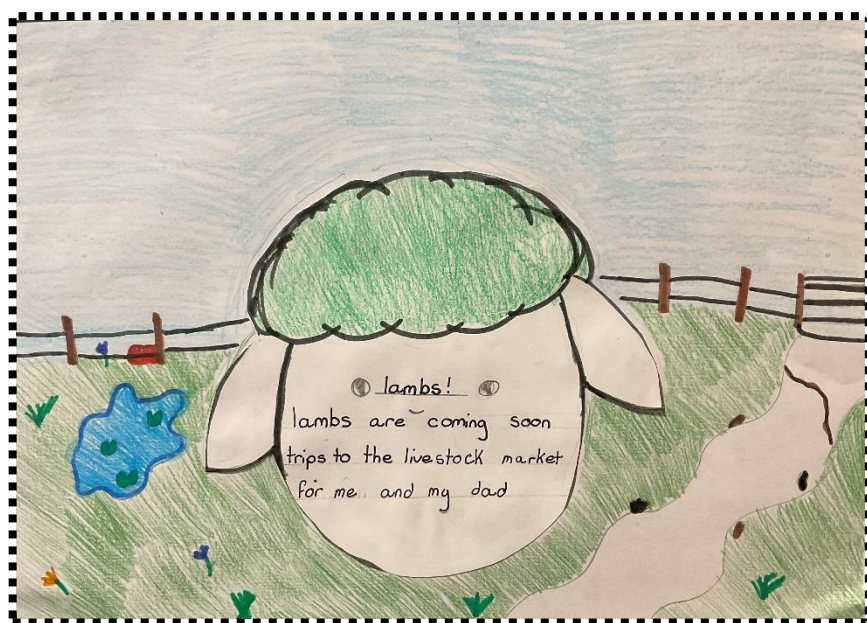
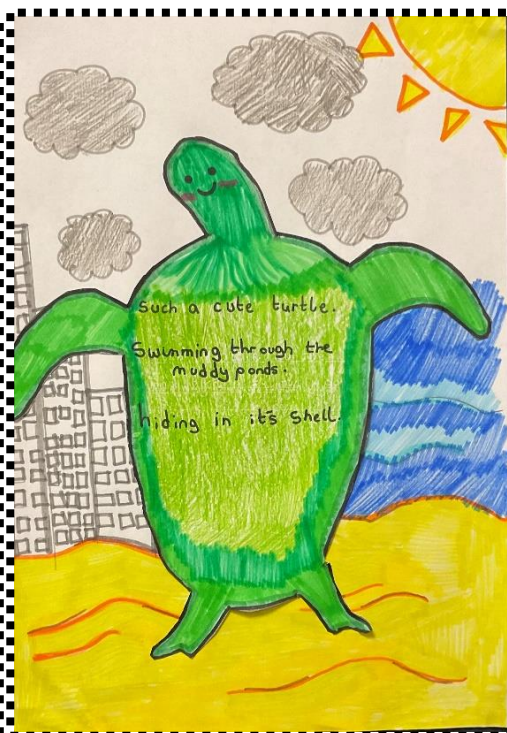
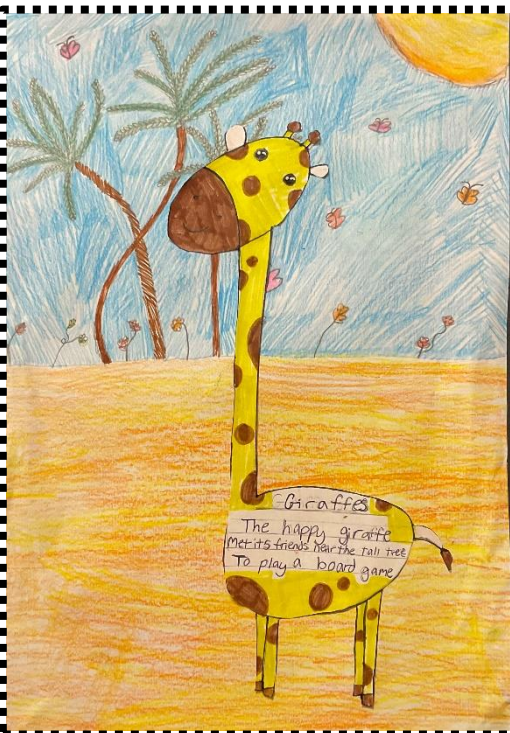
On Friday 8th April Dr Ronan Kehoe and Mrs Shauna Kehoe of Dreenan Medical Ltd presented a wide range of Camogie equipment to the school. Mrs O'Kane and Mr Doherty were on hand to accept the very generous donation. Mr Doherty assured Shauna that the equipment would be put to good use in Term 3 as we start up our After School Clubs and we will be participation in the County Derry School Championships.

Sincere thanks to Dr and Mrs Kehoe of Dreenan Medical Ltd for their support.



P7 Poems:

As part of their poetry unit, Primary 7b wrote haiku poems. Here are some examples of their writing.



Farm Health and Safety Talk:

On Tuesday 12th April Paul Kelly from HSENI spoke with the Primary 1 and Primary 7 pupils about farm safety. The children enjoyed learning about farm rules and found Paul to be very informative. He really enjoyed answering questions for the very intuitive Lavey farmers!



School Council:

School Council have been very busy this term! They met with Mrs O Kane and Mrs Mc Crum and discussed the issues that have arisen in their classes. In general, it was reported that the pupils are happy at school but there were a few suggestions on how things could be better! The children would like more play and more play equipment. They would like more opportunities to play with other classes. They would also like more chicken nuggets for dinner! They love non-uniform days and also are saddened about the war in Ukraine and would like to help in some way. Mrs O Kane agreed to purchase more play equipment but said no to extra playtime.

School Council met with Donna our cook and she told them she was unable to give more chicken nuggets as she has to get them from an agreed supplier and she serves the recommended portion size! After Easter, there will be more opportunities for everyone to mix and we look forward to having reading buddies and playground buddies back again.

Mrs O Kane thought that it was a great idea that St Brigid's help towards the humanitarian effort for Ukraine so it was decided that the whole school (staff too!) would wear Ukraine colours of blue and yellow on Wednesday 13th April.

The full minutes of the meeting can be found on our website.

Easter Hunt:

In the last week of term School Council organised two Easter Hunts for all the pupils at St. Brigid's. The Junior Easter Hunt involved the pupils solving Easter themed clues whilst along the way they had to do silly tasks - like dance like a chicken! The school councillors were superb at leading their groups and acting as fabulous role models. Their chicken dance moves were very good too! Well done School Councillors, we are very proud of you. You showed great patience, kindness and respect when working with the younger pupils.

The Senior Easter Hunt was for primary 5 to primary 7 pupils. This was slightly more challenging and encouraged the pupils to develop map reading skills and literacy skills to "crack the code." There was much excitement and exasperation in the pupils' quest to find the clues and it was great to see the smiles of satisfaction when they figured it out! The sky was blue and the sun was out for everyone except Primary 6. However, they did not let the heavy rain dampen their enthusiasm to complete the hunt!

A special word of thanks to Megan who helped set up the Senior Easter Hunt.



Fundraiser for Ukraine:

An amazing £424 was raised



Easter Egg Raffle:

Every year Primary 7 pupils organise the Annual Easter Egg Raffle in aid of Fr Magill's Missionary work in Burma. The raffle was held on Wednesday 13th April and tickets were sold throughout the school. This year our total was an amazing £1139.20. Thank you to all our P7 pupils for their generous spirit and commitment to the developing world.



Easter Vacation:

School finished on Wednesday 13th April for our Easter Vacation and returns back on Monday 25th April.

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. However, we are now back to face-to face training. Mrs O'Kane has been on courses in the Galgorm, Radisson Limavady and the Glenavon.

March	4 th	M O'K meeting in St Patrick's College with Mrs Mussen
	8 th	C V to Play Course at Spires Integrated Primary School
	9 th	U Q to Numeracy Cluster in St John's Primary School Swatragh
	10 th	G O'K to Senior Leadership Programme
	10 th & 11 th	AOEA Principals' Conference at Galgorm
	15 th	M O'K to MUPPA Cluster Meeting
	16 th	Twilight for all staff
	22 nd	P McC to Literacy Cluster in St Brigid's Primary School
April	31 st	C D to ICT Cluster in St Patrick's Primary School Glen
	4 th	A McG to SENCO Cluster in St Mary's Primary School Glenview
	4 th – 5 th	R D to First Aid Training in Dundonald. As a school First Aider, training needs to be updated and assessed every three years.

Dates For Your Diary

2nd May 2022

May Bank Holiday

2nd and 3rd June

Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday

The school year ends on 30th June 2022

As part of St Patrick's College Cluster, the Principals of the five feeder primary schools meet monthly. In Term 2, subject co-ordinators also met in each other's schools to discuss developments in Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and Special Needs.