

# St. Brigid's S.G.N.S. Newsletter

March 2018



## A Little Update...

### Resignation of Principal

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of the resignation of the School Principal, Carmel Cahill, at Easter.

Carmel came to St. Brigid's in 1990 and since then has served as a class teacher, as a learning support teacher and as school principal.

During all of these years, Carmel has done her utmost to inspire children to give of their best. She has led and supported teachers and support staff on their professional journeys. The recent WSE (Whole School Evaluation) report and the more recent update are a testament to her great efforts leading this school community. She now leaves behind her as her legacy a dynamic and vibrant school community.

On your behalf I wish Carmel good health and happiness in the next stage of life's journey.

Do not forget St. Brigid's, Carmel, as I know the staff and children of St. Brigid's will never forget you.

*Mairéad Shiel  
Chairperson, Board of Management  
St Brigid's S.G.N.S.*

### School Website

Reminder: our school website is up and running at: [www.stbrigidsschool.com](http://www.stbrigidsschool.com)

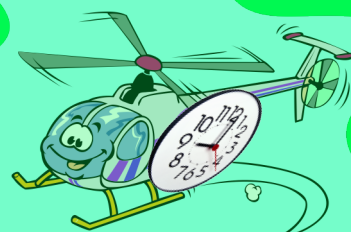
If you need to check the school calendar, find out about events, even download forms for school, this should make life easier. Click on the [Calendar of Events](#) on the homepage to remind you of events happening on any particular day.



### Seventh Green Flag

Thanks to Ms. Burke and Ms. Ryan, who are working on the Seventh Green Flag [Global Citizenship - Energy](#). They are doing very important work with the Green Schools' Committee, reminding the rest of our pupils to conserve energy!

### Time Flies



#### Slán from Ms. Cahill:

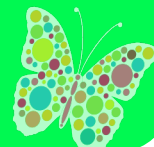
I would like to say a huge thanks to the entire school community for the very warm welcome I received from the moment I arrived to St Brigid's and for the fabulous support which I felt during my entire time here. The wonderful pupils, staff, parents/guardians and wider community of St. Brigid's work very well together and make our school a great place to be.

In school, nothing and no-one stays still for very long - including the pupils! We work in an unusual way, we teach and we encourage learning not only for the world we live in now, but also for the world which our pupils will encounter when they leave formal education. In fact, the job of every single teacher and SNA changes completely every year, with new pupils, new curriculum ideas and new technology. Our new motto reflects this: *Together let's live for today and learn for tomorrow.*

Over the years we've seen lots of changes in St. Brigid's. Now it's time for another one! And I've not the slightest doubt that St Brigid's will continue onwards and upwards! I will look forward to hearing wonderful news of you over the coming months and years...

With my very best wishes,

*Carmel Cahill, Príomhoide*





## Attendance

It was touch and go for a few months during the cold weather, with all the viruses, coughs and sneezes, but we are still continuing to improve our attendance!

Well done to all our SUPER ATTENDERS!

We will have a big attendance drive for the coming months to see if we can beat our record set last year. We need all the support and encouragement of parents and guardians! We all know that one of the most important gifts that you can give to your children is their education...



## Our Deis Plan

As you are no doubt aware, we're still focusing on **Oral Literacy** this year. We need your support with this, to encourage our pupils to speak clearly and well, delivering their message to others in an interesting way. Please take every opportunity to encourage them with this.

At the moment the whole school is working on Oral Language. As a game, you might ask your children to talk about a topic of their choice and see how long they can speak for... As we asked before: please just TALK, TALK, TALK with your children. They will learn the skills of listening and taking turns. Share jokes, rhymes and riddles...

In Numeracy (Maths), we continue to work on **Word Problems**. There are many online activities which your child can work on, as well as pointing out maths in the environment - adding little bills, checking the time, estimating and measuring.

## Reminders

School Opening: Our school opens for children attending Breakfast Club at 8.40 a.m. and for all other children at 9.00 a.m. We remind you that we are not responsible for any child arriving before the appropriate time. We send you this reminder in the interests of the welfare and safety of your child.

Classes begin promptly, so please ensure that your child is on time and ready to begin. Those arriving late are always noted in the Teachers' Late List.



If your child is absent, the school requires a written note on the day of their return, explaining the reason for their absence. The school is also required to make a report to the National Education Welfare Board, if a child misses 20 days.

Staff Car Park: Only staff cars are permitted to drive into the staff car park. Again, this is for the pupils' safety. We ask all visitors to check in at Reception, for the security of all.

Contact Details: If you changed your phone number or other details recently, please inform the teacher. All pupils need three numbers, in case of emergency.



Please note: Lunch break is from 12.30 - 1.00 p.m. Please try to avoid phoning or calling to school during this time, as you will almost certainly be delayed!



## Happy Birthday to St Brigid's Breakfast Club

It's almost Happy Birthday time again for our Breakfast Club, which will be 18 years old on April 24th this year, which makes it older than any of our pupils!

A huge thanks to Mary, Ann-Marie and Barbara, who are in the Breakfast Club every morning. They present a very warm welcome to our pupils in rain or shine - remembering birthdays and running super competitions!

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the eight pupils who won prizes in the loyal Credit Union Art Competition.

Well done also to the two teams for doing so well in the Credit Union Finglas Schools' General Knowledge Table Quiz

Congratulations to all of our wonderful pupils who take part in a variety of events, some competitive and some not. We have celebrated many of these at our monthly assemblies!





## Book Rental

We are continuing with our model of Book Rental, following discussions with parents and guardians. Niamh is available to collect installments from 9 to 9.30 on Wednesdays.

As quite a few parents had difficulties getting their children's workbooks in our local book shops, we now include 'everything but the kitchen' sink in one charge, so that the pupils may walk in with just their bag and pencil-case in September.

All textbooks, support books, novels, copies, stationery, calculators, two crest badges etc. are included. There has been an excellent take up in payment by installments, (and payment of the full amount), which began last month, and will continue on Wednesday mornings until the end of June.

We are changing a number of workbooks and textbooks mid-year next year, which better reflect the curriculum. These will also be included in this one charge.

## Keeping Active

We had a great number of fantastic initiatives for keeping active and fit in the past while. We have had Cricket Lessons with the guys from Dublin City Council, Cycling Skills with Eoin, (aka Doctor Bike), Camogie and Football with volunteer teachers, Swimming in the local Finglas Leisure Centre, and a Football Blitz with the local Garda Síochána. Our pupils have enjoyed taking part in tournaments with other schools and look forward to these. Next week we have Laser Athletics for Fifth Classes and next term we will have Golf Lessons with support from DCC.



Teachers are using GoNoodle Activities in their classrooms for short breaks between lessons, as well as putting the pupils through their paces with gymnastics, games, athletics, dance and outdoor and adventure activities.

For Seachtain na Gaeilge, which begins next week, the classes are preparing their Irish Dances, and will perform these in class groups for our Céilí Mór on Friday, 16th March. The whole school community goes green for the day!!

Working on our seventh green flag, we encourage pupils to walk or park and stride particularly on WOW Walk on Wednesdays- let's keep it up!

And **ACTIVE WEEK** takes place in the first week in June. Our newest tradition of the amazing Whole School Sports Day Active Dance has become very popular!

## Thanks to our Volunteers this year for

Breakfast Club  
Reading  
Book Fair  
Sale of Work  
Fundraising Raffles  
Policy Group

**The Parents' Committee has done wonderful work over the past while, fundraising for sports equipment, board games, school kit, games for our Outreach Unit... the list goes on... They also review policies.**

**Many thanks for all the work!**

**If anyone would like to volunteer to assist in any way, please contact school at 01 8342416.**

## Parent-Teacher Meetings

We held Parent-Teacher meetings in February. As usual, these were very well attended. If you were unable to attend on the day, please arrange to meet with your child's teacher as soon as possible.

## Dates for your Diary



**Mondays & Thursdays: After School Homework Clubs**  
**Wednesdays**  
 March 8 GAA Skills  
 March 12 St Brigid's celebrates Book Day  
 March 13th Final Day Used Clothes Fundraiser  
 March 15th First Confession in Church at 1.30 pm  
 March 16th Laser Athletics for 5th Class  
 April 11th Céilí Mór: WEAR SOMETHING GREEN  
 April 17th Sixth Class Retreat  
 May 20th Service of Light in Church at 7.30 pm  
 May 21st First Communion in Church at 11 am  
 May 30th Photos for 2nd Class in School  
 May 31st Confirmation in Church at 11 am  
 Photos for 6th Class in school

June 6th-8th Active School Week  
 June 8th Sports Day (End of Active Week)

**Holidays**  
 May 4th - 8th Bank Holiday Weekend  
 June 1st-5th Bank Holiday Weekend



## Pupils' Pieces...

What happened to the tree during Maths?  
It grew square roots!

*Chloe*

What did the Ocean say to the other Ocean?  
Nothing, they just waved.

Do you 'sea' what I did there?  
I'm 'shore' you did !!!!

*Megan*

If a Cowboy rode into town on Friday, he stayed  
There for three days and rode back out on Friday.  
How did he do this?

The horses' name is Friday.  
*Radia*

What do you call a girl with 2 toilets on her head?

*LuLu.*

What is heavier, a ton of feathers or a ton of bricks?

Neither, they're both the same.

Knock, knock.  
Who's there?  
Phyllis  
Phyllis who?  
Fill us a glass of water!

*Kasey*

Knock Knock – Who's there?  
Orange – Orange who?  
Knock Knock – Who's there?  
Orange – Orange who?  
Knock Knock – Who's there?  
Banana – Banana who?  
Orange you glad I didn't say Orange again.

*Molly*

Mary lives in a Bungalow.  
Mary has a pink floor, a pink chair,  
Pink beds, pink table, pick television.  
What colour is her stairs ??  
She has no stairs – it's a bungalow!

Knock Knock – Who's there?  
Cash – Cash who?  
No I'll take a peanut if you have one.

## Traffic Warden Crossing

We remind you again to park outside of the area marked by cones or yellow lines when dropping or collecting pupils from school. This is to allow pedestrians to see oncoming traffic. Please do not call your child across the road as this can put them in danger. Children cross with the help of our super traffic wardens.



The Middle Entrance is marked clearly for Staff Parking only. Children are to be dropped off and picked up at the Pupils' Entrance. There is parking space in front of the school railings for any events or occasions which we organise.

Thanks for your patience during the recent snow and huge thanks to our super caretakers for making the yards and entrances accessible!

## Sensory Room

We are inserting a 'Sensory Section' in the Active Movement Room for our Outreach Unit.

If you have any skills, painting, etc... and would like to volunteer some time, please contact school at 018342416.



## Food Dudes Healthy Eating Programme

Our school participated in the Food Dudes Healthy Eating Programme. This programme aims to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables. The programme has two phases. Phase 1 is where children receive free fruit and vegetables in their school for 16 days and are rewarded with stickers and small prizes for eating their fruit and vegetables. Phase 2 is when children are rewarded with certificates of achievements for bringing in and eating fruit and vegetables from home as part of their daily lunch diet.

The programme is about young superheroes (The Food Dudes) involved in saving the life force from a gang of ladies (The Junk Punks), who plan to take away the energy of the world by depriving it of fruit and vegetables. We have watched the DVD adventures, where the Dudes battle with the bad guys, while eating lots of fruit and vegetables. We are really enjoying the programme and sampling the fruit and vegetables. Yummy!!



## Fundraiser

*The Parents' Committee is busy with our Easter Raffle! We have our usual huge Egg Hamper, donated by Glanmore, and lots of other Easter Egg Prizes! Best wishes in the raffle...*

## Vacancy

We have a vacancy on the Board of Management for a Mother of a pupil in St Brigid's SGNS. If interested, please come to a meeting in Room 1 on Thursday 15th March @ 1.00 pm.