



St. Brigid's B.N.S. Killester



JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

**WELCOME
BACK!**

Happy New Year! I would like to extend best wishes to all for a happy and healthy new year. It's a pleasure to see all of the children, teachers and staff back at school after a well deserved break.



**HAPPY
New
Year**

ENROLMENT FOR 2023/24 NOW OPEN!

Applications for Junior Infants and all other classes for September 2023 are currently being accepted until Tuesday 31st January 2023.

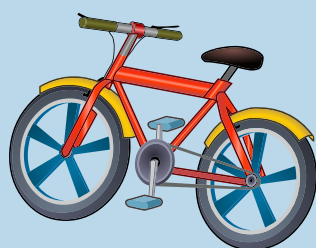
We would like to advise prospective parents to read the Admission Policy before making an application. This policy is available to view on our school website www.stbrigidsbns.ie or from the school office.

An Application for Admission Form for September 2023 and the 2023/2024 Annual Admission Notice are also available on our school's website.

www.stbrigidsbns.ie

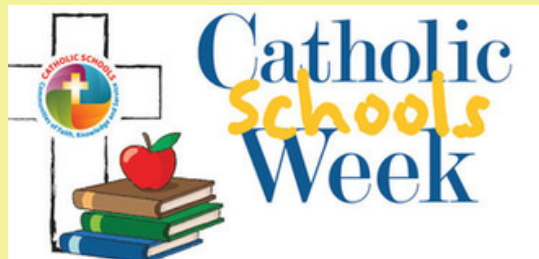


CYCLE RIGHT



Our 5th and 6th Class pupils are currently completing a course on cycle safety training. The course is aligned to CYCLE RIGHT, the National Standard for Cycle Safety Training in Ireland, and is delivered by qualified trainers from the national register. Topics covered will include: safe equipment; rules of the road; starting and stopping; road positioning; shoulder checking; turning left and right; overtaking and traffic manoeuvres. The emphasis of the course is on safety through control of the bike and awareness of surroundings.





Catholic Schools' Week 2023 runs from **Sunday 22nd January until Sunday 29th January**. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2023 is "Catholic Schools: Walking Together in Faith and Love".

This week, we celebrate the unique contribution our schools make to the lives of our pupils, community and Church. As we journey together, may we be inspired by the Holy Spirit to be all that God made us to be. May we walk and talk together in faith and love.

Fr. Joseph has invited all classes to visit the church this week during Catholic Schools Week.

SAVE
THE DATE

Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day will take place in St. Brigid's B.N.S. on **Wednesday 1st February** (St. Brigid's Day). We are delighted to be able to welcome grandparents back once again to this very special day. Grandparents are all invited to attend Mass at **10am** in St. Brigid's Church followed by a visit to your grandson's class and a 'cuppa' in the hall. Please save the date and further details will follow shortly.



THE DAILY MILE

Some classes are partaking in a Daily Mile Challenge. The Daily Mile is a free, effective concept where classes engage in daily running. The impact of this type of regular exercise can be transformational – improving not only the children's fitness, but also their concentration levels, mood, behaviour and general wellbeing.

www.thedailymile.ie



Recently 4th and 5th class boys have participated in Tag Rugby training with Coach Ray McCabe. These sessions will continue for four weeks. Ray McCabe is a Leinster Rugby Development Officer who has given us much experienced coaching over the past four years and continues to work with our boys through weekly sessions and community tag rugby blitzes. Keep an eye on our website and Instagram page for photos!



Student Council Update

Our Student Council will be informing all classes about the upcoming 'Safer Internet Day' which is happening this year on Tuesday 7th February.

Our top tips for staying safe online are:

- Remember to keep your personal details private
- Don't share your password or log in details with others
- Think of 'Stranger Danger!' – Don't talk to anyone online that you don't know
- Always ask for permission before going online and downloading apps or games
- Beware of scams – If you are unsure of any links or emails don't open them - **Stay Safe Online!**



PM READERS



Following the successful implementation of the programme last year, further investment has been made in the PM reading scheme. This builds on our existing bank of resources and allows us to expand guided reading into 2nd class. The PM series is an Australian guided reading programme. Evidence based research has shown that the use of PM readers helps to establish fundamental skills necessary for proficient reading. It also helps to identify weaknesses and strengthen specific skills. Following a period of guided reading in school and at home children begin to build reading fluency, improve attention to detail and expand vocabulary knowledge. It also supports reading comprehension strategies.

Guided reading will begin in Senior Infants in the coming term. The programme is currently already in use in 1st and 2nd classes. Further information and details of the programme will be sent to relevant classes shortly. Due to the significant cost of these books, it is essential that great care is taken to ensure that they are not lost or damaged.

R.S.E.

Relationships and Sexuality Education is an integral part of our S.P.H.E. curriculum as per Department of Education guidelines. It is school policy that all pupils partake in the R.S.E. programme and this is taught in our school every second year. As part of the 'Growing and Changing' strand of the S.P.H.E. curriculum, the sensitive elements of the R.S.E. programme will be covered in all classes this year during February and March. The topics of relationships, conception and new life previously covered by visiting **Accord** personnel will now be taught by class teachers in 5th and 6th classes.

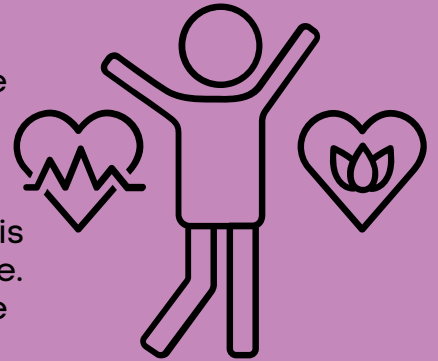
Please refer to our school's R.S.E. policy available on our school website www.stbrigidsbns.ie for further information.

If you would like to further support your child's learning in this area, you can download or order a copy of 'Talking to your Young Child about Relationships, Sexuality and Growing Up' or 'Busy Bodies' – adolescent development book. These books are available free from www.healthpromotion.ie.

WELLBEING

We have always prioritised our positive mental health programmes and strategies in St. Brigid's B.N.S. We know that primary schools can often be the first opportunity that our children have to begin their wellbeing journey. In the last few years, we have grown our Circle Time to include all pupils, have established Sports and Wellbeing Week, Friendship Week, continued with programmes such as Friends For Life and Alert.

More recently we purchased Buddy Benches and outdoor equipment to facilitate more outdoor learning and activities. This year we are hoping to be awarded an **Amber Flag** by Pieta House. Pieta House is a charitable organisation that promotes positive mental health and wellbeing in communities through shared participation, knowledge and empowerment. In order to achieve an amber flag we have set up An Amber Flag Committee to include teachers and students. Together the committee will decide on some new positive mental health strategies to be introduced to all pupils and come up with an idea for a fundraiser for Pieta House itself - more details to follow shortly!



SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION

In the last School Self Evaluation cycle we focused on Gaeilge. This led to:

- Integration of Gaeilge in different subjects.
- New Gaeilge signs displayed in each classroom
- School policy and termly plans were modified
- Gaeilge games boxes were created for each year group
- Gaeilgeoir na Míosa award was introduced in each class



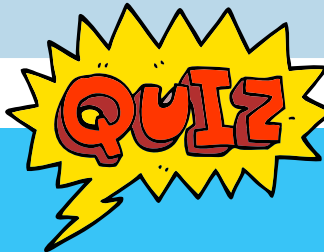
During the 2022/23 academic year, we are:

Continuing to use the SSE process to identify and reflect on the impact of COVID-19 on pupils'/students' educational experiences and outcomes, their wellbeing, their motivation to learn, and their engagement in learning.

Instagram

Don't forget, you can follow us on Instagram to keep up to date on all our latest news and events!

@stbrigidsbns_killester



We are delighted to announce that the Members First Credit Union Quiz is returning this year! We are in the process of selecting teams to represent the school. The Artane Local round will take place in Craobh Chiaráin GAA Club on Tuesday 7th February. More details to follow!



EDCO has launched a new Bua Na Cainte Parents App. The idea is that this may be used as an aid for parents to support their child's Gaeilge learning at home. You can access the app here: <https://app.buaathome.ie/>