



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



SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

BACK TO SCHOOL

Welcome Back to school to all our pupils, parents and school staff. As we look forward to a great year in school, we extend a special welcome to our new Junior Infants and all our new pupils as they settle into life in St. Brigid's B.N.S.

Reminder

Please put your son's name on all his belongings, in particular jumpers and coats so that they can be returned if lost.

Any bicycles/scooters left in the school grounds are left at the owner's risk. Bikes should be locked and helmets should be worn.

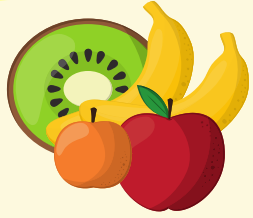
Each child needs a flannel /facecloth stored in a ziplock bag to dry their hands. Please ensure this flannel is changed regularly.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

In the interest of safety, the Board of Management prohibits the wearing of jewellery.

Mobile phones and personal internet-enabled devices are not permitted in school. Hair dye is also not allowed.





HEALTHY EATING POLICY



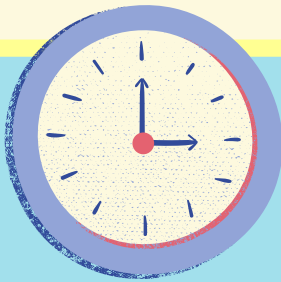
We operate a healthy lunch policy in St. Brigid's B.N.S. All boys should come to school with a nutritious lunch i.e. a sandwich, a piece of fruit etc. Fizzy drinks, crisps, chocolate or sweets are not allowed.

Yoghurt, yoghurt drinks and Frubes are not permitted as they can cause quite a mess.

Please provide your son with a small portion of fruit/veg for fruit break.

For safety reasons we do not allow children to share food with other pupils in school.

Some of our pupils suffer extreme reactions to specific foods including NUTS so we request that parents do not give nuts or food containing nuts for lunch. We would ask parents to emphasise this rule and the reason for it when talking to your child.



A reminder that school opens at **8.50am** each morning. It is important that all pupils are in school on time each day.

Small Break: 10.45 – 11.00am

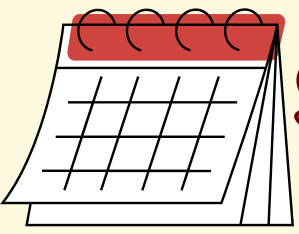
Lunch Break: 12.20 – 12.45pm

WE WOULD ASK THAT PARENTS REFRAIN FROM COLLECTING PUPILS DURING BREAK TIMES.



Uniform

All boys from Junior Infants to 6th class are required to wear full school uniform. This consists of grey sweatshirt and red polo shirt both with school crest to be worn with grey trousers and black shoes. Full tracksuit and runners should be worn on P.E. days. School shorts may be worn for the month of September only (School shorts may be worn again in May & June). Please ensure that name tags are in place on all items.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

School Re-opening: - Monday 2nd September

Midterm: 28th October – 1st November (inclusive)

Christmas: 23rd December – 3rd January (inclusive)

February Bank Holiday: - Monday 3rd February

February Midterm: 17th – 21st February (inclusive)

St. Patrick's Day: - Monday 17th March

Easter Holidays: 14th – 25th April (inclusive)

May Bank Holiday: - Monday 5th May

June Bank Holiday: - Monday 2nd June

Summer Holidays: Monday 30th June

IMPORTANT NOTE: In the event of adverse weather or other unforeseen circumstance that may necessitate the closure of the school for an extended period during the course of the school year, the Board of Management may authorise the school to open for classes at the beginning of the planned 2025 February Mid-Term and/or Easter Break.

Please Note:



- **First Holy Communion:** Saturday 17th May 2025 @11.00am
- **Confirmation:** Thursday 15th May 2025 @ 11.00am
- **First Penance:** Tuesday 11th March 2025 @ 1pm
- **Service of Light:** Saturday 8th March 2024 @ 6.30pm

CONTACT DETAILS

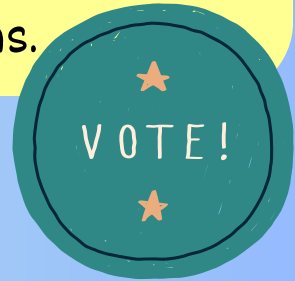


It is essential that we have the correct address and contact details (e.g. parents' mobile numbers & email) for your son on our database in case of emergency. If your details have changed, please update on Aladdin and ensure there is an emergency contact listed.

As the office/reception area is extremely busy in the morning, it would be appreciated if telephone calls were made only in emergency situations. There is no need to telephone the school if your son is sick, unless the illness is contagious. Parents should acknowledge their child's absence from school on their return by either directly inputting reasons for absences into Aladdin, or by sending in a note for the attention of the class teacher.

Student Council

Student Council elections took place last week. All classes from 3rd – 6th Class nominated a representative. Each candidate was offered the opportunity to outline their ideas and commitment to the role in a presentation prior to class elections.



St. Brigid's B.N.S. Parents' Association

The Parents' Association would like to extend a warm welcome back to school to all and especially to new parents in the school. We will be sending out notification of upcoming events in the next few weeks.

The Parents' Association AGM will be held on **Monday 21st October at 7.30pm**. We encourage as many parents as possible to attend. We will be reviewing the work of the Parents' Association over the last year. We will have an address from our Principal Ms. Cullen and elections will be held for the PA Committee for 2024/2025. A number of the present committee are either not eligible or available to be on the next committee, therefore, we are looking for new parents to get involved and continue the good work of the Parents' Association. If you are not available to attend but would like to be considered for the committee please contact us on email stbrigidsbnsa@gmail.com or Text: **086 8916486**.

Home/School Communication

Parents may contact the school via Aladdin email emailstbrigidsbns@gmail.com or info@stbrigidsbns.ie.

When communicating with a teacher via email, please put the Teacher's Name & Class in the Subject box and the email will be forwarded for the teacher's attention.



Friendship Week

Last week was a very busy week in St. Brigid's B.N.S. with all classes participating in 'Friendship Week' as part of our Anti-Bullying initiative. Our theme was "How to keep each others jars/buckets full?"

Lessons focused on teaching pupils how to make good behavioural choices that enhance emotional intelligence and wellbeing.

Pupils learnt how to recognise and deal with bullying type behaviours.

Our Anti-Bullying Policy was discussed in class and pupils learnt our Anti-Bullying motto 'NO, GO and TELL'.

The week culminated in class assemblies where pupils shared their learning and a fantastic Poster Competition took place with lots of prizes.

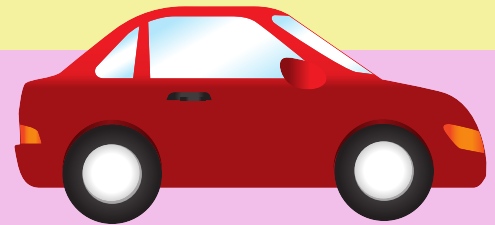
A big thank you to all pupils and staff who make this week so special for the whole school community.

DON'T FORGET, YOU CAN FOLLOW US ON OUR Instagram PAGE!

STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL OUR LATEST NEWS

FOLLOW US @stbrigidsbns_killester

The graphic features a blue background with a grid pattern. It includes a yellow star, a megaphone, a pink speech bubble, a yellow speech bubble, and the Instagram logo. The text is in various colors and fonts, including purple and white.



PLEASE NOTE THAT CARS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO DROP/ COLLECT CHILDREN IN THE YARD AT ANY TIME BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL.



Our school's annual Sponsored Walk will take place during the week commencing 7th October.





Staying Safe Online



ACCESSING THE INTERNET AND ONLINE GAMING

As cyber bullying and staying safe online were topics discussed by classes during Friendship week, it may be a good opportunity for further discussion at home.

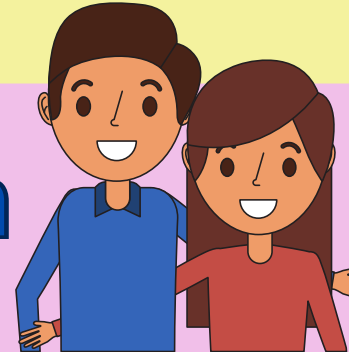
Please be vigilant about the games and content being accessed by your children online. Some online games may not be age appropriate for your child and it is important to ensure that protection measures are in place for all online platforms and gaming consoles.

YOU MAY FIND THE FOLLOWING TIPS HELPFUL:

- Check the age rating of the games your children are playing and ensure games are age appropriate. To prevent your child from accessing inappropriate games, ensure parental settings are active on your computers and consoles. Information on parental controls for the most popular consoles can be found on their websites.
- Encourage your child to play fairly and treat other gamers with respect. In multi-player mode young players can experience abuse/harassment online from other gamers, particularly when emotions are high after a competitive game.
- For many parents it is useful to agree time limits on gaming with their children.



Parental Participation



We often seek volunteers in the school for various reasons – e.g. helping out with the library, credit union and accompanying school tours. In order for trips and extra curricular activities to take place outside of school, we need parent volunteers to help. It is a legal requirement that all volunteers are Garda vetted.

If you think you would be interested in volunteering in the school at some point, please contact Maeve in the secretary's office to begin the vetting process. You need to fill out a vetting invitation form to begin the process. This form is available from Maeve. You will need to bring two pieces of ID (one must be photographic) into the school to be validated and copied.



SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION

School self-evaluation (SSE) is a collaborative, inclusive, and reflective process of internal school review. The current SSE cycle runs from 2022-2026.

As a school we have identified **Digital Literacy** as our primary SSE focus.

Specifically, we are exploring and implementing digital tools which support language and literacy outcomes. We have invested heavily in IT procurement over the last year, and the pupils are enjoying using ipads and chromebooks to engage with digital tools such as EPIC! and Book Creator.

CURRENT TARGETS INCLUDE:

- Develop Digital Learning Action Plan with targets for teaching and learning
- Review IT infrastructure currently in place
- Develop and engage in a long-term procurement plan for IT over the next three years
- Identify curricular areas for integration of digital technology tools
- Organise support from OIDE professional support team in relation to Digital Technology
- Identify and provide support pathways for staff to ensure use of digital technology becomes embedded practice
- Promote and facilitate collaboration and sharing of expertise among teachers during whole staff meetings.

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- Engage in discussion with your son about the digital tools he is using in school
- Promote safe and responsible use of digital technology at home in an age appropriate way
- Encourage the use of apps and digital tools as and when recommended by the class teacher
- Continue to facilitate good school attendance
- Familiarise your family with our policies and procedures, including our Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour. These can be found at www.stbrigidsbns.ie
- Continue to support us in this process of self-evaluation by completing any further requests for parental input.

