



Saint Brigid's Girls' National School
Newsletter December 2023
Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year
Beannachtaí na Féile do gach duine



School Closing / Re-opening Times...



School closes on **Friday 22nd Dec 2023.**

Class Finishing Times are as follows:
Junior Infants & Senior Infants at **11:55am**
First to Sixth Classes at **12 noon**

Please ensure your daughter is collected on time. Children will exit through their usual school exit.

School re-opens on **Monday 8th January 2024.**

Witches Walk 2023.....

In October we had our annual Witches Walk to raise money for our school. The students in St. Brigid's dressed up as wonderful witches, wizards and witches cats. It was a fun day for all involved. The support from the community was fantastic and we enjoyed seeing everyone cheer us on. We held our Witches walk raffle, the first week of November and there were wonderful prizes won. Thank you to all who contributed prizes for our raffle.

Ms Slaughter

Junior Infants decorated the St. Brigid's GNS Christmas tree...

On Wednesday 6th of December, all girls in 6th class and Junior Infants participated in decorating the school Christmas tree together in the main reception area of the school. This festive activity was enjoyed by all students and we wish you all a Merry Christmas.



Ms Fogarty

St. Brigid's GNS Choir...



Well done to the members of our school choir from 4th class who sang beautifully this week. They performed Joy to the World and Nearly Christmas on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in our school hall. They have been practising at lunch times throughout November and December. I would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and dedication to choir.

Ms. Baxter

Green School...

St. Brigid's is in our second year of Primary Climate Ambassadors. Our new Green team has been elected, two girls from each class from 3rd to 6th class and they are hard at work. The girls are so enthusiastic about sharing ideas and designing posters but most importantly encouraging our school community to stay green! The girls took part in an introductory webinar for Primary Climate ambassadors which was very interesting. In term 2 the committee and the school will be working on challenges in the areas of biodiversity, water and travel. Last year our school came fourth in the primary climate ambassador awards and this year we are hoping to do just as well. We are looking forward to having your support in keeping our school as green as we can.

Ms Slaughter.

Science Fair...

Our annual science fair took place on Friday the 17th of November. The girls had lots of fun showcasing their experiments to different classes and thoroughly enjoyed showing their experiments to the parents. Thank you for joining us for our science open day and we look forward to welcoming you again, next year!

Ms Delaney



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Senior Infants visit to the magician.....

We had an exciting trip to the Palmerstown Library on the 1st of December to celebrate the launch of their Friday/Saturday opening. We got to watch a magical performance from Jack Flash the magician. Our favourite trick was when Jack made a wand enormous, it was so big it was hitting the ceiling! There was even a surprise visit from Spiderman! It was so much fun

Ms Wells



Update on Digital Strategy in St. Brigid's GNS.....

As you are aware Clevertouch Panels were successfully installed throughout the school in July. The teachers received training on their use as part of Croke Park hours. These panels are a great addition to St. Brigid's ensuring our classrooms are up to date with the most advanced technology further enhancing your daughter's learning experiences.

Due to increased cost, the junior end of the school is no longer using Seesaw as a digital platform. The girls from Junior Infants to Second Class are transferring to 'google classroom' in line with the senior end of the school. Many thanks to their parents for their assistance and ongoing support in this process.

Ms Quigley

Cross Care Food/Supplies collection.....

We would like to thank everyone who donated food and supplies to our annual Christmas food/supplies drive for Cross Care. The fantastic response we had was heart-warming and we know that the donated items will be distributed by Cross Care to the families who are most in need this Christmas.

Mrs O'Shea

Eva Kelly illustrator visit to 3rd Class.....

In November, Mr. Fitzpatrick's third class welcomed a very special treat in the form of a classroom visit by comic book artist and illustrator, Eva Kelly.

Eva is based in Dublin and works as a graphic drawer for a range of newspapers in Dublin city- she's the person who draws those short but sweet 4 image comic strips you find in the back of the big national newspapers. During her hour with us, Eva showed the girls some of her work and talked about her time living and working in Colombia and how the types of art are so different. Each girl was invited to think of a story of their own and then we all received booklets in different colours- Eva explained how these were to be our comic books. Each girl was shown how to fold their paper to make a booklet and then drew some illustrations to create their own comic book. Eva commented how they were "some of the best drawings" she'd seen in any of the school she's visited. We all got to finish and take home our work and then Eva gifted us with a very special illustration she created of the shop fronts on O'Connell Street. The girls had a wonderful time and learned a brand new art style, thanks to Eva.

Mr Fitzpatrick

Wellbeing SSE...

This term we have been working hard by reflecting on wellbeing in our school. I would like to thank all students, staff and parents for their help with this. The girls on the wellbeing committee have been very helpful. We had many meetings this term and the girls have brainstormed some wonderful ideas on how we can improve wellbeing and promote kindness in our school. We look forward to implementing these new ideas in term 2.

Ms Wells



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Active Schools Committee...

St. Brigid's GNS has been a proud active school for some time now and this year is no different. The Active Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss ways we can promote more activity in the school community. Our three aims for this school year are:

1. To make sure that everybody takes part in some kind of activity during or after school e.g. walking, running, cycling or just playing.
2. To help children to be more active inside and outside of school.
3. Most importantly, to make sure we have fun while getting more active!

To promote more collaborative play at lunch time, the Active Committee has been responsible for organising and sharing out the playground equipment for all classes to use.

A big thank you to the Active girls for all their hard work this term! We are also delighted to be working with the swimming coaches in Stewarts Sports Centre this year. Since October, all girls in 5th class have been given a great opportunity to take part in these lessons. We are pleased to share how successful this has been so far and we look forward to 6th class starting their swimming lessons in January.

Ms Feeney



Junior Infants Christmas Play...

All the girls in Ms. Feeney's and Ms. Slaughter's Junior Infants have been very busy for the last few weeks preparing for their twinkle-tastic Christmas play, called "What a Star!". It tells the story of a little shy star called Leo who must overcome his fears when he is given a very special job to do! We are so excited to share our performance with you all. Well done to everyone involved, bualadh bos go léir!

Ms Feeney



Advent Prayer Service...

Our Advent prayer services for all classes ran on the 4th and 5th December in our sacred space in the school reception. The girls did a great job participating in the prayer service and singing hymns. We looked at the candles on the Advent Wreath. The three purple candles represent hope, love and peace. The pink candle represents joy. The white candle is lit on Christmas Day, which symbolises Jesus. The children joined in prayer and reflection. Advent is a time to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The children suggested ways in which they can prepare for Christmas in their homes. The girls are being extra good and kind to each other at this special time.

Ms Baxter



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School Raffle...

A big thank you to all who bought raffle tickets and supported the school raffle, which was a great success. We would like to thank all the local businesses and community members who so kindly donated such great prizes. Thank you to Haven Pharmacy, Minh Beauty Salon, Moriarty's Supervalu, Palmerstown Jewellers, West County Hotel, Jo Jo's Café, Skin1 Pharmacy, Newstime, Easy as Pie, Manor Hair Studio, Motion Barbers, Palmerstown Meats, The Gate Cafe, Jennifers, Wheelspin, Granite Barbers, Koffee & Gossip, Ken Byrne and, as well as very generous donations from Parents and Guardians. The kindness and generosity of our community is amazing and extremely welcome

Student Council...



Our new members of the Student Council are Hazel and Holly from Ms. Russell's class and Ella and Alexi from Ms. O'Connell's class. They join Alice, Eve, Emilie Kate and Ava from 6th class. We introduced ourselves to the school at an assembly in September. We are doing monthly affirmations again this year. The affirmations are on the school website if you would like to read them. We are hosting a Christmas jumper day on the 21st and 22nd of December. We held a design a jumper competition to prepare. We were also involved in the Advent services from Junior Infants to 2nd class. We have lots of exciting plans for next term and are looking forward to sharing our ideas with you.

A Russell, A Corry, A O'Connell & The Student Council

Curious Minds Award...

Last year, we got our first gold award with the Curious Mind programme and added it to our collection of plaques from the Discover Primary Science and Maths programme. This year, the classes have been working hard during maths week and science week.

We are preparing our application for the 'Curious Minds' gold award and all classes in the school are involved in the initiative. For more information about this award, please visit <https://www.sfi.ie/engagement/curious-minds/>

C. Delaney

GAA.....

Our GAA team got into full swing early in September with matches kicking off the second week back! The girls played 4 group matches and finished second in our group. We progressed onto a quarter final against a very strong side but unfortunately it wasn't to be our day and we bowed out of the competition at quarter final stage. The girls battled hard and worked together very well as a team, demonstrating great still and determination. We carried a lot of injuries this year which prevented some girls from playing several of the matches.

Huge thank you to Mr. Glynn, Dayna and Pat for all their help and support with the football team this year.

We look forward to the camogie season after Christmas!

Ms Mullins





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Christmas Panto.....

On Wednesday the 13th of December, classes from 1st up to 6th had the joy of visiting Pobalscoil Iosolde for their production of the Panto 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves'. It was clear that so much hard work was put in to the show and it paid off! Our very own past pupils of St. Brigid's took to the stage to create a wonderful production alongside their classmates. Special thanks goes out to Pobalscoil for their generosity in inviting our school to the show.

We all had a great time - oh yes we did!!

Ms O'Connell



Volunteers...

How lucky we are in St. Brigid's GNS to have so many wonderful people willing to help out with our School Library, School Trips, Swimming, Communion Breakfasts, 6th Class Graduation & the Parents Association to name but a few. Your help is much appreciated; we could not do it without you!

Both the Parents Association and St. Brigid's GNS always welcome new volunteers, so if you would like to volunteer in St. Brigid's GNS in the New Year, please contact Ms Flanagan on 01 626 5431.

A note from the Principal...

I can't believe how quickly this term has flown by and what a fantastic start to 2023/2024 we have had in St. Brigid's GNS. We have had an amazing Science Fair, Buddy Reading with Senior Infants and 5th Class, Witches Walk, Advent prayer services, Junior Infants photos and whole school Christmas preparations to name but a few things, but not to forget the regular activities of the Green Committee, Active School Committee, Student Council and Well Being Committee who do fantastic work in our school. Student voice is a very important part of our school and all of the student committees are very much part of the team in St. Brigid's GNS who help to ensure the high standards of our school.

Term One has been packed with activities to keep all of the girls working diligently and actively learning lots of new things. Our Student Council chose and helped all of the girls to understand the term one positive affirmations of "I am kind", "I am grateful" and "I spread joy". We have definitely seen all of the girls making great efforts to be kind to each other on a daily basis which lifts the spirits of everyone in St. Brigid's students and staff alike. With Christmas nearly upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my most sincere gratitude to the Parents, Guardians and extended family members in our school community. Your generosity, support and firm belief in St. Brigid's are fantastic and ultimately help to positively shape our school. So on behalf of myself, all staff members and the Board of Management of St. Brigid's GNS, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A O'Shea

