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BIRR SCHOOLS *Newsletter*

ST. BRENDAN'S CS · OXMANTOWN NS · MERCY PS · ST. BRENDAN'S BOYS PS

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL PARENTS & THEIR FAMILIES!

Welcome to the January – March edition of the Birr Schools HSCL (Home School Community Liaison) Parent Newsletter. This newsletter provides updates on upcoming events, activities and courses available within our schools and wider community.

HSCL and community initiatives aim to support and empower parents while strengthening the partnership between home and school. These activities offer opportunities for parents to connect, share experiences and engage positively with school life, all of which contribute to supporting children's learning and wellbeing. We hope you find this newsletter informative and helpful, and we look forward to continuing to work together in support of our school communities.

Attendance Matters Every School Day Counts

As we embark on a new term, we kindly urge all parents and guardians to prioritise regular school attendance, as it plays a critical role in ensuring that each child progresses steadily in their learning journey. Consistent attendance is essential, as it not only enhances academic performance but also fosters the development of valuable social skills, friendships and healthy habits that are key for success in adulthood.

Together, we can focus on *Making Every School Day Count* by improving attendance through commitment, positive reinforcement and continued support. Parents and guardians are instrumental in this process, and your involvement in helping your child establish strong morning and evening routines is invaluable. Let's work together to make this term a successful one for every student.

Primary to Post Primary Transition

We are excited to announce that our 1st Year Post Primary Induction Programme for 6th class students has commenced. This programme is designed to equip students with the essential learning skills needed for secondary school and provide support for the social, emotional and personal aspects of this significant transition.

The initiative aims to make the shift from primary to secondary school as smooth as possible by offering guidance on common challenges faced by students, along with engaging activities that foster adjustment and growth. We are committed to working closely with 6th class students and their parents throughout this transition period and look forward to supporting their continued development as they embark on this next phase of their educational journey.

PARENTING MATTERS: PARENT PODCAST

The *Parenting Matters* podcast, from St. Brendan's CS and Oxmantown NS, returns for a new year! Each week, we share tips, advice, and insights to support parents and families. Tune in to stay connected and learn practical strategies for everyday parenting.

UPCOMING EVENTS & INITIATIVES

We are excited to share some upcoming opportunities for parents to engage with the school community and support their children's education.

SCHOOL EVENTS

PARENT COOKERY COURSE

6 week course commencing on Monday January 12th

A hands on cookery course designed for parents, focusing on healthy, affordable and family-friendly meals.

Facilitator: Mercy PS & St. Brendan's NS

Location: Birr FET Centre • Registration: Text details to Paula.

1st YEAR & 5th YEAR PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

St. Brendan's C.S

5th Year Parent Teacher Meeting Monday, January 12th.

1st Year Parent Teacher Meeting Thursday, January 22nd.

We look forward to welcoming you on the evening.

WALK ON WEDNESDAYS PARENT WALKING GROUP

Each Wednesday commencing January 14th

All parents are invited to join in what will be an ideal opportunity to connect, engage and share experiences with other parents. Members of the Walking Group have free entry to Birr Castle and buggies are welcome.

Facilitator: St. Brendan's CS, Mercy PS, St. Brendan's NS & Oxmantown NS • Location: Birr Castle • Registration: Text details to Sabrina or Paula.

PARENT COMPASS CLINIC Tuesday January 27th

Workshops which assist parents to download and navigate the Compass Post Primary School Communication App.

Facilitator: St. Brendan's CS • Location: St. Brendan's CS Parents Room • Registration: Text details to Sabrina.

PARENT INTERNET SAFETY COURSE for SAFER INTERNET DAY Tuesday February 10th at 7pm

A practical session to support parents in keeping children safe online, understanding apps, social media, privacy settings and digital wellbeing.

Facilitator: St. Brendan's CS, Mercy PS, St. Brendan's NS & Oxmantown NS
Location: Online • Registration: Text details to Sabrina or Paula.

5th YEAR HSCL PARENT SUBJECT CHOICE SUPPORT WORKSHOPS Wednesday February 11th

Workshops which help parents guide their children through career and subject choices and gain better understanding of their child's potential and available opportunities.

Facilitator: St. Brendan's CS • Location: St. Brendan's CS Parents Room • Registration: Text details to Sabrina.

CERTIFIED PARENT COURSES/MODULES Date: Ongoing

Accredited modules tailored specifically for parents in our school communities, supporting personal development, confidence and progression opportunities.

Facilitator: St. Brendan's CS, Mercy PS, St. Brendan's NS & Oxmantown NS • Location: Birr FET Centre
Registration: Text details to Sabrina or Paula.

GRANDPARENTS DAY Date: TBA

Grandparents will be invited to visit the school, meet staff and students, and share in school life. This day provides an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the important role grandparents play in supporting young peoples education and wellbeing.

Facilitator: Mercy PS, St. Brendan's NS & St. Brendan's CS
Registration: Text details to Sabrina or Paula.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BREAKFAST BOOK CLUB

1st Tuesday of month, 10.30am

The Birr Library Breakfast Book Club is a vibrant, participant-driven group that fosters a sense of community and connection among its members. By coming together to discuss books over breakfast, participants have the opportunity to share ideas, engage in meaningful conversations and form lasting relationships.

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

BABY BOOK CLUB

Each Wednesday 11am

Weekly story and rhyme times for babies and toddlers.

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

Date: Ongoing

One to one assessments aimed at assisting learners in building and sustaining their literacy and numeracy skills.

Facilitator: LOETB • Location: LOETB, Birr

Registration: Contact Debbie Looby 057 9121571

ADULT ACRYLIC PAINTING WORKSHOPS

Saturday January 17th at 10.30am

Enjoy a relaxed and creative morning exploring acrylic painting in this adult workshop. Suitable for all levels, this session offers a welcoming space to try something new, build confidence and enjoy time for yourself.

Facilitator: Pauline McNellis

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

ADULT KNITTERS GROUP

Every Wednesday 5.30-7.30pm

A friendly and welcoming group for knitters of all levels. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced knitter, everyone is encouraged to come along - the more, the merrier!

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

ADULT CRAFTERS GROUP

Every Wednesday 6-8pm

A relaxed creative space for adults to enjoy a variety of crafts,

share ideas and meet others.

Newcomers are always welcome.

Location: Birr Library • Registration: Contact Birr Library on 057 9124950

INTERGENERATIONAL QUIZ

Wednesday January 14th at 11.30am

A fun and engaging intergenerational quiz, where grandparents, parents and young people come together to test their knowledge, share stories and enjoy each other's company. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect across generations in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Refreshments will be provided.

Location: Birr Library

Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

FAMILY WELLBEING - PARENTING CONSCIOUSLY

Date: Ongoing

This online course helps parents and caregivers explore their relationship with themselves, understanding how it impacts their interactions with children and others. Learn to recognise unconscious patterns, manage stress more effectively, and approach parenting with greater awareness and confidence.

Facilitator: Barnardos • Location: Online event

Registration: www.barnardos.ie/parenting_courses

MEETING ANGER

Date: Ongoing

A supportive online course to help you understand your child's or your own anger and build practical tools for managing strong emotions with compassion and respect. You'll explore personal parenting challenges, learn new strategies, and discover how to bring them into everyday life.

Facilitator: Barnardos • Location: Online event

Registration: www.barnardos.ie/parenting_courses



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