



Message from Mrs Maguire:

As we reach the end of our first half term, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support and partnership. It has been a busy and exciting start to the school year, and I know everyone—children and staff alike—is looking forward to a well-earned rest over the Halloween break.

A particular highlight this month was our fabulous Halloween Disco, which brought so much joy and excitement to the children. A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for their incredible efforts in both planning and running the event. Their creativity and commitment helped make it a truly memorable occasion for all.

Our student representatives have also been hard at work. The ECO Council, Digital Ambassadors, Student Council, and Well-being Ambassadors have all held their first meetings and are already drawing up thoughtful plans to support and enhance school life throughout the year. We are so proud of their enthusiasm and leadership. Wishing you all a safe, restful, and fun-filled Halloween break.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Monday 27th to Friday 31st

October

Halloween Break



Monday 4th to Friday 8th

November

Book Fair



Friday 19th December

School closes for all pupils at
Noon and will recommence on
Monday 5th January 2025



Hamper Winners:



WHAT'S GOING ON IN ST. BERNARD'S

BOYS GAELIC



The boys in P6 and P7 went along to their first Gaelic competition of the year at Carryduff GAC playing fields. First, we left on a bus with the team and Mr McGinn. We played 3 really tough games against St. Ita's PS, St. Michael's and St. Joseph's. Everyone played well and tried hard.
By Conor V and Jaxon

GIRLS CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL

The Girls' Gaelic Team travelled to Carryduff GAC to take part in the Division 1 Belfast Gaelic Football League on Wednesday 8th October. The girls played three very competitive matches against St. Michael's, St. Ita's and St. Joseph's. In each game, the girls displayed excellent teamwork, sportsmanship and effort. Well done girls!



Book Fair Returns!

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

FREE BOOKS for your school when you buy at the Book Fair!

Come to our **BOOK FAIR**

A pop-up book-store with hundreds of books from **JUST £2.99**

What are you waiting for?

Come find us at your Book Fair!

TIME: _____

DATE: _____

LOCATION: _____

Find these characters and **EVEN MORE BOOKS** online

The Book Fair will return to our school from Mon 4th Nov until Friday 8th Nov. The Book Fair will be taking place in the School Library this year. When the Book Fair is on, parents and children can enter via the door beside the SENCO office. Payments can be made by both cash and via the QR code on the posters or on the day in the hall.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN ST. BERNARD'S

P3 MUSICAL PATHWAYS

Primary 3 pupils have just finished their 6 week Musical Pathways Programme. Our budding musicians had the wonderful opportunity to play the violin, and learned not only to pluck their instrument but also to play using the bow! The children really enjoyed participating in this fun and creative experience and were absolute superstars in their final performances on Monday!

The musical fundamentals developed in the Musical Pathways Programme builds a greater understanding of what is involved in music making as well as creating strong foundations for further instrumental lessons.



ECO COUNCIL



The Eco-Council had their first meeting and created their action plan for the year. This year, we're focusing on sustainability, with an emphasis on reducing waste and improving recycling across the school. We're delighted to have support from Mrs Gallagher, who gave the council a tour of the school grounds and highlighted what has already been planted. We're also excited to continue working with Green Space Bernie and members of our local community gardens to further enhance and care for our outdoor spaces.

CROSS COUNTRY

On Monday 20th October, the school Cross Country squad went along to their first meet of the year in Newtownards. We left at 10am on a bus with Miss Harding and Mrs Maguire. There were about 20 people running from St. Bernards. There were 4 different races. We all did well! There was torrential rain, it was cold and there was mud everywhere but we all tried our best in difficult conditions. We got the bus back to school. It was fun overall.

By Katie and Conor F





PTA Halloween Disco

Well done to the PTA on another fantastic Halloween Disco! It was a spooktacular success and the costumes were absolutely amazing. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise and run the event.

Best Dressed Winners:

P3-P4 disco: Georgia, Olivia, and Ronan

P5-P7 disco: Patrick, Odhrán, and Cormac



BOO!

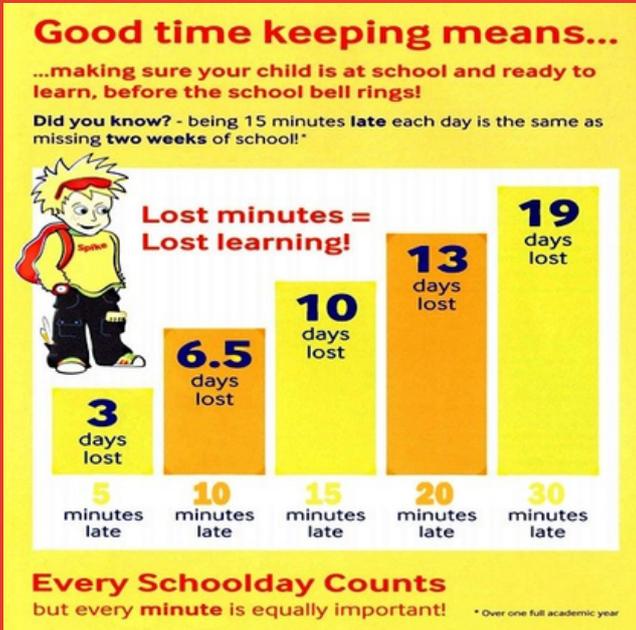


TRICK OR TREAT



Information for Parents

From the EWO regarding school lateness



CLASS MASSES

The following year groups will be in attendance at the parish mass on Wednesdays at 9.30am on the dates below:

- Wednesday 5th November – P6
- Wednesday 12th November – P5
- Wednesday 19th November – P4
- Wednesday 26th November – P3
- Wednesday 3rd December – P2
- Wednesday 10th December – P1 & P7

Car Park



Could we please remind parents the car park is a one-way system and care must be taken during drop off and pick up. We would like to remind parents and children to ensure they are extra vigilant when walking through the church carpark. We appeal to all drivers to keep their speed to a minimum and be extra careful when driving through the carpark.

St Bernadette's Children's Liturgy

St Bernadette's Children's Liturgy resumed on Sunday 14th September, at 11am Mass, and will be held every two weeks, throughout the year. All children of nursery/primary school age are welcome and can register on <https://forms.gle/bVSwj9nwc3k8eJZ7>. The children learn about the gospel story and complete a related art activity at the room, at the back of the Church. We look forward to welcoming all our children back again and encouraging new members to come along. Thank you, Fr Hickland.

RISE NI (Regional Integrated Support for Education NI) is an excellent EA service that supports children, schools and parents in child development. Their website offers a range of training videos, links and useful resources to support talking and listening, emotions and social skills and fine/gross motor skills from Primary 1 to Primary 7.

<https://view.pagetiger.com/RISENI/parents>



Welcome to RISE NI Parent Website

What is RISE NI?
I want to contact my local RISE NI team ...
Useful Contacts
Links to useful resources

I'd like advice, training and ideas to help my child ...

My child is in Early Years (Nursery / Preschool)
My child is in Foundation or Key Stage 1 (Primary 1/2/3/4)
My child is in Key Stage 2 (Primary 5/6/7)