

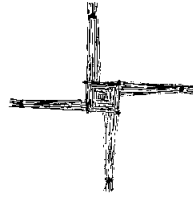
ST. BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs M Keating

Tel: (028) 30861514

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www.stbrigidspsglassdrummond.com



*63 Glassdrummond Road,
Crossmaglen,
Newry,
BT35 9DY*

Welcome to Primary 1

St. Brigid's Primary School,

Glassdrummond.



School Induction Information 2022

Thank you for considering St. Brigid's Primary School as a suitable school for your child. We are aware of the trust you place in us and we will strive to ensure that your child receives an excellent education in a secure and happy environment. We look forward to getting to know your child and sharing in their development and achievements as they progress throughout our school.

We also believe that by working together with parents we can establish an open, positive and constructive partnership which provides the best learning environment for our children.

We hope that you find this Welcome booklet helpful and it gives you an insight into the opportunities and strategies that we use to help your child to settle into school and to develop their personal and academic skills while in St. Brigid's Primary School.

Mrs Keating
Principal

Primary 1 Timetable

1. The school day begins at 9 a.m.
2. Lunch: 11.45am-12.30 p.m. This includes outdoor playtime.
3. Home-time: 1.40pm

Please note: As part of our settling in period the school will operate a staggered intake initially. Our induction week will begin this year on Thursday 1st September. Further information regarding this will be communicated at our Induction Day on Wednesday 15th June 2022.

Group A ONLY - Thursday 1st September - 9am-11.45am

Group B ONLY - Friday 2nd September - 9am-11.45am

Group C ONLY - Monday 5th September - 9am-11.45am

Group D ONLY - Tuesday 6th September - 9am-11.45am

ALL CHILDREN IN GROUPS A, B, C & D will attend school on Wednesday 7th September, Thursday 8th September & Friday 9th September from 9am-12.30pm. This means they will have lunch/dinner.

From Monday 12th September all children will attend together from 9am-1.40pm.



Snack:

Throughout a normal school year children help themselves to a selection of fruit/vegetables, bread based snacks, milk and water during the morning session. Snack is provided every day for your child at a cost of **£8 per month**. This can normally be paid for in advance, in a labelled envelope.



Breaktime: We operate a healthy break policy.

School Meals:

- School dinner is available at the cost of £2.60 per day. This may change and we will notify you when EA publishes their new prices. Dinner menus are available on the school website at the beginning of each month.
- It is helpful if dinner money can be paid to Mrs Garvey (school secretary) at the beginning of each week in a clearly labelled envelope.



PLEASE NOTE: ST BRIGID'S IS AN EGG and NUT FREE ZONE.

Home/School contacts.

Principal	Mrs Keating
Vice-Principal	Mrs Donnelly
Primary 1 Teacher	Mrs Cassidy
School telephone number	02830861514

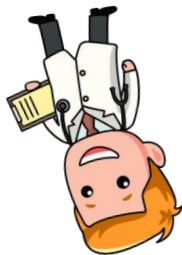
*Please ensure that we have 3 telephone contacts in the event of an emergency. It is vitally important that you notify us as soon as there is a change in one of these. (With people changing mobile phones so often we have found records out of date on occasions when we urgently needed to make contact.)

Please have a look at our school website www.stbrigidspglassdrummond.com and download the NI schools app - choosing our school and allowing notifications. This is our main form of communication.

The School health visitors

Pupils are medically examined each year by the nurse. Medical examination forms should be returned promptly.

The dentist **does not** visit the school each year, therefore it is necessary for parents to make other arrangements for dental check-ups for their children every 6 months.



Pupils' Health problems

1. If there are medical concerns regarding your child, consult with your GP/Health Visitor BEFORE beginning Primary One.
2. If your child has any illness or health problems, please inform his/her class teacher or the Principal, Mrs Keating. This is extremely important especially if your child has health complications which may need us to complete a risk assessment.
3. If it is necessary to keep your child from school or if you want him/her out of school, please send a note to the class teacher. An absent notification form **MUST** be completed should your child be absent for any reason. This is available from your child's teacher or on our school website in the Parent Area.

Eye exams are free to all children.

We highly recommend that your child should avail of a thorough eye test before they start school.

Michael Gilsenan (Lee Opticians, located in Crossmaglen) has done lots of research on the links between eyesight and Education and is a specialist in Children's Optometry.

Lee Opticians
25 The Square,
Crossmaglen,
Co. Armagh,
BT35 9HG

Tel: 028 3086 8866
Email: crossmaglen@leeopticians.com



School Uniform

Uniform for boys P1 - P7 Main School

- Grey trousers- (May be purchased from any uniform supplier/ supermarket/ chain store etc.)
- White polo shirt with school crest (Only available from approved suppliers- Mc Evoys & Streets Ahead)
- Royal blue sweat shirt with St Brigid's P.S. crest (Only available from approved suppliers- Mc Evoys & Streets Ahead)
- Black shoes or Runners. **Runners MUST be worn on PE days. P1 and P2 footwear MUST be Velcro fastening. Laces are not allowed for health and safety reasons.**

Uniform for girls- P1 - P7 Main School

- Grey skirt/ pinafore/trousers (May be purchased from any uniform supplier/ supermarket/ chain store etc.)
- White polo shirt with school crest (Only available from approved suppliers- Mc Evoys & Streets Ahead)
- Royal blue sweat shirt with St Brigid's PS crest (Only available from approved suppliers- Mc Evoys & Streets Ahead)
- Royal blue knee socks or royal blue tights.
- Black shoes or Runners. Runners **MUST be worn on PE days. P1 and P2 footwear MUST be Velcro fastening. Laces are not allowed for health and safety reasons.**

Optional extras:

- Summer dress for girls (Blue and white check- available from any supplier)
- Grey shorts for boys

PE Uniform for girls and boys P1 - P7 Tracksuit:

More information regarding ordering P.E. gear from PLAYR-FIT will be available in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye on our website/app for messages regarding this.

Your child will need the following items for Primary 1:

- Full school uniform (Please put your son/daughter's name on every item he/she brings to school: coat, sweatshirt etc.)
- PE uniform (further information to follow)
- A warm, waterproof coat for outdoor play sessions (labelled with child's name) - please note this may get dirty!
- Wellies (labelled with child's name)
- Waterproof trousers (labelled with child's name)
- A box of tissues and a large packet of unopened wipes.
- A complete change of clothes; vest, t-shirt, jumper, pants, skirt/trousers/leggings, socks. This does not need to be St. Brigid's Uniform. This must be kept in school throughout the year. A bag is provided for storage. **ALL ITEMS NEED TO BE LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

Preparing for school & how you can help your child at home:

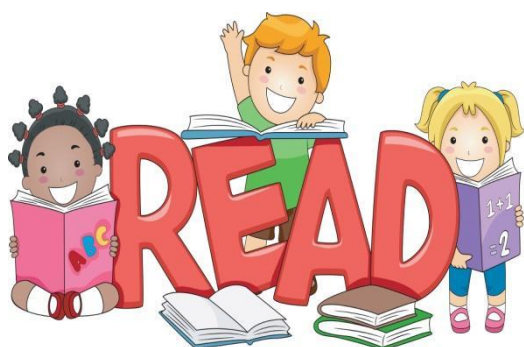
- Talk to your child about school and what he/she will be doing there. He/she will meet other children, play indoors and out, sing songs, look at books, draw, make and paint. Talk to your child as much as you can, but also **listen** to what **he/she** has to say.
- Ask him/her questions which make **them think**. If you are planning to go for a walk, let him/her be involved in the decision. Ask "do you think we should go for a walk?" Look out and see what the weather is like. "Do we need raincoats?" Let him/her look out on a bad day also. Talk about the weather, the road signs you see etc. The main thing is... **Talk, Talk, Talk.**
- Encourage your child to be independent. Let him/her put on their own coat, wash their hands, tuck in their shirt after using the bathroom.
- Encourage him/her to say please and thank you.
- Encourage your child to look after their toys and clothes and how to put them away tidily.
- Praise your child and value each and every piece of work they do!
- Encourage him/her to have a go!
- Praise your child for good behaviour and for trying their best!



Language Development

Language development is extremely important when your child is young. Sharing books with your child is the best way to develop good language skills. Please try to develop your child's love of books by making a bedtime story the routine by which he/she winds down at the end of the day. Also try to keep a selection of books readily available in the living area of your home so you and your child can avail of many opportunities to read. (Consider joining Crossmaglen Library).

****Tip:** Point to the words as you read with your child to show that print conveys meaning.



Point out words occasionally, not only in books but also on labels in shops, titles on TV, signs in shops window etc. Let him/her make his/her own books by using old comics, catalogues and a scrap book encouraging them to cut these out using rounded scissors.

We all know that your son/daughter love to watch television and there certainly is a place for this, however we would urge you to limit the amount of time that your son/daughter spends watching television. Choose appropriate programmes and if possible sit with your child and chat about the content.

A child should only be exposed to screens including TV, phones, tablets and game consoles for up to 30 minutes per day (maximum), as excessive use of these limits his/her social and language development. We will aim to follow this guidance should we need to operate a blended approach to learning whereby an online pupil platform may need to be used to send and receive work from Mrs Cassidy.

Take the time to play alongside your child as this also allows for much language development e.g. when building blocks explore language such as tall, short, big and small etc. Encourage your child to make up simple stories by asking him/her to tell you about what he/she is doing with their doll/puppy/brother etc.

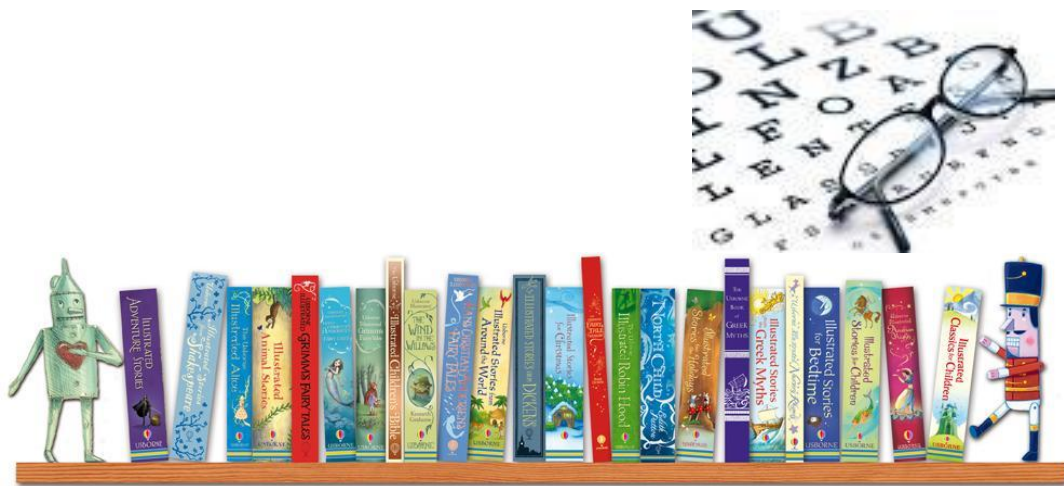
Nursery Rhymes and Songs:

Nursery rhymes and songs are vitally important so please ensure that your child is very familiar with these.



Reading books

Do not expect your child to be given a reading book for a while. Picture books will be used initially to develop language skills. It is important that you spend time discussing this book with your child. It takes time for a child to learn to read. Before he/she is given a book to bring home, they will have been taught it in school. Your child will be able to read it with you with a good degree of accuracy and this 'reading' should be a celebration of his/her success.'



When are children ready for Guided Reading?

Children will be able to:

- Listen attentively while you read to them
- Participate spontaneously in shared reading and language experiences
- Respond appropriately to language play, poems and jingles that develop awareness of language structure.
- Demonstrate understanding of the concepts of print/book handling skills:-
 1. locate title
 2. open front cover
 3. turn pages appropriately
 4. understand the left page comes before the right page
 5. understand that we read print from left to right and from top to bottom of page
 6. match spoken word to written word
 7. understand the concepts of a word, letter and space

- predict the story-line and some vocabulary
- use pictures to tell the story
- use background information and pictures to make connections
- use the meaning of the text to predict words
- use grammatical knowledge to predict words
- have knowledge of letter/sound correspondence (not just the name of the letter)
- recognise some familiar high frequency words
- read some texts independently (95%-100% without help)

Homework

There is a little formal homework during Primary 1. This work is linked with literacy, phonics, maths, religion, PDMU and topic work.

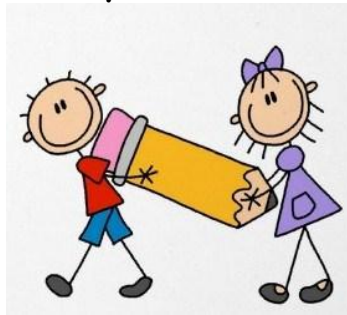


Developing early writing skills

Allow your child to use thick crayons, paints and plasticine or do any activity that will help strengthen the muscles in his/her hand and arm. If your child shows an interest in writing, show him/her how to hold a pencil, don't assume that he/she will automatically be able to do this.

If you are showing your child how to write a word, do not use all capital letters as he/she will not be doing this at school.

Capital letters should be used only for the first letter of a name.

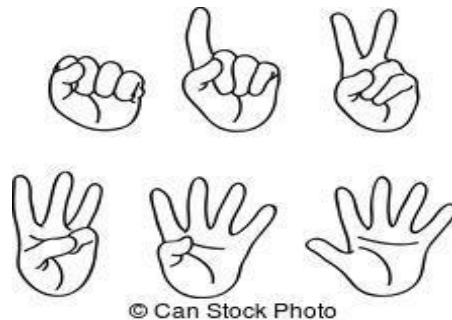


Developing early mathematical skills

Let your child start sorting out messages you have brought home- the things that go in the fridge, the items to go to the bathroom, or let him/her sort out socks, packets and tins.

Let him/her count the number of tins in your shopping bag. Touch each tin he/she counts. Don't try to make him/her do sums like $2+2=4$, but rather ask him/her how many spoons or cups are needed to put on the table for tea. You could send your child for simple errands, e.g. "Get me two red socks" or "Bring me three apples from the fruit bowl", or ask your child to set out four spoons on the table. Keep practising if he/she does not get it right, they just need more experience. Try to point out numbers when you are outside, e.g. numbers on a bus, numbers on a coin, age size on his/her clothes etc.

Let your child help you wash up whereby they can explore filling and pouring, alternatively place containers in the bath to explore floating and sinking.



Handing on the faith.

You share many things with your children; your love, your intentions, your family customs, so naturally you will want to share your faith. Your child learns his/her first experience of Christian living from you. So do share your own prayer with her/him. She/he will learn prayers and religion in school, but you could teach him/her to bless her/himself and say a few simple prayers before she comes to school.

Religious Programme.



'Grow in Love' religious programme series is used. Each child is supplied with a religious homework book during his/her first year. Each lesson sets out the parents' role and we would ask you to use this guide when helping your child. The first Prayer your child will say in Primary 1 is:

Father in Heaven you love me,
You are with me night and day.
I want to love you always.
In all I do and say.
I'll try to please you always

This prayer will be taught in school. A selection of prayers taught in Primary 1 will be provided in September

Some pieces of advice for enjoying school life

Don't be distressed if after all the trouble you have taken in preparation, your son/daughter cries or sobs on the first day of school or indeed the second. Children are completely unpredictable. The most important thing is for you to stay calm even though you may feel upset. It may just take a little bit longer for your son/daughter to settle comfortably into school life than some of the others, but he/she WILL!

To help with settling in each Primary 1 child has a Primary 7 child as their special 'buddy'. These older children take care of the younger ones in the playground or when they attend school celebrations. We hope to be able to continue this lovely practice this year but it will be dependent on Covid guidelines.

You may find your child slips back a little after starting school, e.g. she/he might be doing babyish things again like sucking her/his thumb or clinging to you a lot or even wetting the bed. Be patient with him/her, he/she is just feeling a little bit insecure and probably missing home. Given a little extra affection and time she/he will cope.

School can be very tiring in the first few weeks so if you realise this beforehand you may be prepared for instances of 'weepiness' or 'listlessness' when he/she returns home. Try to get him/her to bed **early** with a story and a little of your time and affection beforehand.

Don't be disappointed if your child comes home from school each day and says he/she did 'nothing' or he/she was 'just playing'. You will get the news when they feel ready. Show an interest and then ask questions.

Finally, the most valuable asset you can give your child is YOUR TIME. It is not easy with a large family or a one parent family or with working parents in the home, but it is essential. A teacher can do her best, so can a child, but unless there is support and love at home it is all pointless.

Primary 1 is going to be a wonderful experience for you and your child. Enjoy!!!!!!!