



## St Brigid's PS Glassdrummond September 2024 Newsletter

We would like to welcome everyone back to St Brigid's for the new academic year. It's great to see all the boys and girls back after the long summer and ready for another excellent and exciting year. We hope that the whole school community has a happy and healthy 2024/25

It's great to see all the pupils turned out in their uniforms, this gives the children and the whole school community a sense of pride in the school and we would ask parents to maintain these high standards throughout the year and that pupils wear their full school uniform on the days they don't have PE. Primary 1/2 pupils have the option of wearing black tracksuit bottoms/leggings, white polo shirt and school jumper every day.

Children can wear their PE gear on the following days:

Primary One Fridays  
Primary Two-Fridays  
Primary Three- Tuesdays and Fridays  
Primary Four- Mondays and Wednesdays  
Primary Five- Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
Primary Six- Tuesdays and Thursday.  
Primary Seven – Mondays and Fridays.  
(These days may be subject to change)

The PE uniform can consist of the children's school half zip or their normal school jumper, a plain white polo shirt/ polo shirt with school crest or a local GAA jersey. The children can wear plain dark tracksuit bottoms/ leggings or bottoms, school shorts or local club shorts. Again, it is important for the image of the school that everyone maintains this uniform. If anyone has any issues at all with the school uniform feel free to contact the school. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

We are currently trying to arrange swimming lessons for the Primary 5/6/7 children.

The Primary 6/7 classes are doing Tin Whistle classes with Mr Savage every Monday at the minute. There are a limited number of Tin Whistles available at school for £5 if anyone needs one.

Gaelic Afterschool coaching is underway, this will take place every Tuesday. 2.00-3.00pm for Primary 1/2/3 and 3.00-4.00pm for Primary 6/7, which will change to Primary 5/6 after Christmas. The link for these classes has been posted on the school's website and social media.

The Primary 1/2/3 classes are taking part in Healthy Kids PE lessons each Friday Morning. Healthy Kids after school has also started on Thursdays. Those children from Primary 1/2/3 who are going to Healthy Kids between 2.00pm and 3.00pm will be supervised by school staff until the lesson starts. There's no need for parents to pick up children at 1.45pm who are going to Healthy Kids. Primary 4/5 children who are going to Healthy Kids between 3.00pm and 4.00pm should be picked up at 4.00pm sharp.

The School's Safeguarding Team consists of Mr Rooney, Designated Officer, Mrs Cassidy/Mr Mc Caul Deputy Designated Officers, Mr Brian Greer, Chairperson of Board of Governors and Mrs Venetta Treanor, Governor Officer for Safeguarding. All the school's child protection policies are available on the school website or on request from the school office. It is essential that parents/guardians read over all the policies and are familiar with their content and then sign the 'Child Consent and Receipt of Policies Form', this should be returned to school no later than Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

The front gates of the school open at 8.30am when the children can go to the yard or the Dinner Hall when it is raining. School starts at 9.00am sharp.



## St Brigid's PS Glassdrummond September 2024 Newsletter

At pick up times, 1.40pm and 3.00pm, children who are being collected should be picked up at the front door of the school and those pupils getting the bus will leave from the dinner hall doors.

If parents would like to discuss anything with their class teacher or the principal about their child, we would ask that they make an appointment through the office. If parents have a minor concern over an aspect of the children's school or homework, they can leave a note in the children's homework diaries/reading records/see saw, which the teacher will see and respond to.

We would again encourage all parents whose children are entitled to free school meals to apply immediately as the school can't give out dinners until we get the names of the children from the Education Authority. Please see link below on how to apply.

<https://freeschoolmealsanduniforms.eani.org.uk/>

We would encourage all parents to register their children on the EZ Payments app even if your child doesn't take dinners or is on free school meals, as this keeps things simpler for the school when we are paying for the dinners. At Present 70% of the children are registered. We will be sending out the instruction sheet over the next week, to all parents who haven't registered their children yet. We appreciate your help in this matter.

We are reminding the children that the school operates a healthy break policy which means that the boys and girls aren't allowed to eat sweets, crisps, biscuit/cereal bars or any unhealthy foods at breaktime. We will insist that these types of food be kept until lunch time. Children should take in something healthy for break, fruit or cut up vegetables for example. We will be putting up reminders of this at regular intervals throughout the year.

Last year the average overall attendance for the school was just 90%. This is well below what would be expected of a primary school. Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing information about the importance of school attendance and running through what happens when a child's attendance falls below a certain percentage. More information to follow.

This year we will be sharing with parents what our targets are for the school year, we come up with our aims for the year though the School Development Plan which helps guide the school over a three-year period. More information to follow.

Last and certainly not least, all the staff and pupils at St Brigid's would like to congratulate Mr Burns and the whole Armagh team on their amazing achievement of capturing the All-Ireland title. We are extremely proud of Mr Burns and his teammates and very grateful for all the joy and excitement that engulfed county Armagh during the summer. Maith sibh, Armagh for Sam 2025!!!!

Mr Mc Caul