



St Brigid's PS Glassdrummond

Nuachtlitir Meán Fómhair 2025

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 summer break and ready for another school year. We hope that the whole school community has an enjoyable and healthy 2025/26.

It is essential that all parents have access to the school app. Most of the correspondence between the school and home is through the app. If you are having any difficulties with the app or know of anyone experiencing problems, please let us know.

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, 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. Primary 7 pupils can wear their leavers hoodies instead of their school jumpers.

Children can wear their PE gear on the following days:

Primary One Fridays
Primary Two-Fridays
Primary Three- Tuesdays and Fridays
Primary Four- Tuesdays 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. More information to follow.

The Primary 6/7 classes will be doing Tin Whistle classes with Mr Savage every Monday, starting next week, Monday 8th September. There are a limited number of Tin Whistles available at school, for £5, if anyone needs one, anyone who has their own tin whistle should take it in next week.

Gaelic Afterschool coaching will start next Tuesday 9th. 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 app 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. 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 link for the afterschool activities will be posted on school's app and social media..

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 Bernie Greene, 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 26th September.



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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.

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 feel that we have excellent relationships between the school and home and to maintain this it is important that we know about any issues you may have so that we can address them in a prompt manner.

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. We will be sending out the instruction sheets 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. St Brigid's is a nut free school, and we would ask parents to be careful when sending in lunches that they don't use product which contain nuts such as spreads and cereal bars. Many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

Last year a big effort was made to improve the overall school attendance. We would like to thank everyone for their efforts as the closing attendance for the year was 96%. The importance of attending school can't be overstated and we will be monitoring the children's attendance throughout the year.

This year as part of our School Development Plan, which helps guide the school over a three-year period, we will be focusing on building on the excellent teaching and learning which takes place at school, we will be developing Outdoor Learning, particularly with Primary 1/2 and we will be developing a school vision statement and core values. We will be updating you throughout the year on how we are getting on as well as looking for your support in achieving these goals.

Mini Club will be available for Primary 1/2/3 children starting on Monday 8th Sep. There is a charge of £2 per day, this can be paid on the EZ Payments App or by sending money into the school. A bill will be sent home at the end of each month for moneys outstanding.

We are delighted to announce that we are starting a Breakfast Club at school. This will be available each morning from 8.15am. There will be toast and cereal available. The children will then be supervised until school starts. There will be a charge of £1 for this service which can again be paid on the EZ Payments App or money sent in/billed at the end of the month.

If anyone has any queries about either the Mini-Club or Breakfast Club, please contact the school.

After school tuition will begin, for those Primary 7 pupils doing the transfer test, on Monday 8th September, 3.00-4.00pm.



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The school have been using Prim-Ed English, Maths and Spelling books from Primary 2-7 for the last year. We believe these books are a fantastic resource and really reinforce the children's fundamentals in numeracy and literacy. The books are quite costly however and it has therefore been decided to ask parents for a voluntary contribution to help cover the cost of the books. We would ask that Primary 2 parents contributed £8 and Primary 3-7 parents contributed £20. Primary 2 pupils use one book whereas Primary 3-7 pupils use 3 books. If possible, we would ask that this could be sent in before the Halloween break. If anyone has any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact the school. We appreciate you understanding and support in this matter.

We will be continuing with the 'Scoil Spreagtha' scheme this year. The children will be getting lessons in Irish and learning songs and poems. We will be encouraging everyone to use their 'cupla focal' as often as possible, maith sibh.

Le Meas

Mr Mc Caul