



# St. Brigid's / Bunscoil Naomh Bríd

## November news / Nuacht na Samhna

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Dear Parents / A Thuismitheoirí / Caomhnóirí,

Welcome back after the Halloween Break! We are all on board again and ready for part 2 of Term 1, 2025. As always, this is a busy time and especially coming to the close of another calendar year.

During the month of November, we will be remembering all our dead.  
May they Rest in Peace.



If you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress or welfare, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to share them with me or any member of the staff. As always, thank you for your continued help and support.

Ursula O' Hanlon

### **Seoladh Suíomh na Scoile /School Website Address**

<https://www.stbrigidspstirkane.com>

Please log onto our school website to keep abreast of what is happening in our school.

Enjoy looking at activities and events your children have been engaging in during this term so far and getting the dates for forthcoming events. If you have any suggestions about our website, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

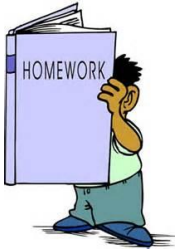


### **Tosaíonn an lá scoile ar 9 a Chlog / Class begins at 9am.**

Please try to have all children in school for 9am. Classes line up and are in their rooms for 9:00am every morning. Rolls are taken and morning routines are underway. There are a few pupils who arrive very late every morning and we ask that you do your best to have the children at school by 9am. Activities such as spelling practice/AR quizzes take place in the early morning and late comers can be disruptive to these routines.

## Seesaw App for Communication with all teachers / Cumarsáid le Múinteoirí

It is important that all parents connect to the Seesaw app for their child's/children's class. By this stage you will all have received a QR code to get you started. Unfortunately, a number of parents are still not connected. If you are experiencing difficulty with getting on to Seesaw please contact your class teacher and they will help. This will be the main tool for communication between you as parents and your teacher so please make sure you can receive and send messages. Homework and explanation of some tasks will be posted on Seesaw; therefore it is vital that everyone is connected to their child's account.



**Obair Baile / Homework:** Talking to your child about what they did at school that day, reading with your child, encouraging them with their learning work and overseeing written work, plays a part in how you can make a difference to your child's progress. This is important in the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and 2 where foundations for life-long learning are being put in place. Your support in this area will bode well for your child's progress and development. Teachers have had to speak to a number of children who are doing their homework on the bus. Please discuss this issue with your child /children and reinforce our message that homework should always be done at home/childminders and that presentation and good handwriting is vital. Thank you for your continued co-operation.

## Sean Marty Lockhart

Sean Marty will visit the school to start working with our Yr 7s pupils on a Monday for 6 weeks. We are so grateful for the expertise and skills shared with our pupils. They are really looking forward to this sporting fixture.



## Seachtain Frithbhualaíochta /Anti-Bullying Week

Dé Luain /Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Dé hAoine / Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 will take place from Monday 10th - Friday 14th November, with the theme: **Power for Good.**

Odd Socks Day will be on **Monday 10th November**, where adults and children wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.



The children from R4-R7 and P4-P7 will take part in Anti-Bullying workshops facilitated by **Hip-Psychology**.

**The workshops will help the children understand the impact of harsh words on others.**

## Questionnaire/Suirbhe

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent questionnaire about St Brigid's Tirkane/Bunscoil Naomh Bríd Tír Chiana. Throughout the school year we will endeavour to address some of the issues and points raised by both you the parents and the children. Quite a few parents were very unsure about RSE and the way in which we cater for it. With this in mind, we will hold an information evening on RSE- Relationships and Sexuality Education. We aim to answer all your queries on the night. The information evening will take place on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November** at 7pm. We hope to see a large crowd there.

### After Schools Clubs

There will be an After School Music club on **Wednesdays from the 12<sup>th</sup> November**. Anyone who plays an instrument is welcome to attend. We will be practising for the Christmas Carol Service. The club will run for 6 weeks from **3 - 4:30pm**

**In response to the questionnaire we will also run a homework club on Mondays from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November from 3 – 4:30pm**

**Please message your child's teacher on Seesaw if you are interested in this club so that we can get an idea of numbers attending.**

### Aq taisteal chun na scoile / abhaile / Journey to and from school

The bus journey to and from school should be a pleasant one for all concerned. Please have a word with your child/children about the importance of **good behaviour, wearing seatbelts and staying in seats** on the bus journey to and from school. This is an issue that we are constantly being made aware of by all bus drivers who ferry our pupils to and from our school. Thank you.



### Parish Sacramental Talk for parents/ Cruinniú Sacramintiúil do thuismitheoirí

**On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7pm**, the Parish Sacramental talk will be hosted by Fr Doherty in St Mary's Chapel and it is for all families of P4/R4 and P7/R7 in preparation for the sacraments of 1<sup>st</sup> Confession, 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion and Confirmation.

**On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November** the same talk will be given to parents of children who will receive their sacraments in Granaghan Parish. It will be in St John's Primary School Swatragh at 7pm, hosted by Fr Keaney.



### Dairy Council/Comhairle Déiriochta Ceardlann Bia agus Aclaíochta / Food and Fitness Workshop.

The Dairy Council will put on a workshop for the children in YRS 5/6 on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November** The Food and Fitness programme has been developed by the Dairy Council for Northern Ireland to help teach primary school children at Key Stage 2 learn about the benefits of a healthy, balanced diet and an active lifestyle.

### Grianghraif Scoile / School Photographs

Tempest Photography will take individual and family photographs on

**Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> November.** Don't forget your brush and comb! 😊



### Legion of Mary

**Dé Máirt / Tuesday 11th November.**

The Legion of Mary group will meet the pupils of R7 and P7 at 11am in the assembly hall.

## Tionól / Assembly

P1/2 pupils will stage their Class Assembly on **Friday December 5<sup>th</sup>** at 10am.

Parents and grandparents are most welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the hall.

## Spraí Oíche Shamhna / Halloween Fun

The Halloween Day was a great success in the school. The children and staff had a wonderful morning on the Halloween Catwalk. Thank you for all the effort that you put into the children's costumes. All photos can be viewed on our Facebook page.



## The Book Fair/ Margadh Leabhar

We sincerely thank everyone who bought books at the Book Fair. Our school community spent **over £2500!** This in turn will enable us to buy books for the school library and for sets of class novels. Thank you to Mrs Mc Mullen for organising the Bookfair.



## Éide Scoile / School Uniform

As the winter approaches, we stress that all children wear a **warm coat** and safe footwear to school. The school uniform must be worn at all times (including PE uniform). It is important that all uniforms are clearly labelled. We have a number of items already in the lost property box with no names.

## Comórtas Centra / Bradley's Centra Halloween Competition

Congratulations to Emily Rang 2 who won the annual Halloween colouring competition for Foundation Stage pupils.

Well Done Emily!

## Open Morning/ Maidin Oscailte

On **Thursday 11th December** there will be an open morning for parents/guardians who wish to send their child/children to the school in the new academic year **2025/26**. This will begin at 10am for a short tour of the school up to 10:30am. Classes will be continuing as normal.

## Comhairle na Scoile / School Council

The new school council for 25/26 has been elected and we look forward to their assistance and leadership skills being developed in helping to continue to make our school a happy and safe place for everyone. The school council will be guided by Mrs Ciara Cassidy and we thank her for her invaluable help with the pupils involved.



### Oideachas Comhroinnte / Shared Education

Our final session with Yr 4 will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. This time the children will travel to Dunclug Primary School. The children are all looking forward to their day out.

### Outdoor Play Resources/ Áiseanna don Súgradh Faoin Aer

As part of the curriculum, Outdoor Play is a very important part of our school day. We are appealing again this year for the following items to build upon resources:

- Old pots and pans
- Old kitchen utensils such as serving/mixing spoons
- Tyres (as big as possible)
- Palettes
- Planks of wood
- Tree trunk off cuts
- Old tools
- Pieces of hose/guttering



The list could go on and on. There may be other interesting items in sheds and garages around the country that could be used in Outdoor Play. Please have a look and see if you could donate.



### Seirbhís Charúl na Nollag / Carol Service 2025

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place on **9<sup>th</sup> December** in St Mary's Church Maghera. Members of our school choir will also be appearing live in Meadowlane Shopping Centre to do a spot of Christmas Carolling in festive attire on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**. We will send more information out nearer to the time.

On **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November** we have been asked to participate in the "Christmas Lights Switch On" in Maghera at the Walled Garden. Festivities will begin at 3pm and end at 5pm. Our slot for performing will be confirmed nearer the time.

### Dinnéar na Nollag / Christmas Dinner

On **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December** 2025 pupils will have their school Christmas Dinner. This will be a full day at school. Buses and Yr1 & Yr2 parents will collect their children as usual at 2.00pm and if they so wish they can also take older brothers and sisters in the family home at the same time. Pupils from P3-P7 who have no brothers or sisters in Yr1 & Yr2 will go home by bus at 3:00pm.



## Dátaí don Dialann /Dates for your Diary

Some of the dates sent out have been changed or confirmed. Please see below the finalised dates for all ceremonies.

- Enrolment ceremony for Yrs 4 and 7 on **3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10:30am** in the school assembly hall.
- Confirmation for pupils of Bunscoil Naomh Bríd will take place **on Saturday 14th March 2026** in St. Patrick's Church Glen at 11.00am
- Confirmation for pupils in the Maghera Parish will take place on **Saturday 21st March 2026** in St. Mary's Church Maghera at 11:00am.
- Confirmation for children from the Granaghan Parish will also be on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026** in St. John's Church Granaghan at 2pm.
- First Confession / An Chéad Fhaoistin  
First Confession for children from Maghera Parish /Bunscoil Naomh Bríd **12<sup>th</sup> March** in school.
- First Confession for children from Granaghan Parish will also be held in school on a date to be confirmed.
- First Holy Communion for Bunscoil Naomh Bríd - **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2026** in St. Mary's Church Maghera at 11:00am
- First Holy Communion for St Brigid's (Children from the Maghera Parish) **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026** in St. Patrick's Church Glen at 11:00am
- First Holy Communion for St Brigid's (Children from Granaghan Parish) **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June** at 2pm in St John's Church Granaghan.
- The Loughderg retreat for the Confirmandi will be on Wednesday **11<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.