



St Brigid's /Bunscoil Naomh Bríd

Nuachtlitir Márta/ Newsletter March 2026



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Foireann Slánchumhdaithe / Safeguarding Team:

Múinteoir Clare O'Kane (Designated Teacher for Child Protection),

Ursula O' Hanlon (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)

Shauna Mc Cusker (Governor responsible for Safeguarding)

Dear Parents / A Thuismitheoirí / Chaomhnóirí,

Spring has sprung and we are all well settled in classes and working hard in the 2nd part of Term 2. School is very busy in every area of the curriculum. Throughout Lent we are trying to be kind towards each other in school and on the bus.

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress or welfare, please do not hesitate to contact me or any teacher/múinteoir at the school.

It is important to check the school FaceBook Page, website, monthly newsletters and calendar to keep up to date with upcoming events within the school. www.stbrigidsprimaryschooltirkane.com

If you have any comments or suggestions feel free to email to our info@ account and we will do our best to take all views on board. info@stbrigidsps.maghera.ni.sch.uk

Every month things can just "crop up" and events get added to our already busy calendar. When this happens, we will do our best to notify you in a timely manner.

Thank you for your continued help and support.

Ursula O' Hanlon

Sacramint na hAithrí / Sacrament of First Penance

The Sacrament of Penance will take place on 2 different dates.

P4 pupils from Glen Parish: Thursday 12th March 2026 in school

R4 daltaí: Thursday 12th March 2026 in school

P4 pupils from Granaghan Parish Thursday 19th March 2026 in school (Fr Mc Dermot will stand in for Fr Keeney. Please note this date was arranged with Fr Keeney but Fr Mc Dermot may change it.)



Confirmation 2026/Cóineartú 2026

- **Saturday 14th March 2026** do dáлтаí Bunscoil Naomh Bríd **11:00am** in St Patrick's Church, Glen.
- **Saturday 21st March 2026** for children from Maghera Parish at **11:00am** in St Mary's Church, Maghera
- **Saturday 21st March** for children from Granaghan Parish at **2:00pm** in St John's Church, Swatragh.



Legion of Mary

Tuesday 24th March Yr 4

Tuesday 10th March Yr 6 11am in the assembly hall.

Health and Safety in the mornings and afternoons.

We ask that all parents and carers exercise extreme caution during the morning drop off and afternoon pickups. We have had several incidents where children have had to walk behind reversing vehicles to get in and out through the school gates. We are becoming increasingly concerned about the safety of our pupils at these times. We have had representatives from EA Transport out to advise and they strongly suggest that children who travel by car are dropped off at An Carn, where they can walk through the side gates safely.

The entrance to the school must be kept clear at all times.



Tuairimí/Opinions

Rang 6 were very busy preparing for and taking part in a speaking competition, Tuairimí where they had just 1 minute to get across their opinion on any topic that they are interested in. We have 5 finalists who will compete against other Rang 6 daltaí from the neighbouring Gaelscoileanna on Tuesday evening at 6pm in Gaelcholáiste Dhoire. Parents and children from Rang 6 are all welcome too come along to support.

Ádh Mór Orthu!



Swimming/ Snámh

P5/6/7 pupils have the opportunity to avail of swimming lessons this term. Lessons will commence on Friday 6th March and will run for 10 weeks. A payment item was opened on ParentPay for swimming and can be paid now. Rang 5 have already begun and their lessons will continue on Tuesdays. Please have a talk with your children to get them prepared for the changing room and impress upon them the need to be quick and careful with their belongings.

Scrúduithe Litearthachta Tri Mheán na Gaeilge / IM Literacy Tests

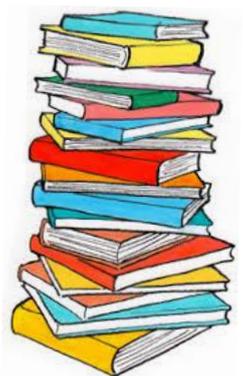
Our school is taking part in Literacy tests in the Irish Language as part of CCEA Adaptive Assessments. The tests will take place this week for Rang 4/7

Lá Domhanda na Leabhar / World Book Day

Thursday 5th March 2026

To celebrate World Book Day the pupils will participate in a range of Literacy/Reading activities in the school. On that day we can all come to school in our “comfy clothes” with a book to read. I hope the children enjoy these activities.

Photographs will be posted on the school website for all the parents to see.



Seachtain Na Gaeilge 2026

As part of our 25 year celebrations, all pupils in school will be carrying out a range of activities in class to celebrate our language and our culture during Seachtain na Gaeilge which begins on Friday 6th March and runs on various days right throughout the month.

- Friday 6th March Lá na nGael R1-4 Scéalaíocht/Story Telling
- Monday 9th March Lá na Gaelscoileanna R5/6/7 at 10am An Carn
- Monday 9th March Lá na Gaelscoileanna P5/6/7 at 1:30pm An Carn
- Thursday 5th March Comórtas Dramaíocht R6/7 An Omaigh
- Friday 13th March Céilí in An Carn



Céilí na Scoile / School Céilí & Green Day Friday 13th March 2026



As part of the activities for Seachtain na Gaeilge pupils can wear something Green into school on Friday 13th March. The school will stage a Céilí / Musical session on that day. The pupils will have the opportunity to watch their peers perform their class dance at the céilí, sing together and



hear some traditional music in An Carn. We warmly extend an invitation to all parents/grandparents to share in the festivities. The Céilí will take the form of 2 sessions: **Yrs 1-4 at 10am and Yrs 5-7 at 11:30am.** Videos will be posted throughout the day for parents/guardians so that all can enjoy the celebrations

Photographs will be posted on the school website and Facebook page for everyone to see.

GarageBand with Eamon continues with R5 and R6.

All compositions will be posted on our FB page when they are ready for an audience!



World Down Syndrome Day 2026 21st March

We will be marking World Down Syndrome Day on Friday 21st March 2026. To help celebrate the message that we are all unique and wonderfully different, we invite all children to come to school wearing odd socks on Friday 20th March. This simple act helps raise awareness and shows our support for inclusion and diversity.

**“Odd socks here, odd socks there,
Let’s spread kindness everywhere!
Different colours, patterns too
Being unique is what we do!”**



Thank you for joining us in celebrating this special day!

School Photographer/Griangrafadóir Scoile



Colette and the team from Tempest will return to the school on Tuesday 31st March to take class photos in Yrs 1, 4 and 7. If you missed the opportunity to get your child's photo taken please contact the school and you will get a slot then.

Internet/Media Safety/Mobile/Social Sites



In our school, every possible effort has been made to ensure the safety of all pupils while on the internet. The school has an Internet Safety Policy, and the pupils are aware of the procedures within this policy. Mobile phones are not permitted in school for pupils. In the case of an emergency, contact is made with home via the landline in the General Office.

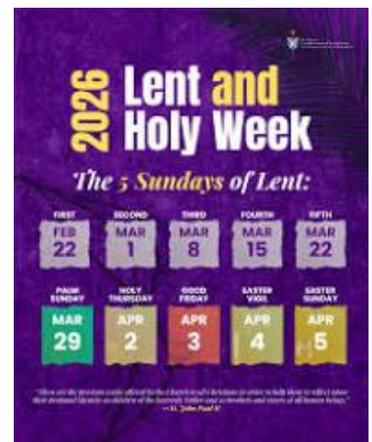
We have had requests from parents to talk to all children about various groups that they are involved in. We will continue to guide and direct our pupils as best we can, but we wish to point out that no child should be on Snapchat, Instagram, FaceBook or in a WhatsApp group until the age of 13.

Séasúr an Charghais / Lenten Season

During Lent pupils from Yr1 to Yr7 are being encouraged again to carry out random acts of kindness amongst their friends at school, their families at home and their neighbours where it is safe and possible.

In school we are also working on standing quietly in our class lines at key times: lining up in the morning after singing/outdoor activity, coming to and going from assembly. I would ask you to talk to the children at home and help them to understand the importance of listening to the adult in charge and of showing respect when learning songs in the hall.

Children have also been asked to bring in adult coats for men and women to be donated the homeless shelter in Belfast. Múinteoir Gemma will arrange for them to be dropped off at the shelter.



Lough Derg Retreat for P7/R7/ Cúrsa Spioradálta do R7/P7



Pupils in P7/R7 are getting an opportunity to go on a one day retreat to Lough Derg. They will be accompanied by their teachers/muinteoírí. All pupils will need to take a clean jam jar which has been washed and the paper peeled off it and a packed lunch. (For those in receipt of free school meals, lunch will be provided) We are very grateful to Fr. Doherty who is funding this valuable spiritual experience on Wednesday 11th March. We will leave from the carpark at Glen Chapel at **8:00am and return for 4:30pm.**

Córas Teachaireachtaí na Scoile/ School Messaging System

It is important that you notify the school secretary if you have changed your mobile number or if you are aware that the school has sent out a text / Seesaw message and you haven't received it.

Please ensure that the "Family" account is active on your device as messages sent out to parents on Seesaw will only appear on the family account. Whole school communication will not be sent to children's individual accounts. If you need another code, please send a note with your child and we will print out a new one for you.

Nut free School



It is vitally important that all children adhere strictly to this school rule. Anyone who brings in a product containing nuts/nut essences will not be allowed to eat it.

Dataí do do Dhialann / Key dates

Loughderg P7/R7 retreat **Wednesday 11th March 2026**

Cóineartú **Saturday 14th March 2026** Bunscoil Naomh Bríd at 11:00am in St Patrick's Church Glen

Confirmation – **Saturday 21st March 2026** for pupils in Glen Parish in St Mary's Church Maghera at **11am.**

Confirmation _ **Saturday 21st March** for pupils in Granaghan Parish at 2pm

Holy Communion – **Saturday 30th May 2026** for R4 pupils in Bunscoil Naomh Bríd in St Mary's Church Maghera at 11am.

Holy Communion – **Saturday 6th June 2026** for P4 pupils from Glen Parish in St Patrick's Church at 11am

Holy Communion – **Saturday 6th June 2026** for P4 pupils from Granaghan Parish in St John's Church at 2pm.



Saoire na Scoile / School Holidays

The school will be CLOSED on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17th March 2026 – St Patrick's Day

Cáirde Naomh Bríd/ Friends of St Brigid's

Helping to build a better school environment for all.

Cairde Naomh Bríd have decided to run "Split the Pot" again for the remainder of this school year. Envelopes will be distributed soon and in time for the first draw which will be on Friday 13th March at the Céilí.

The group have also offered to take charge of the annual Easter raffle. The children will be asked to bring in 1 item for the raffle. Something to do with Easter/Spring.

The collection will run for 2 weeks (Week beginning 16th March) and the volunteers from the fundraising committee will come into the school to make up hampers for the raffle. These will be on display in the assembly hall. The eldest child in each family will get a sheet... £1 per square. The raffle will take place in the last week of Term 2.

This enthusiastic group of parents would like to put out a call for more members. They have a wealth of ideas on fundraising for much needed school resources but more volunteers are needed to share the load.

We really appreciate all help and support given by Cáirde Naomh Bríd / Friends of St Brigid's.



The school will close for the Easter Break From Wednesday 1st April 2026 (Staff development day) and will re-open on Monday 13th April 2026 for all pupils and staff.

Enjoy your Easter Break.