



## St. Brigid's PS Tirkane/Bunscoil Naomh

### Bríd Tír Chiana Newsletter/Nuachtlitir May/Bealtaine 2026



Phone: 028 79643346

email: [info@stbrigidsps.maghera.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stbrigidsps.maghera.ni.sch.uk)

**Safeguarding Team:** Múinteoir Clare O' Kane (Designated Teacher for Child Protection),  
**Foireann Slánchumhaidthe** Ursula O' Hanlon (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)  
Shauna McCusker (Governor responsible for Safeguarding)

Dear Parents / A Thuismitheoirí / Caomhnóirí,

Term 3 has begun in St. Brigid's/Bunscoil Naomh Bríd and promises to be as busy as ever! The children in Yr 4 will receive their First Holy communion so the staff and pupils will be working hard towards this very important event in our school year.

The annual standardised tests will also be undertaken in May and the children have all been asked to revise and prepare well, in order to do their best. We all wish them well.

We have set up our May Altars for the Marian Month and we ask the children to "Bring Flowers of the Fairest" throughout the month for Mary our mother.

Sports Day is drawing closer too so there is much to be done.

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 us.

Le Dea Ghuí

Ursula O' Hanlon

### Suíomh Gréasáin na Scoile / School Website

<https://www.stbrigidspstirkane.com>



### Altóir na Bealtaine / May Altar

Throughout the month of May, we would like the children to bring in some flowers and religious artefacts related to Our Lady for our May altars at the front door of the main building and in the Foyer of Bunscoil Naomh Bríd.



## ParentPay Bills



Dear parents,

We are experiencing difficulty with some of the payment items here at school.

- Break/Sos for the Foundation Stage children in Yrs 1 & 2
- School dinners
- Swimming for Yrs 5/6/7
- Afterschool Club for Yrs 1 & 2
- Toast throughout the school for Yrs 3-7

We have done an in-depth assessment of the outstanding monies for all of the above. Please check your accounts to make sure they are up to date.

With regards to the toast bills, we really need to address this issue. Some children are ordering 1/2 slices of toast in class and these orders are recorded daily by the C/As but there is a substantial amount of money outstanding for toast (£100s of pounds) We ask that you have a chat with your children to find out if they are taking toast and how much. If you are unsure of your bill, please contact the school and we will get a total for you.

**After our midterm break, we will review the situation and paper bills will be sent out.**

## First Holy Communion/ An Chéad Chomaoineach

The children in Yr 4 will receive the Sacrament of First Communion on:



**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's Chapel, Maghera for Bunscoil Naomh Bríd pupils at 11am**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June for Children from Maghera parish in St. Patrick's Church Glen at 11am**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June for pupils from Granaghan parish in St. John's Church Swatragh at 2pm**



## Teisteanna Deireadh Bliana / End of Year Tests

The end of year tests are scheduled for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May and will run until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026. In order for these tests to run smoothly we expect

**FULL ATTENDANCE** during the testing weeks.

We are also continuing to take part in pilot assessments for CCEA in Literacy and Numeracy (English and Irish medium) These assessments will also run throughout the testing fortnight.

**It would be very much appreciated if all appointments are scheduled outside of this period.**

## School Trip/Turas Scoile

The 2nd June is fast approaching and the children (Yrs 3-7) will be getting very excited about our

**BIG DAY OUT in Emerald Park.**

The cost of the trip has been calculated and placed on ParentPay.

**The cost includes access to all areas of the park, a hot lunch on site and the coach.**



**We ask that all money for the trip be paid in full by Friday 22nd May.**

## School Trip/Turas Scoile

### Cosmic Kids



The teachers in Yr 1/2 have their end of year trip booked.

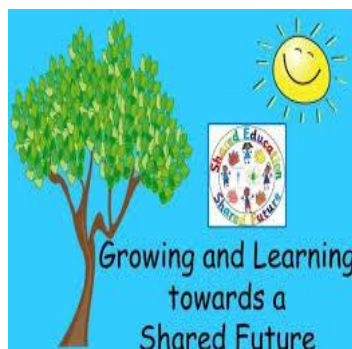
P1/2 - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June

R1/2 - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

The cost of the trip is £15 per person and this includes a Play Session, Meal, Ice Cream and party bag as well as the bus.

Due to the huge increase in bus transport the trip worked out at £20 per person. However, we will subsidise the trip.

### Shared Education



**Yr 6 Session 4 "Be Active" Hosted by our school Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

**Yr 5 Session 4 "Be Active" Hosted by our school Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

**Yrs 5 and 6 Sponsored Walk in Dunlug in support of St. Vincent De Paul Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

### Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary group will meet again with the pupils of Yr4 on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 11am in the assembly hall and with Yr 7 on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

We thank Kathleen and Helen for their sincere efforts to enhance the understanding of the bible stories to our pupils. The children always enjoy the talks and answer out very well.



### Love For Life

This excellent programme will be available to all pupils in Yr 7.

The name of the bespoke programme is "What's Inside!"

The Yr 6 pupils will also be introduced to Love for Life by taking part in the workshop "Choices and Changes"

Details of the content of both workshops can be viewed by following the link below.

[What's Inside? | Love For Life](#)

A permission slip will be sent out and must be returned before the workshops take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

## **Assembly for R2 / Tionól R2**

Rang 2 pupils will be staging their class assembly under the direction of Múinteoir Clare O'Kane on Friday 29th May at 10.00am. All parents/guardians/grandparents are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the assembly hall.



## **Imeachtaí Spóirt / Sporting Fixtures**

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April All County Hurling Championships at GLEN/SWATRAGH**  
**Congratulations/Comhghairdeas to the boys who won the All County Hurling Championships on Wednesday! We are so proud of you.**



**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May All County Camogie Championships at Greenlough**

**Thursday 21st May SD Boys' Football Championship Div 1 at Glen pitch.**

**Ádh Mór Oraibh go Léir!**

## **Sports' Day / Lá Spóirt 2026**

Weather permitting, we aim to hold our Annual Sports' Day on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026** at Slaughtneil GAA pitch. In the event of the weather not going our way, we will endeavour to run the Sports' Day off on the next best day here at school. We are as always so grateful to the club for their continued support.



## **Aisteoirí Carn Tóchair**



Comhghairdeas to our fine young actors who won the All Ireland Dramaíocht finals in Mullingar on Monday 27th April, representing Club Óige, An Charn. We are so proud of you all! Míle Buíochas to Diarmuid, Aoife, Joe and Marian for giving the children the wonderful opportunity and experience.

**Comhghairdeas libh go léir a pháistí!**

## **Signing Pupils out Early/ Ag fágáil na scoile go luath.**

Pupils who leave school early for any reason must be signed out by a parent/guardian using the sign out slips at the reception. The slip must be handed in to the office for record keeping and the secretary. We ask for your full support for these procedures which are in place to safeguard all children.

## **Nótaí Neamhláithreach / Absence Notes**

If your child is off school, a note/email/Seesaw message/phone call must be made to explain the absence. The EWO (Education Welfare Officer) will visit the school to check attendance and will request documentation to correspond with days missed.

**We ask you to comply with this request as we in turn have to provide the information to the EA.**

**"Unexplained Absences" will be the code recorded if notes/phone calls/Seesaw messages/emails are not received explaining reasons for absences.**



We are grateful to ICT Co-ordinator Aisling Mc Erlean who lead the children through the year and the Múinteoir Clare O' Loughlin for her help with the project. They will now enjoy a day out in the SSE Arena for a graduation ceremony to be held on **12th May 2026**.

**Congratulations/Comhghairdeas to our new Dreamspace Ambassadors!**

### **Fan The Flames Mass for Confirmati in the Derry Diocese**

Fan the Flame Mass celebrates all the children who have received the sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Derry during the past year. The children will travel to Derry's Celtic Park for the occasion on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**.



**All pupils will decorate a plain white T-shirt for the occasion. We ask that the T-shirts are all in school for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May so that they will be ready to wear on the day.**

### **Moving On Up/Ag Bogadh Suas**

We will take the opportunity to move up into new classrooms/Yr groups on the 4<sup>th</sup> June when all Yr 7s are out for the day. On this day we will also welcome our 37 new entrants for September 2026.

### **Parents' Evenings/Trathnóna Tuismitheoirí**

Múinteoir Gemma (SENCO) has arranged for a Neurological Practitioner to come in to talk to parents. The date of this evening is yet to be confirmed.



**Thank you to all who came to our OT session last night, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May and to Leona Mc Aler who gave a great talk on an introduction to Neurological Pathways. Leona is looking forward to coming into work with the children.**

### **Forthcoming Events/Dates for the Diary / Dátaí do do Dhialann**

#### **May Holidays**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May (Mid Term Break)**

**School will reopen on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May for all pupils.**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May School Development day Staff Training**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday**

**There may be other events through the month of May which have not been detailed in this newsletter, but we will post on our FaceBook/Seesaw/Website as and when anything may arise.**

**Le Meas**

**Ursula O' Hanlon**