Welcome to the latest issue of The Bridge Newsletter, packed with photos and stories!

A Message from Principal Mrs Quinn

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Bridge Magazine. What a busy year we have had in St Bride’s and this term is no exception. In this edition you will read about the many opportunities the children have had to learn in such varied and interesting ways, both inside and outside of the classroom. Once again the school teams and individual pupils have achieved highly in sporting, dramatic and creative writing endeavours. High praise goes to two of our pupils who have won writing competitions - you can read about their success in this edition.

The Board of Governors, staff, parents and pupils wish Mr Murray a long and happy retirement as he leaves St Bride’s after 25 years of service. Mr Murray will be fondly remembered for his child-centred approach to teaching, his expertise in all things ICT and his excellent ability to administer First Aid. His slings, dressings and strappings have been complimented on more than one occasion by hospital staff throughout Belfast!

The Sound of Music was a musical triumph and the children were amazing. I wish our year 7 pupils the best of luck in their new schools and all pupils the happiest of Summers. You have all worked so hard this year, you are ready for some fun. Stay safe and see you in September.

Mary Rose Quinn

Finn Wins Silver on Radio Two 500 word Competition

On Thursday 7th of June 2018, I travelled with my Mum to London to attend the BBC Radio 2 500 words short story competition at Hampton Court Palace. I was one of 50 finalists (age 5-9 and 10-13) from over 134,000 entries. Chris Evans, the founder of 500 words, was our host and the final was broadcast live on his breakfast show. I was really just enjoying being at the final especially seeing Bastille and Alexandra Burke and John Newman perform. I wasn’t expecting things to get any better but they did when my name was called out by Jim Broadbent (Professor Slughorn from Harry Potter and Paddington star) as the silver medal winner, 500 words 2018 in age group 5-9. I got to introduce Jim and my story to millions of listeners live on Radio 2. Jim then read my story ‘The Little Messenger’ live on the radio to millions of people. I was so excited and proud to listen to such a famous actor read my story. Then all the winners were called up to the stage for a photograph with the judges and musicians as an audience of 3000 people applauded. The winners were then taken by Chris Evans and the Duchess of Cornwall for a spin around Hampton Court in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!! It was brilliant!!! We drove to the Royal Barge ‘Gloriana’ owned by the Queen and were taken for a private tea and treats on board with the judges and the Duchess. 500 words was a fantastic experience, making it true that you just never know where reading lots of books and writing stories might take you!!! Finn Yr 5
The Life-Cycle of the Butterfly

During Spring, we watched the life-cycle of the butterfly happen in our Yr1 classroom. We watched our caterpillars munching and crunching every day. Then they formed chrysalises and hung from the top of the tub. The chrysalises didn’t move for a long time, they hung very still. One day when we came in to school, there was a brand new butterfly! During school the next day, we noticed something moving - it was the second butterfly coming out of the chrysalis!!! The chrysalis had gone transparent. We saw how its wings were wet and crumpled and the ink went into the wings for colour. We watched it use its proboscis to drink the sugar water we fed it. It was amazing! Eventually we had to release our butterflies! At first we were a bit sad and reluctant to release them but excited too because the life-cycle was going to keep going and going and going!! We loved learning about the life-cycle of the butterfly and learned lots of new words. Yr1 Wynne

Yr1 McNamee 'Play Park Fun!'

We have loved going to the Play Park all year, we have gone on grey days, windy days, cold days, sunny days, foggy days and one day we even got caught in a hail storm! We have explored, shared, worked as a team, solved problems and giggled! We hope the rest of Term 3 is nice and dry so we can visit each week in June!
Summer Fun in the Nursery Playground

We have been having lots of fun in the Nursery Playground this year. We are very lucky that we get to visit it once a week. Now that it is the summer term the sun has been shining lots. We love to play dressing up and you can see some knights, princesses and dragons. We love to play in the mud, kitchen and sand. We are all great at climbing the equipment. We are great friends and are great at sharing and taking turns. Mrs Merron is very proud of how we have worked and socialised this year. Have a wonderful summer everyone from the girls and boys in Yr. 1 M.

Our Trip to W5

On Tuesday 1st May our class visited W5. We were so excited to be travelling in style-on a double decker bus! We played in the Discovery area and reached high heights on Climb It before meeting Sean the scientist who led us in an experiment to test waterproof materials. We had been learning all about Materials in school and impressed Sean with our properties of materials knowledge. We tested different materials to see which one would be suitable to build a bridge for the Three Little Pigs to cross safely. We predicted that the metal would be the best to use and we were right! We really enjoyed our day at W5 and can’t wait to visit again soon. Yr. 2 C.

Tomas is a Winner!

Tomas is the winner of the first heat of a writing competition with Explore Learning. The competition was open to all schools in the UK. The winning entries from the first heat shall be read, and the final winner picked, by - no other than David Walliams !!!! Tomas wrote a lovely story about Victor because he keeps children safe on the road and always has the biggest smile on his face. He even has a smile on his lollipop! Tomas is pictured with Victor, Mrs Toal, his mum and Dad, Gordon from Explore learning and the children who share a table with our talented wee man. Tomas, we are so proud of you in St Bride’s. Yr 2 T.
Seaside Creatures Invade

Yr2 O’Prey have been enjoying the warm weather, learning about the seaside. They have learnt about seaside holidays 100 years ago. They were amazed to discover people used to drink sea water. Yuk! They also learnt that ice-creams 100 years ago came in paper and not in a cone. This week the children made a seaside object. They all worked so hard. Juliette and Mohamed made a lighthouse. Ethan, Hannah and Joanna made a jellyfish. There are boats, an octopus, shark and even a mermaid! Great job children.

Yr.2 O’P

What a Difference a Year Makes

When we started Yr.2 Mc D we were a little scared because it was all new. Our teacher always lets us play on a Monday morning and we get to choose our toys. Lego and the Doll’s House were always picked first.

We learned about ourselves and our bodies and went to see Stuffee in the Ulster Museum.

After that we had the best Halloween party and even learned about skeleton bones.

Christmas was brilliant because all the class joined in our school play and everyone got a part.

We had Autumn walks and Spring walks. We even measured things outside. It was fun.

St Brigid is the Patron Saint of Ireland and the Pope said to be happy in your family because they share love.

A shark is a carnivore. He eats meats but not really humans.

Our Sports Day was the best and we all got a sticker for taking part. Miss McDermott and Miss Gráinne said we are ready for next year in Yr.3 We loved Yr.2 and had lots of fun learning! Luke and Charlotte Yr2 Mc D
Our Visit from Louis Braille!

Yr3 Collins had great fun hot seating Louis Braille. We thought of lots of interesting questions we would like to ask Louis Braille. We then took turns being Louis Braille and even got to dress in clothes that Louis might have worn.

Yr 3 Y Sports Day

It’s all about ‘taking part’ as they say and we certainly did that on our windy and wet sports day in June. We ran with the egg and spoon, sprinted with the baton, took the ball under and over in team games and then hopped, skipped and ran frantically in the obstacle! It’s good to celebrate our successes too and we did that with certificates, claps and best of all ................ lollipops!!

Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale is famous because she changed nursing and helped the soldiers in the Crimean war.

She was born on the 12th May 1820. Her family were very rich. She had one sister called Parthenope and no brothers. Her father taught her Latin, History, Maths, English, Physics and Greek. When she was an adult she decided to be a nurse. Her parents didn’t approve because they didn’t want her to get sick. Florence refused to listen and became a nurse in Germany. There was a war in Turkey. She heard that more soldiers were dying in hospital than on the battlefield. She knew that she had to help. First she cleaned the Scutari hospital and she got a chef to come from France. She even held the soldiers hand at night. She made lots of changes to nursing. She received the Order of Merit and she was the first woman to get it. She died in 1910 at the age of 90. Polly Yr 3 L
How far can you run?

On Tuesday the 5th of June 2018 our class went to the Ashleigh playground to see how far we could run in 5 and 10 seconds. We turned centimetres into metres. We used trundle wheels and Mrs Gray used a stopwatch. First we estimated the measurement then we did the actual measurement. We worked in groups of 2’s and 3’s. When we were finished running our partners used the trundle wheel and measured the distance that we had ran. A click on the trundle wheel equals a metre. When we had our goes we wrote our scores. After that we walked back and we completed some questions. We were exhausted. We liked going into the Ashleigh playground. We enjoy practical maths.

Joyce and Anna.

How to make Top Hats

Yr3 Mrs Cowan’s class made some delicious Top Hats and wrote a procedure on how to make them. Why not use this procedure to try making some during the summer holidays? Yum!

Needs:
Mixing bowl, Tablespoon, Teaspoon, Bun Case, Melted chocolate, Marshmallow, Smarties

Steps:
Pour a little melted chocolate into the bun case using a tablespoon.

Place a marshmallow into bun case, in the middle of the melted chocolate.

Dab a little bit of melted chocolate onto the top of the marshmallow using a teaspoon.

Place one Smartie on top of the marshmallow and melted chocolate.

Put the Top hat into the fridge and wait for it to harden.

Check:
Tap the chocolate with a spoon to check it has hardened.
Give one to your friend and ask if they think it’s a tasty treat!

Aqeelah Yr3 C
First Holy Communion

On Saturday 12th May 2018, I made my First Holy Communion in St. Brigid’s Church. It was a beautiful sunny day and the atmosphere in the church was just wonderful. I was surrounded by my family, friends, teachers and Fr. O’Donnell. We were all very excited about coming together to share this gift from God. My favourite part was singing the songs and receiving Communion. After the service we got to spend time together in the Parish Hall eating lovely buns. Here are a few photographs that were taken on this amazing day. Lucy Yr4 Mc I

Ladybug

As part of our literacy learning Yr 4McKeating read and wrote our own rhyming couplets. We used this learning with our WAU topic Minibeasts to write our own poem. After we wrote this rhyming couplet we all paired with a learning buddy and wrote another poem using the information we had gathered.

Ladybug you little insect
Your tiny wings are just perfect
They’re hiding in your little shell
They help you fly really well
Your body is all shiny and red
Even when you play dead
Your little wings are so hard
I remember when I met you in the yard
I can see several black spots
They look like shiny jelly tots
Your smelly goo isn’t inky
But oh boy it’s so so stinky!!!

Minibeasts

For our minibeast topic we did a music composition. We made up our own songs with instruments to represent a minibeast. We also made up band names. The names of the bands were The Dream Team, The Beetles, The Crawling Caterpillars, The Dragonflies, the Bl’unicorns and The Butterfly Band. We all worked together in our bands to make up the lyrics, and music on our instruments. After we practised, we got up on our class stage and performed our compositions. We all had lots of fun performing and we all received a prize and certificate. We all felt really proud of ourselves.

Saoirse and Ellen Yr4 P
Key Stage 1 Sports Days

Croke Park Visit

We had the absolute joy of going on a trip to visit Croke Park stadium in Dublin which is the home of Gaelic games and the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). We had an amazing tour around the stadium grounds, got a sneak peek inside the dressing rooms and of course got to walk in the footsteps of Gaelic games’ legends by walking through the players’ tunnel! We also got to try out some of our own skills and hold up the trophy to feel like real winners. Croke Park is a magnificent stadium and it was incredible to get to hear about its long history. We then topped off the day by taking a visit to Portmarnock beach where we got to run around the sand and have a little paddle in the refreshingly cold sea. It was an excellent trip to finish off our amazing year in Yr5! Yr 5 Mc A

Year 6!

This year in Year 6 Mrs McKenna’s class we have had a lot of fun. Some days were hard, some were easy and some were very hectic.

Our first WAU topic was the Vikings, this was a great thing to learn about. I thought it was exciting and interesting because of the way they lived and their armour was pretty cool. We all really enjoyed the visit to the Ulster Museum.

Recently, we started new drama lessons which are one my favourite parts of the week. We have learnt tableau, mime and free acting and could not have had a better coach than Rachel Fee from Jazz Hands. Our class did really well in Sports Day and thankfully the weather stayed dry. Fingers crossed our class won!

Yr6 was one of my favourite years in primary school and my class would like to say thank you to Mrs McKenna, Mrs Wright and Mrs Gorman for all their help preparing us for the Transfer Test. We are all looking forward to Yr7!

By Isabella
What a fantastic term it has been for our athletes in St Bride’s. Their dedication and perseverance paid off with some great performances and a number of titles. Thanks to all the teachers and parent volunteers who give of their time it’s much appreciated, without it we couldn’t field teams in these events.

**All County Champions**

Congratulations to our boys’ and girls’ football teams on becoming All County Champions. Following on from our Raffo Cup success, the boys put in two sensational performances against Mount St. Michael’s and Creggan Primary respectively. Our girls’ footballers, who were also league winners, defeated Creggan in a very entertaining contest. Well done to both teams.

**Cross Country**

Our cross country runners were selected to represent Belfast at the inter-council regional finals at Ormeau Park. Both teams performed brilliantly in a talented field. Our boys secured second place with a blistering performance.

**Camogie Title**

Our camogie team made history this year, claiming the school’s first ever league title in the ‘A’ section of the Belfast leagues. Well done to all.

**Belfast Schools’ Representatives**

Congratulations to our seven pupils who were selected to represent Belfast in the annual schools’ game against Dublin. A wonderful achievement for a talented group of players.

**Aquinas Cup**

Our Yr6 footballers got preparation for next year well and truly underway with a brilliant performance in the Aquinas Cup. The lads showed amazing spirit and determination to claim the trophy. Well done to all.
Gyrocopter Investigation

On the 22nd of May, Miss McHugh's Yr7 class carried out an investigation on Gyrocopters. We were put into groups of 4 or 5. The equipment needed to carry out the investigation was scissors, 2 metre sticks, Gyrocopter templates, the sheet to record your times, pencil, stopwatch and a paper clip.

First, we had to cut out our templates of the Gyrocopters. There were 3 different sizes: small, medium and large. Next, we folded our gyrocopters and attached the paper clips to the bottom of each one. We had to make sure that the paper clips were at the bottom and in the middle or else it would not be a fair test: the only thing that we changed each time during the investigation was the size of the gyrocopter.

In our group we each had a job and we rotated the jobs around so we all got to do everything. The jobs were timing the fall of the gyrocopter, dropping the gyrocopter, holding the metre sticks and writing down the times on a sheet. We found out that the largest one stayed in the air the longest because it had the most air resistance. This investigation was really fun and we enjoyed it. Faolán and Owen

Yr7 Cunningham Flight Project

Yr7 Cunningham tested the aerodynamics of their wonderfully designed flight models in the playground. The pupils studied a range of plane designs before constructing their models from recyclable items.

Yr7 Phenomenal End of Year Show

We, the Primary Sevens, have been working for over a month to put together a production of the Sound of Music. It was a very hard but fun experience with a lot of back and forth trips to the Parish hall. The fantastic costumes were made by the wonderful Miss Meehan who worked very hard fixing and adjusting costumes to the right fit. Captain Von Trapp was played by Isaac Robinson and Maria was played by Sophia Erwin. There was lots of help backstage from Mr Cunningham, Miss Meehan, Mr McAuley, Mrs Darragh and Mr Murray who made sure everything ran smoothly. I was a German Dancer and Iseult was a Nun. We have all enjoyed this very much and give great thanks to all the Yr7 teachers who made this possible and were patient and kind with us! We will never forget this lovely experience and will look back with very fond memories and I'm sure that all our family members have had a wonderful experience too!

We were all brilliant and are sad that we can't do this again. Year Six, you have some big shoes to fill!

Sonny and Iseult Yr7 B
School Council

The School Council helped promote a number of innovations around the school. We are constantly liaising with the school senior management team to make improvements to our learning environment. Pupils can make suggestions to their class representative. They in turn bring these to a council meeting and there they will be discussed. If the point being made is valid and achievable it will then be forwarded to the SMT. They consider our recommendation and reply to us. So remember everyone in the school has a voice and you can make a difference.

From next year all representatives will only be able to hold office for one year. So from Yr 5 onwards you have three opportunities to put your name forward for election. You must be prepared for each meeting and willing to work hard.

We got to see how the assembly is meant to work on our visit to Stormont and took away some ideas. Next year we might visit the White House now wouldn’t that be fun? Get voting in November and keep in contact with your class rep they will report back to your class after each meeting and keep you informed about pupil issues. School Council

Yr5 City Sightseeing

On Monday 16th April Mr McCloskey and Mr Fee’s Yr5 classes went on a city sightseeing bus tour, as a part of our World Around Us topic ‘Being and Belonging’. We went past many famous buildings such as the Titanic Quarter, The Albert Clock, Queens University, even Stormont! We saw plenty of murals depicting many different opinions about our past. We have produced famous scientists, musicians and sports people. There is much to be proud of in our city.

Many thanks to Sean the driver and Steven the tour guide who told us lots of interesting facts about our surroundings. We really enjoyed our sightseeing trip and would definitely go back soon.

By Niamh and Zoe 5MY

Yr5F Are Full of Energy!

On Thursday 7th June Yr5F had an amazing visit from Pat Jamison who is an engineer and technology enthusiast. We learned all about renewable energies and how energy can be turned from electricity into motion. You can even make electrical energy from motion: This is called generating electricity. We learnt how the sun can be used to generate electricity using solar panels and how water can be pumped using a motor and solar panels. Our favourite part was when Pat helped us to build our very own electricity generator which harnessed the power of the wind. It was like a mini wind turbine! Renewable energies mean that we don't have to burn fossil fuels to generate electricity so they are eco-friendly, clean and great for the planet!

We are going to be exhibiting a special display to show what we have learned at the Microbot Challenge Sentinus STEM Day in the University of Ulster, Jordanstown on Tuesday 26th June. Why not come and ask someone in our class about it all - we’d be happy to tell you more. Yr5 F
SOUND OF MUSIC

On the 12\textsuperscript{th} and 13\textsuperscript{th} of June 2018 one hundred and fourteen children performed the Sound of Music to packed audiences in St. Bride’s Parish Hall to mark the end of their Yr7 year. The show lasted nearly two hours but it didn’t feel that long as everyone was totally engrossed throughout.

The boys and girls have worked so hard on learning lines, perfecting dance routines and the wonderful songs for the last five weeks. The acting and singing was of a very high standard and all the Yr7 teachers are to be applauded for all their hard work too. Well done and a big thank you to everyone involved for making the Yr7 end of year show such a memorable one!

Y5K Let Their Light Shine

Today Mrs Kennedy’s class had their last class assembly of Yr5. We all let our light shine when singing our songs and putting on a short play of the Quarrelling Colours. We finished with an amazing Talent Show that included poems, songs, dancing, an extract from Billionaire Boy and even a performance from Mid-Summer Nights’ Dream. We have had a great year in Yr5K. We are now looking forward to a long deserved break. Happy Holidays everyone!

Eirinn Yr5K

Water Treatment Plant

When we arrived at the Water treatment works the first thing we noticed was the smell from the grey lake outside the front door of the Visitor’s Centre. Our guide showed us a Powerpoint about where all the waste comes from and how toilets have changed in the past 100 years.

Next, we went downstairs and split into two groups but before we left we had to put on gloves and helmets. The helmets were to make sure birds didn’t poo on our head because there were lots of them and the gloves were to make sure our hands didn’t get dirty.

After that, the first group which included the two dads and a worker from the plant took us to see all the places were the water got treated. We could see the water become clearer at each stage. The birds were drinking from the tanks with the treated water. You would be amazed what they found in the water everything from rubber ducks to mobile phones! What was particularly disgusting was the wipes, literally thousands of them flushed down the loo, they should be put in the bin!

Finally, we got back to the building and began the second activity. We looked at a map which showed us the sewer system in Belfast. Next we went into this tunnel shaped room which showed us the shape of the old sewers in London. When we walked into the next room we saw a machine which was almost 200 years old. It still worked and its purpose was to clean the sewers. It was a very informative trip not somewhere you would think of visiting but a very important place all the same.

Owen Yr 5