



St. Brigid's B.N.S. Killester



JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

**WELCOME
BACKO**

Happy New Year! I would like to extend best wishes to all for a happy and healthy new year. It's a pleasure to see all of the children and staff back at school after a well deserved break.

Ms. Cullen

**Happy
NEW
YEAR**



**School closure
dates to note:**

Closed

St. Brigid's Day Bank Holiday:
Monday 5th February

February Midterm:
**Monday 12th February -
Friday 16th inclusive**

Referendum:
Friday 8th March
(to facilitate voting)

ENROLMENT FOR 2024/25 NOW OPEN!

Applications for Junior Infants and all other classes for September 2024 are currently being accepted until Wednesday 31st January 2024.

We would like to advise prospective parents to read the Admission Policy before making an application. This policy is available to view on our school website www.stbrigidsbns.ie or from the school office.

An Application for Admission Form for September 2024 and the 2024/2025 Annual Admission Notice are also available on our school's website.



**SAVE
THE DATE**

Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day will take place in St. Brigid's B.N.S. on **Thursday 25th January**.

We are delighted to be able to welcome grandparents to this very special day as part of our celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

All grandparents are invited to attend Mass at **10am** in St. Brigid's Church followed by a visit to your grandson's class and a 'cuppa' in the hall.

Please save the date and further details will follow shortly.



**Catholic Schools Week 2024 runs from
Sunday 21st - Saturday 27th January 2024.**

**The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2024 is
"Catholic Schools: Communities of Service".**

In our schools we model love, kindness and care towards ourselves, others, God and creation. In this way our schools are communities of service. This Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate and recognise the unique contribution our schools make at the service of our pupils, our communities and our Church.

Fr. Joseph has invited all classes to visit the church during Catholic Schools Week.



PM READERS

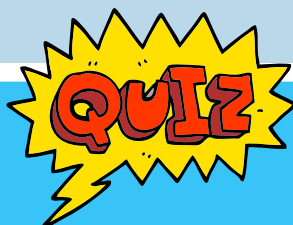
We are delighted to say that following further investment last year the PM reading scheme is up and running in many of our classes. The boys are enjoying the wide range of fiction and non-fiction titles available to them and guided reading will now begin in Senior Infants in the coming term. The PM series is an Australian guided reading programme. Evidence based research has shown that the use of PM readers helps to establish fundamental skills necessary for proficient reading. It also helps to identify weaknesses and strengthen specific skills. Following a period of guided reading in school and at home children begin to build reading fluency, improve attention to detail and expand vocabulary knowledge. It also supports reading comprehension strategies. Further information and details of the programme will be sent to relevant classes shortly. Due to the significant cost of these books, it is essential that great care is taken to ensure that they are not lost or damaged.



THE DAILY MILE

Some classes will be partaking in a Daily Mile Challenge. The Daily Mile is a free, effective concept where classes engage in daily running. The impact of this type of regular exercise can be transformational – improving not only the children's fitness, but also their concentration levels, mood, behaviour and general wellbeing.

www.thedailymile.ie



We are delighted to announce that the Members First Credit Union Quiz is returning again this year! We will begin the process of selecting teams to represent the school in the next few days.

Instagram

Don't forget, you can follow us on Instagram to keep up to date on all our latest news and events!
@stbrigidsbns_killester

GAA

Huge shout out to Ciarán Dunne, our GAA Games Promotion Officer who has been working every Tuesday with all classes from 1st to 6th since September this year. GAA training will begin for our infant and ASD classes at the end of January.

Student Council Update

In the run up to **Safer Internet Day** on **February 6th**, the Student Council will be gathering valuable information from classes about their experiences of digital learning in the classroom. We hope to use this information to help us further develop our school's Digital Learning Strategy going forward.

Our Student Council will also be informing all classes about the upcoming 'Safer Internet Day' and the best ways to stay safe online.



Our top tips for staying safe online are:

- Remember to keep your personal details private
- Don't share your password or log in details with others
- Think of 'Stranger Danger!' – Don't talk to anyone online that you don't know
- Always ask for permission before going online and downloading apps or games
- Beware of scams – If you are unsure of any links or emails don't open them.



Please be reminded that as per our Acceptable Use Policy, the use of any SMART device or recording device (video or audio) is forbidden in school. This includes yard time, afterschool activities and school trips. If a pupil is found to be using such a device in school, it will be confiscated and a parent/guardian must collect it from the school office. There are some great resources and guides for parents in relation to supporting your child to use the internet in a safe way at the website below.

www.webwise.ie/guides-parents/

STAY SAFE PROGRAMME

Relationships and Sexuality Education (R.S.E.) is an integral part of our S.P.H.E. curriculum as per Department of Education guidelines. It is school policy that all pupils partake in the R.S.E. programme and this is taught in our school every second year. As part of the 'Growing and Changing' strand of the S.P.H.E. curriculum, the sensitive elements of the R.S.E. programme will be covered in all classes this year during February and March. The topics of relationships, conception and new life previously covered by visiting **Accord** personnel will now be taught by class teachers in 5th and 6th classes.

Please refer to our school's R.S.E. policy available on our school website www.stbrigidsbns.ie for further information.

If you would like to further support your child's learning in this area, you can download or order a copy of 'Talking to your Young Child about Relationships, Sexuality and Growing Up' or 'Busy Bodies' – adolescent development book. These books are available free from www.healthpromotion.ie.

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION



Each school is obliged to engage in **School Self-Evaluation**. This is a process which encourages reflection on what are doing well, new initiatives or developments in education and what we want prioritise to work on next in relation to our specific school context.

As a staff we collaborated and looked at areas of teaching and learning in our school which are strong and areas in which we would like to develop further. We have decided that the focus of our School Self-Evaluation for this cycle is **Digital Literacy- using digital technology to enhance language and learning outcomes**.

We have engaged with Oide (professional development service for teaching and learning) to develop a **Digital Learning Strategy** for 2023- 2026.

As part of this strategy we have;

- Created a **Digital Literacy Team** who will support staff in adopting new technologies and liaise with outside agencies in relation to procurement and support.
- Developed a **Digital Learning Plan** where we have identified a progressive and sequential approach to developing key competencies and skills in relation to digital literacy, with a focus on enhancing language and learning outcomes for our pupils.
- We have engaged in a comprehensive review of our current IT infrastructure.
- We have engaged in the procurement process and ordered 20 new I pads for pupil use. We have also developed a long- term procurement plan which will depend on funding.
- We are currently engaging in the roll-out phase of adopting and integrating specific digital technology tools which will support and enhance literacy and language learning and outcomes.

We will be consistently reviewing teaching and learning in relation to digital technology in order to ensure we are providing the best possible learning experiences and opportunities to our pupils in relation to digital literacy and digital technology. We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to updating you in due course.





PRESCHOOL PLAYDATE

We place a huge emphasis on Infant Education.
We are proud to provide a progressive, thematic
and child-centred approach to Infant Education.

Come and join us for a Preschool Playdate on
Tuesday the 16th of January 2024.

Meet some of our lovely staff, chat to other parents
and meet your future classmates!

*Each child must be accompanied by an adult.

**TUESDAY
16TH JANUARY 2-3PM**

**SAVE!
THE DATE!**

We are so looking forward to meeting you
and your son!