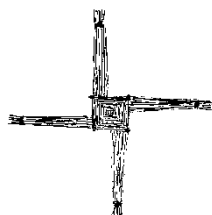


## ST. BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s)

### **October 2021 Newsletter**

We've had a very challenging start to Term 1 in St Brigid's Primary School due to COVID 19. There have been a number of cases in the school, affecting both pupils and staff. We have faced significant challenges trying to source excellent substitute teachers to cover teachers with COVID 19 (and therefore isolating at home). Other staff members have worked additional hours and taken on additional responsibilities to ensure that children are getting the best education in school. I would like to thank everyone for the excellent team work over the past number of weeks.

### **What should I do if my child has symptoms of COVID 19?**

We'd like to remind you of the COVID 19 symptoms and the protocol you must follow if your child displays any of these symptoms.

The symptoms of COVID 19 are:

1. a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature); OR
2. a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); OR
3. a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

If your child has any of these symptoms it is very important that they do NOT attend school and should also [self-isolate](#) at home. You should arrange for them to [get tested](#) as soon as possible. They should continue to isolate until the result of the test is available.

If your child is deemed a close contact and has any of the symptoms listed above, please ensure you get a PCR test.

**If you were advised to get a PCR test, please take a screenshot of the outcome and forward to your teacher's email address or my email address ([mkeating196@c2kni.net](mailto:mkeating196@c2kni.net)).**

St Brigid's is managing the significant increase in COVID 19 cases within the past two weeks. Public Health has reported that COVID 19 comes into school from households. Therefore, we must ensure that we comply with the guidance and advice that is reported from school.

### **2021/22 focus**

Our focus from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 was to support children both pastorally and on an academic level. We have commenced a number of initiatives in both Literacy and Numeracy to improve children's skills and knowledge.

*Children are given additional work to complete at home as part of these support measures. We strongly encourage you to work with your child, as evidence suggests the best results are achieved in cases where support is provided both at school and home. We certainly see great improvement in pupils that work on these support measures at home.*

Please note, we have a waiting list for both programmes.

### **Numeracy Catch Up**

Michelle Kean is facilitating the Numeracy Catch Up programme in primary 2. We have planned that all children with an average standardised score or below will receive the Numeracy Catch Up programme for 3 days per week. Clubs are either a 4 or 8 week duration.

### **Reading Partnership**

Katrina Rowland is facilitating the Reading Partnership programme. This programme is focused on children with an average standardised score. The focus for this support is to encourage children to read at their ability level and above and to develop children's confidence whilst reading.

### **Literacy Support**

Mrs Donnelly is providing literacy support for a small group of primary 4 pupils. Our focus for this group is to improve children's reading and comprehension skills and their confidence to read material suited to a primary 4 class.

### **Numeracy Support**

Mr Rooney is providing numeracy support for a small group of primary 6 pupils to develop their numeracy skills. This programme will include a wide range of ICT/Technology apps. We will use a coding programme, Mathletics online platform and iPad apps to develop children's processing skills and numerical knowledge.

*We have purchased Mathletics licences for pupils from P1 to P7 at considerable cost. There are numeracy tasks set weekly on the Mathletics platform for all classes. We can view the engagement of children on the Mathletics platform. We strongly encourage you to use these tasks to improve your child's numeracy learning.*

## **ENGAGE teacher**

The Department of Education has given some funding to St Brigid's for such a resource. This teacher will be employed on a part time basis after the Halloween break to further support children's learning in both Literacy and Numeracy.

## **Parent/Teacher meetings**

We wanted to have face to face meetings with parents and guardians about the work that we are completing in school and how best parents can support their children. We feel that this meeting is invaluable for parents.

Teachers have sent out dates and times for after school meetings each afternoon from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October until Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

We request that all individuals adhere to the following mitigations entering school premises:

- Sanitise hands
- Wear a mask at all times
- Respect the seating arrangement in classes.

As explained in our correspondence, we have a ten-minute meeting slot with parents / guardians and a five-minute time slot afterwards to sanitise seating and multi touch items before the next appointment.

Please do not delay entering and leaving school with other parents as we must ensure that the school is clean and safe for all pupils the next day.

## **School Dinners**

It is recommended that you pay for your child's dinners each Monday morning. The school secretary banks on a weekly basis. School meal returns are completed digitally on the last day of each month and sent electronically to the Education Authority on that day.

## **Complaint**

We have received a complaint from a neighbouring property that parents collecting children from school are parking on their property, and after collecting their children from school are spending up to 30 minutes chatting to other parents on their property. It was also reported that the children were looking through the window of the house into the family's living area for that period. This is unacceptable and we request that you respect our neighbour's property.

## **Reminder**

Halloween holidays are from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (inclusive). We will return to school on *Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021*.

Kind regards  
Mrs M Keating (Principal)