



Welcome Back!

A warm welcome back to all of the children and staff following the Summer holidays. a special welcome to our 2 classes of new P1 pupils and to our new P7's who began their final year with us this week.

Primary 3 Children Change of School Day

Just a reminder that children in P3 stay in school until 3.00pm each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during the year. They will finish at 2.00pm on Thursday and Friday.

Condolences

It was with deep sadness that just before we returned to school we learned of the passing of one of our parents, Mrs. Orlaith O'Kane. Orlaith's daughters Anna & Meabh are both pupils at St. Brigid's. As well as being a member of one of our families Orlaith was a great supporter of our school through her involvement in our "Friends of St. Brigid's Association" and was very well known to many of our pupils through her Camogie coaching in All Saints GAC. We offer our sincere condolences to her husband Micky and to the girls at this time and ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers. St. Brigid pray for her.

P2 Ready to Learn (RTL) After-School Club

Parents will have received a text this week informing them of their child's "Core" allocation of RTL days for this year. If for some reason you didn't receive the message please get in touch with the school office. RTL starts on Monday 10th September. A full list of RTL dates for the year will be forwarded shortly.

Names on Uniform etc

We would ask that all items of school uniform and other clothing have each child's name written on them. We regularly donate many unclaimed items to charity. We currently have a number of bags of unclaimed clothing that was left in cloakrooms in June. We have been unable to trace the owners due to none of the items having children's names on them. Please encourage and check that your child has returned home each day with the items that they brought to school. We will display the clothing/items outside the front doors of the school on Monday and Tuesday after which we will donate them to charity.

Congratulations!

Our congratulations to Mr. C. Killough who became the proud father of a lovely baby boy during the Summer. Cormac weighed in at 8lb 12oz in August. I'm sure you will join with us in congratulating Mr. Killough, Catherine and the rest of the family on the new arrival.

News to Come!

We look forward to hearing Mrs. Maguire's good news as she heads off on maternity leave from today. We wish her well and will let everyone know her news in the coming weeks.

Data Capture Sheets (P2-7)

The records that we have for each child in P2-7 have been sent home today. We would ask that you check them to make sure they are correct and return them to us with any changes required clearly marked. If there are no changes we would ask that you still return the sheet and write "No Changes Required" on it. **Please pay particular attention to phone numbers and medical details.** Due to our Medications Policy we may have to contact parents about their child's medical conditions and therefore it is vital that all medical information is recorded and up to date.

Primary 1 Data Capture Information

Parents of children in P1 will receive the Data Capture form in the next few weeks once we upload their data.

Missing Books

We are currently missing a large selection of books, many of them purchased just last year. Accelerated Reader books and school novels form the bulk of those missing. We would ask parents to check at home for these books. AR books are easily identified as they have a coloured sticker on the spine and an AR sticker on the inside cover. Other school books like Maths textbooks etc. are also marked with a school sticker.



Holiday List -A list of school closures was sent home at the end of last term. Additional copies can be requested from the school office or it can be viewed on the school website.

School Times/ Break-time/ Lunch-time Arrangements

School starts each morning at 8.55am. Children will be accepted into school from 8.30am. One morning break will operate for all children from 10.45am-11.00am. Primary 1-4 children have lunch from 12.10pm-12.50pm while primary 5-7 pupils have their lunch between 12.35pm-1.15pm.

Please note the change of time for P4 lunch above.

Parents of primary 2 children should note that the monthly break scheme they used last year continues in P2.



Dates for your Diary

Term 1

Mon 10th Sept – RTL starts for P2 children this week.

Homework starts today.

Mon 17th Sept – P1 photos taken for local press.

Wed 19th Sept – Swimming starts for Mrs. McCambridge's P6 class.

Fri 21st Sept – Final day of 12.00noon finish for P1 pupils. 1.00pm finish all of the next week.

Registration for GL Assessment in St. Louis closes

Mon 24th Sept – Opening Year Mass in All Saints Church @ 10.00am. Everyone welcome.

Mon 1st Oct – P1 pupils finish at 2.00pm from today.

Thurs 4th Oct – P7 children attend show in the MAC, Belfast

Wed 10th October – Board of Governors meeting.

Mon 29th Oct – 1 week mid-term break starts.

Monday 5th Nov – Exceptional Closure – Staff Training Day. Pupils off school today.

Tues 6th Nov – Flu Vaccine – All pupils who “Opt-in” by completing the appropriate form.

Wed 7th/ Thurs 8th Nov – School Photographer.

Sat 17th Nov – GL Assessment in St. Louis.

Wed 28th Nov – School Choir on Radio Cracker.

Thurs 29th Nov – Christmas Fayre.

Mr. C. Killough's class start swimming lessons.

Wed 5th Dec – Open Evening for Sept 2019 P1 pupils.

Sun 9th Dec – Joint Carol Service with Dunclug PS in High Kirk Church @ 6.30pm.

Sat 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Mon 17th Dec – Mr. Cunningham's class trip to the Water Heritage Centre

Tue 18th Dec – Miss. Graham's class trip to the Water Heritage Centre
P1-3 Christmas Show @ 9.15am (Day 1)

Wed 19th Dec – P1-3 Christmas Show @ 9.15am (Day 2)

Thurs 20th Dec – P3-7 Panto. Grand Opera House

Fri 21st Dec – Christmas holidays start. 12.00noon finish.

Healthy Breaks/ School Canteen/ Milk

We continue to ask that children bring a healthy break-time snack to school. This should **include a bread based snack, fruit, vegetables and milk or water**. The school canteen will continue to offer healthy break-time snacks throughout the year. The price list is as follows: Muffins 40p for full and 20p for a half muffin, Buttered Toast 30p per round, Bagel 70p – ½ Bagel 35p, Toasted half Soda 40p/ ¼ slice 20p for 2 slices, Fruit Coupe 55p, Apple 20p, Orange 20p and Banana 30p, buttered Cream Crackers 20p, milk 40p and 55p for small bottled water & 70p for larger “Sports Cap” bottle. Fruella fruit flavoured drink 40p. School milk can be purchased separately by completing the order form that goes home each half term. The deadline for milk orders for this half term has passed. The price of school dinners is £2.60.

Swimming Lessons – Change!

Last year we changed our swimming lessons so that rather than a whole year group attending at once we could send a single class instead. This was to ensure that, as a result of the smaller numbers attending, the children would have a greater opportunity to develop their skills. This proved very successful. This year to improve the swimming experience even more we are only taking P6 & 7 pupils swimming. This will allow us to increase the number of sessions they receive across the year and further develop their swimming ability before they leave primary school. The cost of each swimming lesson is £3 and this can be paid each week or for the total number of sessions.

Contacting Office Staff/ Sending Money To School

As you can appreciate we have a busy school with over 400 pupils and one of the busiest places in the school is our school office. This is especially so at key times such as 1st thing in the morning. We reduce the amount of time parents have to wait at the office in the morning to see office staff and free up more time for the staff to spend dealing with their list of “morning duties” by following a few simple procedures.

- Parents should not bring children's money (break time/ dinners/ swimming etc.) to the office. This money should be sent to school with the child who will then pass it to their own class teacher if required. The money should be placed in an envelope clearly stating the name of the child, their class, the reason for sending the money and the total amount contained within the envelope. If you send money to school in this way, please ensure that you check school bags etc. in case your child has not given us the envelope or in case it has been mislaid. This is especially required with our younger pupils. We have quite robust procedures in place to ensure that we record the money sent in but an increasing number of parents are informing us that they sent money to school when we have no record of having received it.

We are currently investigating the possibility of parents paying for break/ trips/ swimming etc. electronically. We are in the early stages of this research and will be in touch with details if we decide to offer this service.

- Due to the busy nature of our school office staff do not have time in the morning to give change to parents and therefore parents are asked to send children to school with the correct amount of money each day that they will need.
- We would also ask parents of P4-7 pupils to use the Homework Diary system (see below) to contact teachers rather than going through the office staff when this is appropriate. This will help us immensely in reducing congestion at the office.

We do of course realise that there are times when parents need to speak with office staff and this facility will always be available. We would quite simply like to reduce the amount of time they spend dealing with things that could be dealt with just as effectively in other ways. We thank you for your co-operation with this matter.