



# St. Brigid's / Bunscoil Naomh Bríd

## February news / Nuachtlitir Mí Feabhra



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### **Foireann Slánchumhdaithe / Safeguarding Team:**

Múinteoir Clare o Kane (Designated Teacher for Child Protection),

Ursula O' Hanlon (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)

Shauna Mc Cusker (Governor responsible for Safeguarding)

Dear Parents / A Thuismitheoirí / Chaomhnóirí,

**February is a special month in our school**, and the children, together with their teachers and assistants, have been very busy creating beautiful St Brigid's crosses in honour and memory of our precious national saint and school patron. It is wonderful to see our faith tradition being passed on to the pupils of **St Brigid's Tirkane / Bunscoil Naomh Bríd**. We would like to sincerely thank our **R3/P3 pupils** for the lovely assembly presented to parents and grandparents on Friday in celebration of St Brigid's Day. We are also very grateful to the children who brought in rushes to support the traditional cross-making activities.

The children have settled back very well after the holidays and are working hard as we continue through **Term 2**. If you have any concerns regarding your child or children, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher via **Seesaw**, or myself, to discuss these.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Ursula O' Hanlon



### **Suíomh Gréasáin na Scoile / School Website**

We are constantly updating and posting on our website as and when notices/changes are made. Please log onto our school website to keep abreast of what is happening in our school. Múinteoir Clare in Rang 2 works very hard to post school business on our Facebook page too.

School Website Address – [www.stbrigidsprimaryschooltirkane.com](http://www.stbrigidsprimaryschooltirkane.com)

### **Afterschool for Foundation Stage**

It is vital that parents contact the class teacher and book the club on ParentPay so that all staff are certain that the right children stay behind, and the others go home on the bus at 2pm. Teachers check their Seesaw messages regularly throughout the day and will only hold those who have definitely made contact with the school.

Please be mindful that we need to know who is staying for club at all times. We understand that things can crop up unexpectedly during the day and arrangements may need to change and in these circumstances, we are asking all parents to contact the school by phone to update staff.

### **Cruinnithe Tuismitheoirí don Bhunneáim** **Parent/Teacher Meetings Foundation Stage**

Meetings for P1/2 R1/2 will take place in the assembly hall on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 26. Times have been arranged with all parents prior to the meetings. On this day all children in the Foundation Stage will stay at home.

### **Ag Bogadh ar Aghaidh / Beginning to Move On**



**The application process for year 8 Post Primary places opened on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. It closes on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon.**

**On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 parents/guardians will receive the outcome of this process via email/letter.**

Applications are made online via the EA website and all parents/guardians must apply for a post primary place for their child/children.

**This is no longer done in school.** If you have a query or are experiencing any difficulty with this process, please contact the school and we will help.

**We wish all the Primary 7/ Rang 7 pupils good luck in their decision making for their choice of school for next year. We ask God to guide all our young people as they journey through life.**

## **Morning Supervision / Maoirseacht na Maidne**

Pupils arriving into school from 8.30am to 8.55am must go to the Assembly Hall where they will be supervised by staff members on morning duty. This is our opportunity to sing/play together. Pupils are escorted at 8.55am from the Assembly Hall to their classrooms by their class teacher/assistants. Pupils arriving after 8.55am must go directly to their classrooms.

It is important that all pupils are in school for 9.00am as lessons begin promptly. We strongly encourage all pupils to arrive promptly to school as late comers can be disruptive to the teaching and learning. We are aware of pupils arriving after 9:15am.

**Pupils arriving after 9.15am will be marked late on the SIMS register.**

## **Internet/Media Safety/Mobile/Social Sites**

In our school, every possible effort has been made to ensure the safety of all pupils while on the internet. The school has an Internet Safety Policy and the pupils are aware of the procedures within this policy. Mobile phones are not permitted in school for pupils. In the case of an emergency, contact is made with home via the landline in the General Office.



**Smart watches with the ability to take photos and videos are also strictly prohibited. This is a new issue which has just cropped up this year.**

## **Tionól / First Assembly of 2026**



Primary 3/Rang 3 pupils presented their class assembly on Friday 30th January at 1:30pm in the school assembly hall. They certainly did us all proud! Well done to all involved and thanks to Múinteoir Ciara R3 and Mrs Cassidy P3 for their hard work and dedication to our Patron Saint Brigid and to Mrs Downey for her beautiful music. Thanks also to all who attended and made it such a special event and to the staff who helped serve the Tea/Coffee and treats.

## **RED DAY / LÁ DEARG**

**Wear Red this Feb!**

**On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February we are having a Red Day to raise funds for The Children's Heartbeat Trust. We are asking all children to wear something red and bring a cash donation for this fabulous charity. Conan Convery who had heart surgery at birth, flies the flag in our school for The Children's Heartbeat Trust and we will be delighted to hand over our school's donation to Conan on Friday.**

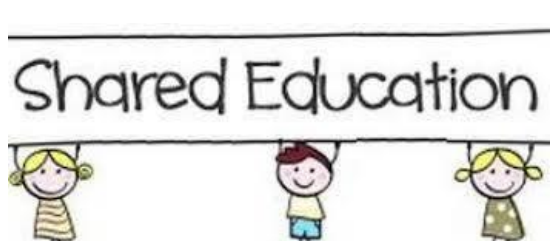


### **Seesaw Communication./ Cumarsáid Seesaw**

The Seesaw app for Parents is a very quick and efficient way for parents to communicate with class teachers and we encourage this 2 way communication as there are many queries which can be picked up and dealt with in a timely manner. If you feel your child is struggling at homework time, please contact your class teacher and help and advice will be at hand.

Please ensure you have a copy of your child's Seesaw login should the need arise to provide home learning due to unforeseen situations/inclement weather events. This will be the main method of communication between you and the class teachers. Let your teacher know if you need a copy sent home.

**\*This is different to the parent QR code login where you can communicate with the teacher by message\***



### **Oideachas Comhroinnte / Shared Education PEACEPLUS/ASPIRE PROGRAMME**

We will continue with the PEACEPLUS Shared Education Programme. Our school partnership with Dunclug Primary School involves the pupils from Yrs 4, 5 and 6 this Term.

On 28th January Yr 6 went to Dunclug for a meet and greet.

On Wednesday 4th February the Yr 5s will also visit Dunclug for another "Getting to know you" session.

- 18th February our school will host Dunclug for an activity based fun day.
- 25th February will see our school hosting the second of our 2 fun days.

### **Nerve Centre Derry**

Rang 3 have been selected to receive a workshop "Trí mheán na Gaeilge". A Team will come out to our school to work with the children on The Weather. Tá muid ag dúil go mór leis an lá!



### **Headlice**

**We are getting reports of the dreaded headlice again in our classes. Please be vigilant and keep checking hair for these pesky critters. Don't forget that the treatment is available free in every Pharmacy.**

## Nut Free School

**We are strictly a nut free school. No food containing any trace of nuts or nut essences are allowed in the school. (Nutella etc.)**

We have several children in our school who have such allergies. Some of them have severe allergies and even nut traces in the air can trigger a reaction. All supervising staff have been trained in the use of the EpiPen (Thank you Andrea for overseeing the training). We need everyone to be vigilant especially when packing lunches. Yoghurts such as “Nut Clusters” can easily be bought as part of a multipack and could make their way into a lunch bag/box.

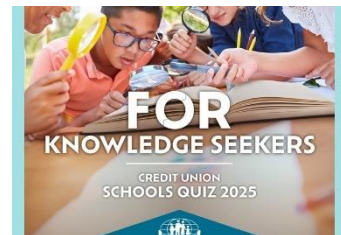


## Credit Union Quiz 2026/ Tráth na gCeist



### Chomhar Creidmheasa 2025

Ádh mór to the 4 teams of Yrs 6 and 7 who will represent our school on Friday 6th February. We know they will do their best.



## Enrolment Ceremony / Searmanas Cláraithe

This year's Enrolment ceremony for all children receiving sacraments in our school will take place in the school assembly hall on Tuesday 3rd February at **10:30 a.m.** with Fr Doherty.



## Safer Internet Day / Lá le haghaidh Idirlíon níos Sábháilte



Safer Internet Day 2026 will be held this week beginning Monday 2nd February as our school will be closed on Safer Internet Day next week. Pupils will take part in planned activities to promote and enhance their online safety. We thank Múinteoir Aisling for all her work in providing activities for all classes. This year's slogan for the campaign is....

**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**



**Please continue to be vigilant when your children are accessing the internet at home as they try to navigate a world full of excitement, wonder and danger.**



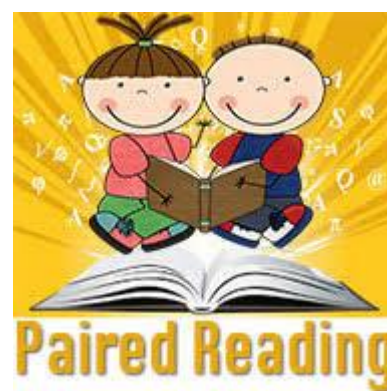
### **Swimming/Snámh**

Swimming will continue for Yrs 6/7 until each class has had 10 lessons. Afterwards it will be the turn of P5/6/7 and R5. We are opening swimming lessons up to Yr 5s this year and we know the children will be very excited about this. A payment item will be opened shortly on ParentPay for the next set of swimming sessions which will also last for 10 weeks.

### **Paired Reading Programme 2026/ Léitheoireacht i gComhpháirtíocht**

**We are delighted to announce the return of this invaluable reading programme. There will be a meeting to launch the Paired Reading Programme in the school on Monday 16th February at 7pm. Mrs Mc Mullen will lead the meeting with a presentation on what the programme entails and the many benefits your children will gain from completing it. Please give this reading venture your very best attention. It really will raise the standards in reading in Primary 3.**

**Our Yr 7s will also be trained to “Pair Read” with their junior reading buddies in the Foundation stage.**



**Beidh “Paired Reading” le Rang 3 i dTearma 3. In Term 3 the paired reading will begin for the children in Rang 3 and will be led by Múinteoir Ciara.**

### **Parent Workshop Love for Life RSE**

There will be a workshop on Love For Life for all parents of yrs 6 and 7. This is to inform parents and guardians about the programme that will be done with Yrs 6 and 7 in May 26. It will be a talk on what RSE is and how it fits into our Curriculum. As a result of the recent questionnaire in Term 1 where it was clear that parents were unsure about RSE we are trying to address any concerns you may have. We encourage all parents of Yrs 6 and 7 to attend and anyone else



### Legion of Mary

Tuesday 17th February.

The Legion of Mary group will meet again with the pupils of R7 and P7 at 11am in the assembly hall.

### Séasúr an Charghais 18ú Feabhra / Lenten Season 18<sup>th</sup> February

During Lent pupils from Yr1 to Yr7 are being encouraged again to carry out random acts of kindness amongst their friends at school, their families at home and their neighbours where it is safe and possible. We will continue to keep a watch for kind acts and reward accordingly.



### St Pat's Athletics

The Castle Cup Athletics will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February and 12 pupils will represent our school at these games. Ádh Mór Orthu

### Cumann na mBunscoil Tráth na gCeist.

We will send 2 teams to represent our school in the CnmB quiz on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Ádh Mór Orthu!

### EA Body Percussion Workshop/Ceardlann Cnaquirlisí Choirp EA



Similar to the Christmas Orchestra Roadshow the EA are also offering to come out and do a body percussion workshop with the children. This workshop will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. The children loved their orchestral experience and this will be another opportunity for them to express themselves through music too. The one-hour session will be led by two experienced tutors from the Benedetti Foundation and is designed for Key Stage 2 pupils. The workshop will take children on a musical journey using voice and body percussion, encouraging creativity, participation, and musical exploration.

The Benedetti Foundation has collaborated with EA Music since 2020, and these events have consistently proven to be enjoyable, inspiring, and educational for both pupils and staff.

## **Saoire na Scoile / School Holidays - Mid Term Break**

The school will be closed on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

School will re-open for all staff & pupils on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## **Dataí do do Dhiálann / Key dates**

Loughderg P7 R7 retreat **Wednesday 11th March**

## **Lough Derg Retreat for P7/R7/ Cúrsa Spioradálta do R7/P7**

Pupils in P7/R7 are getting an opportunity to go on a one day retreat to Lough Derg on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. They will be accompanied by their teachers/muinteoirí. All pupils will need to take a packed lunch. (For those in receipt of free school meals, lunch will be provided) We are very grateful to Fr. Doherty who is funding this valuable spiritual experience.

## **School Trip/Turas Scoile**

This year we have decided to take a trip to Emerald Park (Formerly known as Tayto Park)

The trip will include all children from Yrs 3-7.

The date secured is Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

The coaches have been booked for **8am** (More details about the arrangements for the day will follow closer to the time)



**The cost of the trip is £50 for 1 child £45 each for families of 2 and £40 each for families of 3. A payment item will be opened on ParentPay at the end of this week and the trip can be paid in instalments from now until June.**

### **The day includes**

- **Admission to all rides (Height restrictions in place)**
- **Hot lunch and drinks**
- **Bus**