



**St. Brigid's Primary School**  
**Haddington Road**  
**Principal's Bulletin May 2017**

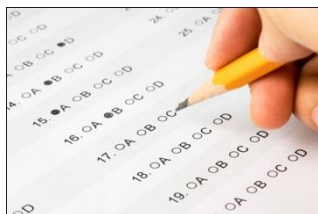
**Important dates for your diary:**

Saturday	May 20 <sup>th</sup>	First Holy Communion at 11.00am
Mon-Fri	May 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>	Active Schools Week (Dancing, Netball, Rugby, Cricket, Games, Swimming and More!)
Thursday	May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming session for 1 <sup>st</sup> Class in Mespil Pool
Friday	May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day in Herbert Park
Tuesday	May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting for Parents of new Junior Infants, 6.45pm or 8pm
Thursday	June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Swimming session for 1 <sup>st</sup> Class in Mespil Pool
Friday	June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	School closed
Monday	June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Public holiday: school closed.  Mini-Marathon (thanks to all those walking/running for new school fundraising campaign)
Friday	June 9 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Class School trip to Jumpzone and UCD Swimming
Tuesday	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Infants trip to Airfield Farm, Dundrum
Tuesday	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to school for new Junior Infants at 1.45pm.
Tuesday	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Class trip to Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre, Baltinglass
Wednesday	June 14 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class trip to Giddy Studios and Marlay Park
Thursday	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Infants trip to Airfield Farm, Dundrum
Monday	June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Silly Billy Magic Show for Infants + 1 <sup>st</sup> Classes
Tuesday	June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Graduation Service for 6 <sup>th</sup> Class at 11.00am
Wednesday	June 28 <sup>th</sup>	End of year party for Junior and Senior Infants  End of year prizegiving and party for 1 <sup>st</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Classes
Friday	June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term
Thursday	August 31 <sup>st</sup>	First day of new school year

## Assessment in school

Assessment and monitoring of children's progress is a very important part of our work here in St. Brigid's. At this time of year we concentrate on Standardised Tests for children in 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> class and so I thought it would be useful for you to read some more about Standardised Tests. I've also included information about assessment in Infants Classes.

### What is a standardised test?



We are all familiar with the idea of tests in school. No doubt you are well aware of the regular end of week tests such as the spelling or tables test prepared by the teacher. A standardised test is another kind of test. **It is used to measure a child's achievement in English reading and Maths compared to other children throughout the country at the same class level or age level.**

The English reading test gives information about how well your child can understand what she has read. This test does not gather information on your child's written or spoken English. The Maths test finds out how well your child can use numbers for different purposes and solve maths problems. Schools can choose which standardised tests they use and we currently use the Sigma-T in

Maths and the

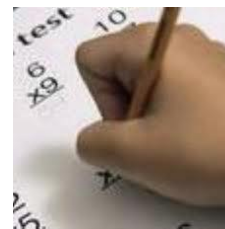
Drumcondra English

tests. These tests are

based on the curriculum

and each class takes the

test at a level designed for their class.



### What is a standardised test use for?

Standardised tests are used to:

1. report to you as a parent on your child's achievement in English reading and maths
2. help your child's teacher plan for further learning across the curriculum because your child's achievement in English reading and maths is important for all her learning.

### Should I help my child prepare for standardised tests?

No. The teacher gathers information about your child's learning all the time. Your child will take the standardised tests on a regular school day as part of her daily work in the classroom.

### How will I know how my child has done on the standardised tests?

You will receive a letter containing your child's results and what they mean. If we are concerned about a child's results, we may ask you to come in to discuss them.

### **How will I know what the test scores mean?**

You will be familiar with hearing your child say she got 62% in a maths test or 9 out of 15 in a spelling test. Standardised tests generally use other types of scores. We use **STen** scores in our reporting letter to you. **STen scores** go from 1 to 10. If your child's STen score is 5 or 6, you will know that his/her performance on the test is average. About one third of children in Ireland have STen scores in this band. There are also STen scores above and below the average.

A STen score of 1, 2 or 3 may mean that your child has a difficulty in Maths and English. The teacher will look at all of the information about your child's work and progress to date. The teacher will meet with other teachers and with you to plan the supports your child needs.

If your child's score is STen 9 or 10, it may mean your child is a high achiever in English or Maths. The teacher will put this information to good use in planning work across the curriculum.

Remember that your child's score on a test is an indication of her achievement but can be affected by how she was feeling on the day. It's very important that you support and encourage your child, regardless of what score she gets on the test. It is your decision whether or not to discuss her actual score with her; you know your child best. However, the score is just a snapshot in time and the

test does not tell us anything about your child's strengths in all of the other areas of the curriculum, or her personal and social development.

You can read more about standardised tests on [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie).



The information is available in English, Irish, Polish, Arabic, Romanian, Russian, French, Chinese and Portuguese.

### **Assessment in Senior Infants**

We monitor each child's progress both formally and informally and plan our work accordingly. During the third term in Senior Infants, we test each child using the Middle Infant Screening Test (MIST). This set of tests check each child's progress in reading, writing and listening skills. It checks letter names and sounds, sound blending and free writing.



The MIST is a very useful tool which the teachers use to plan support for any child whose scores are low on this test. It is important information which is passed on to the teachers of 1<sup>st</sup> class in order to plan for any supports that may be needed.

## Assessment in Junior Infants

Assessment in Junior Infants takes place every day in the classroom and is often an informal activity. The teacher assesses the child in different ways including observation, questioning, using checklists and setting tasks for the child to complete.

Some of the observations the teacher makes relates to the child's behaviour, their interaction with other children, their ability to



complete a task in a given time period and their general participation in class activities. Checklists

are often used in Maths and English, to monitor the child's progress through the curriculum. Examples of checklists in Maths are number formation (1-5), counting (1-10) and ordering numbers (1-5). In English checklists are used to keep a record of the child's progress through the reading and phonics programmes.

The **end of year school reports** will contain information on the children's progress and some ideas for you to support your children's learning during the summer holidays. Reports are issued during the month of June.

## Fundraising Update:



We had a great **Cake Sale** on Friday and are very grateful to the many volunteers we had who organised, set up and ran the whole event! The children really enjoyed it and we raised €3600.....thank you!



Thank you also to those who are using our **Booking.Com link**. We are continuing to get funds through this link, which can be found on the bottom of the home page of our website.

We are also getting funds through the **Google Gives** program; this is a method for parents who work in Google who can give funds or time to the school fundraising campaign...thank you!