



**St Brigid's Primary School
Haddington Road
Principal's Bulletin
September 2015**

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your children have had a good start to the new school year. Our new Junior Infants are settling in well and getting used to the routines of 'big school'. We also welcomed new pupils to other classes and they have settled in very well..

Update on New School Building

The Department of Education has appointed a construction company to build our new school and we expect work to start in late October/early November.

The Board of Management will have talks with the company before work starts in order to develop a Safety Plan for the roads around the schools. We will inform you of this plan when it is finalised.



There are parts of the new building which we will have to pay for ourselves as the Dept of Education will not pay for them. This includes the reinforced glass screen for the rooftop playground (instead of a

fence). We are in need of financial advice/expertise in the area of fundraising a large amount of money and would appreciate the assistance of any parents who could help us. Please email stbrigidsprimary@gmail.com or talk to Ms Hogan.

We are really looking forward to seeing the work start on the new building as we have waited so long for it!

This month's bulletin includes important reminders for you.

The Board of Management assumes responsibility for the pupils from 8.50am to 1.30pm/2.30pm. Children should not be left unsupervised in the school grounds before the official starting time of 8.50am, or after school ends at 1.30/2.30pm.



The Board of Management is not responsible for the children before/after these times and so it is important that an adult looks after them.



On very wet days, the door may be opened a little earlier and you may take the children into the front hall; you should remain with them until the teachers come on duty at

8.50am. Children should not be left in the classrooms. As the space is very limited, it is advisable for those who travel by car to stay in the car until 8.50am. Otherwise, the corridors can get very crowded.



Our curriculum is a busy one with a lot for each class to cover in many different subject areas. We ask that you make every effort to have your child in school on time every day. **The bell goes at 8.50am and lessons start at 9.00am.**

Children who are often late miss an important start to the day.

Teachers collect the children from the playground and bring them into the school. We ask parents to encourage their children to go in on their own as soon as they are able. Please avoid crowding in the corridors and halls, and allow the children space to come in safely. Please leave buggies/strollers outside. We really appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

In the afternoon, please note Junior Infants go home at 1.30pm through the front door; Senior Infants go at 1.30pm from their classrooms at the back of the

school. 1st Class go at 2.25pm and the reminder of the school at 2.30pm.

Children who go to an After School Care service go through the back door where they are collected and signed out. Please inform the office of any changes to your After-School arrangements.

Notification of absence:

Parents have a responsibility to have their children attend school every day. If your child cannot attend, please remember to complete a 'Reason for Absence' form, either from the website or on the forms provided to you, (extra forms in the office).

Text-a-Parent

We use the Text-a-Parent service to keep you updated with information.

Please let us know any change in your mobile number as soon as possible. You can do this through our website.



Birthdays

Please remember that we do not have birthday parties at school. Teachers cannot accept cakes or party bags for the children.

We also remind you that party invitations are not to be given out in school. It can be very upsetting for children if they don't receive an invitation while others do.

Mobile Phones:

Our School Policy on children's mobile phones is that any child who brings a phone should have it turned off inside school grounds. Phones should only be switched on again at the end of the school day, unless by arrangement with a

teacher. We appreciate your continued co-operation with this School Policy.

Head Lice:

Unfortunately, wherever children gather, headlice can too. We remind you to check your children's hair regularly and treat if necessary. Your pharmacist will advise you on appropriate products.

Long hair should be tied up, and all children should be reminded not to share hats, scarves, hairbrushes etc.

If your child has headlice, please do let us know so we can send a note to the class and parents will then know to check their children's hair.

Lunch

Remember that if you want to make changes to your child's lunch order, you can log on to www.carambola.ie, put in your child's ID code (you will find this underneath your child's name on the lunchbag), and the password 'carambola'; you can then edit your child's order. Changes made by Friday at 3pm will be effective for the following Monday morning.



Children need to bring a lunchbox to school and are asked to bring all of their lunch waste and packaging home in the box.

Home School Liaison Teacher

Ms.Margaret Irwin is our Home School Liaison teacher. Ms.Irwin works between both St.Brigid's and St.Mary's schools and can often be found in the playground at hometimes. She organises courses for parents and sends information regularly. She also puts posters outside the gates. Ms.Irwin's mobile no. is: 089-4873473.

Would you like to volunteer to help with Hallowe'en Activities?

Please let Frances or Veronica know (in the office) if you are available on Friday October 22nd. The children really enjoy the Hallowe'en fun organised and run by parents and we need volunteers for at least an hour or two in the morning, between 9.15am-12.30pm.

We also need some volunteers to help put up the Hallowe'en decorations on Monday, October 19th. Can you help?

Thank you!

Our website

www.stbrigidsprimaryschool.ie

We hope that you visit our website often and we update it regularly for you.

Events and activities are listed on the Event Calendar.

Letters sent home, newsletters and bulletins are available from the menu on the left hand side.

You do not need to login to access the website. We include photos of the children's work (approx every eight weeks), special events, classroom activities and much more. If you don't have a login username and password, you will not be able to access the Parents' Gallery; you can request one via the website (under the Parent Teacher

Communication tab). This access is only available to parents of children in our school.

Emails:

Remember to send in your email address if you haven't done so already.



We want to continue to reduce our paper usage and sending you information by

email will help in this regard.

Book Rental and School Expenses:

Thank you for continuing to support the school through your payment of your child's school expenses fee. This fee covers Book Rental, stationery, photocopied material, art supplies and book bag (for Infants).



We do not charge a 'voluntary contribution' as many schools do. Therefore, it is really important that everyone pays this single expenses fee for their child/children so that we can

continue to provide for the children's needs.

If you have mislaid your expenses form it is available on the website (under the Information for Parents tab). If you wish, we can send you a link to pay online.

School Calendar:

If you have mislaid your calendar, it is available on the website (under the Information for Parents tab).

Here is the information for Term 1:

Midterm Break:

Monday to Friday: Oct 26th-30th

Re-open on Monday, Nov.2nd

Christmas holidays:

Last day of term: Tuesday, Dec.22nd.

School closed from Dec.23rd to January 5th

Re-open on Wednesday, January 6th 2015.

Best wishes to everyone for a super school year!

Annemarie Hogan

Principal

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