

MARCH DATES

Fri 1st Mar (1:30-3pm). Action Mental Health workshop with P5s.

Mon 4th Mar – 9:00 Parental Information Session on 'Fresh Little Minds' (See below)

Mon 4th Mar – Joint School Council Trip to Stormont

Tues 5th Mar – P6SM to St Brigid's, P6JF host St Brigid's. P7JH to St Brigid's, P7SG host to St Brigid's

Fri 8th Mar – Fire Service to P1s

W/B Mon 11th Mar & 19th – 20th Mar – School Nurse (P1s)

Tues 12th Mar – Scripture Union 'Connect' Event (2-3:30pm)

Tues 12th Mar - P2JT to St Brigid's, P2AM to host St Brigid's (St Patrick). P5BE to St Brigid's, P5MA to host St Brigid's (St Patrick)

Thurs 14th Mar – 10:00 Hockey tournament at Ballymena Academy. P7s hosting St Brigid's

Tues 19th Mar - P5MA to Slemish Mount with St Brigid's. P6JF to St Brigid's, P6SM host to St Brigid's

Thur 21st Mar - IFA Futsal Tournament (Antrim Forum)

Fri 22nd Mar - Netball Tournament (Seven Towers Leisure Centre)

W/B Mon 25th Mar – P7s to Woodhall Outdoor Centre

Tues 26th Mar - P1KH in St Brigid's, P1KM host to St Brigid's. P5BE to Slemish Mount with St Brigid's.

Fri 29th Mar - Travelling Past WW2 workshop with the P4s

APRIL DATES

Mon 1st Apr – Cancer Focus Nursery – P7 (See details below)

Tues 2nd Apr – P5s hosting St Brigid's (Art). P7SG to St Brigid's, PJH host to St Brigid's

Mon 8th Apr – 9:00am Parents' Coffee Morning – all welcome

Mon 8th Apr – 7:00pm Spring Concert at St Brigid's (More details will follow)

Tues 9th Apr – P4JDT to St Brigid's, P4CC hosting St Brigid's

Wed 10th Apr – 9:15am **Easter Assembly** taken by P7s. All parents / guardians / friends of these children are welcome to join us

Wed 10th Apr – 2:00pm 'Festival of Learning' for parents (More details will follow from Zane)

Fri 12th Apr - **SCHOOL CLOSING**

AT 12:00 - Non Uniform Day £1 per child, no theme.

Mon 15th to Fri 26th April – **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAYS**

Tues 30th Apr - Both P2 classes to People's Park with St Brigid's P.S.

**MAY DATES:-****FOR YOUR ATTENTION:**

School will be CLOSED on the following dates:

Thurs 2nd May - local council elections.

Bank Holidays / Staff Training Days- Mon 6th, Fri 24th, Mon 27th, Tues 28th and Wed 29th.

Fri 3rd May – 9:00 Parental Consultation Group (details below).

MILK MONEY**Primary School Pupils Only**

Milk money to cover from

Monday 29th April - Thursday

27th June is **£7.98. THIS MUST**

BE PAID to the class

teacher ON MONDAY

1st APRIL Only. Late

payments cannot be made.

**THANK YOU!**

Collecting money in larger amounts (giving you notice well in advance) and making Mondays the main collection day, has had a significant impact on reducing administration time for teachers, assistants, office staff and parents. Collections are less frequent, dealing with and counting small change has reduced, and lodging money at the bank is much less onerous and problematic. We really appreciate parental support in this matter.

DONATIONS TO CHARITIES

The money collected for the nativities at Christmas was donated to **CHILDLINE** (who did workshops with the children and parents in January) £500, and to **STAND BY ME** - £100. We will be doing a 'Guess the Name of the Teddy' and a sponsored walk event in the summer term with St Brigid's, the proceeds of this will be given to The Mark Lynn CHD Foundation. (More details will follow).

DOGS TO SCHOOL AND CLEANING UP AFTER THEM!

Please do not bring your dog/s with you when you are collecting children from school, either at 2:00pm or 3:00pm. There have been a few incidents recently of dogs fouling outside the gates, not picked up by the owners, and children then walking through it. Please be a responsible owner and clean up after your dog at all times.

LATENESS IN THE MORNINGS

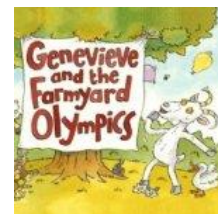
Please ensure that your child is in school by 8:55am each day as lateness causes disruption to the office, dinner numbers, the teacher and the other children in the class. Children need the example that in all aspects of life including the workplace, dedication and turning up on time is an essential attribute. Lateness is a very poor habit to cultivate and gives a message to your children that school is unimportant.

NON-UNIFORM DAY – Friday 15th February 2019

401 Children from Nursery to P7 came to school in ordinary clothes and £381 was collected. A big 'thank you' to those who brought in their £1. This is a great help towards transport to school events.

CANCER FOCUS NI

Cancer Focus NI will be coming into school on Monday 1st April to deliver a variety of different



programmes to each year group. The very popular 'Genevieve the Goat' will be making an appearance with Primary 1 and 2 classes, while Primary 3, 4 and 5 will explore the importance of healthy eating, exercising and being safe in the sun. Primary 6 and 7 will participate in the 'Smokebusters' programme.

PAPER COPIES OF THIS BUGLE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE HALL**SUCCESS AT
BALLYMENA MUSIC FESTIVAL!**

In February the School Choir and a number of instrumentalists participated in Ballymena Music Festival. We are very proud of how everyone performed, and the hard work they all put in. Special congratulations go to Hannah Moore who achieved 1st place in her clarinet class, and Carter McNeill who achieved 2nd place in his viola class. Huge congratulations also go to the Choir who achieved two 1st places and one second place, against very strong competition. The adjudicator was very impressed with their performances - see the website for more information and photos. Well done to everyone involved!

**HOCKEY UPDATE**

At the end of last month the hockey team travelled to Antrim Forum to take part in the Antrim Area Blitz. It was very cold but thankfully stayed dry for the girls. We started off by playing Antrim PS where we drew 0-0. Next we faced Ballycraig PS and we won 2-0 with some excellent shots being taken. Our next match was against Gracehill and unfortunately we lost 3-1 but some great attempts to the goals were made. Our final match was against Groggan PS and we won 1-0. We are thrilled by the scores especially when it is our first tournament of the year!



By Miss McConnell

**See website – ‘School Life’ –
‘Star Pupils’ for:****CLASSES OF THE MONTH
FOR FEBRUARY****ATTENDANCE
UNIFORM
GOLDEN CLASS****PUPILS OF THE MONTH**

P1KH – JOSHUA POWER
P1KM – ALEX McCAUGHERN
P2T – CALLUM DAVISON
P2M – JOHNATHAN RICHMOND
P3LK – ROBIN LYNN
P3CM – CANDICE MOONEY
P4JDT – LEE SCOTT
P4CC – LEWIS McKAY
P5MA – HARRISON PATTERSON
P5BE – LEWIS SMYTH
P6SM – MATTHEW MITCHELL
P6JF – PAIGE WALSH
P7SG – LUCY LYNN
P7JH – CARTER McNEILL

**PARENTAL
CONSULTATION GROUP**

The group met on Friday 1st February. We talked about the school's approach to Homework, our Positive Behaviour Policy and the need for parental support with both of these. It was great to get positive feedback in relation to both. At each meeting we are always very keen to hear suggestions on any other aspect of school life and anything which we can improve upon. Over the past few meetings this has included:

- Fundraising through non uniform days and being more explicit about what we are raising funds for, e.g. transport, ipads etc.
- The SMARTIE tubes going home in June rather than September
- Fresh Little Minds information session for parents
- Money Monday and paying up front instead of a bit at a time (with advance notice of course)
- Using the app and website to communicate.
- The quality of the cutlery in the school canteen
- Club details on website before children choosing



- When it snows children bringing in wellie boots and getting some time out in the snow.

We have also spoken about persistent and ongoing difficulties and concerns with some parents supporting the work of the school, particularly in relation to the following:

- Uniform policy
- Punctuality in the mornings and attendance
- Lack of support for homework
- Not providing break consistently for their children each day
- Not reading notes/website/other information sent home from school
- Difficulties getting notes returned an example of this is the recent note about the app – we had to give many additional letters out and then make phone calls and send texts
- Money not being sent in on time

We are therefore going to explore the possibility of putting together a ‘Parental Engagement Policy’ including a ‘Home School Agreement’ which parents sign when their children start with us in Primary 1. Should you like to be part of this, or if you have any other matters you would like to raise or discuss, our next meeting will be on Friday 3rd May at 9:00am.

FRESH LITTLE MINDS

All parents are invited to a ‘Fresh Little Minds’ information session in the school on Monday 4th March at 9:00am. We have been running the Fresh Little Minds ‘Grow’ programme in school this year which is targeted at children aged 5 to 12 years and introduces children to the **AMBER** approach (**Anchor, Move, Breathe, Express, Relax**) over a period of six sessions. (See website for more information)

So, if your child has had this programme and you want strategies for continuing this at home, or, if you would like to find out about the techniques, you are very welcome to attend.