**May Newsletter**

**New website**

Welcome to our new school website! We are very proud of the new website and we will keep it updated with school news, useful information, policies and forms, and lots of photos of our pupils learning at home and at school.

**Continuing school closures**

As the school closures and national restrictions continue, we hope that all families are well and safe.

We know that every family has been affected. Many parents have lost jobs. Older siblings have had months of uncertainty about the State exams. Some parents are working long exhausting hours helping to keep the country going. Others are trying to juggle working from home and family life. Sadly, some families are coping with a bereavement without the consoling presence of neighbours and friends. All children sense the uncertainty and may be acting out or holding in the anxiety. Everyone is just doing their best to get through this!

**Keeping in touch**

You can continue to keep in touch with us during the school closure through:

* the teachers’ email
* the school email -[info@stbrigidsinfantschool.ie](mailto:info@stbrigidsinfantschool.ie)
* the Home School Liaison phone - call, text or Whatsapp Olwen on 086-3705773

Keep sending in photos of children at work or play and we will add them to the website over the next few weeks. We need the correct details to keep in touch with families during the closure so please be sure that we have your correct phone numbers, emergency contact numbers, postal address and email address. You can update any information by calling, texting or emailing us.

**Learning from Home**

Even though the schools are closed, learning continues. Schools all over Ireland have put arrangements in place to ensure that children keep on learning. We would like to thank all families who are doing their best to help their children with the learning activities we are sending out through email, phone call, text or post. We have also gathered and distributed a list of helpful websites and resources which we have recommended to parents.

Thank you for taking part in our school survey which has helped us to plan for the rest of the term. In a recent phone meeting, our school inspector asked us to reaffirm to all parents that time spent talking, playing and enjoying activities with children is valuable and educational. With this in mind, for the month of June, we will focus on fun learning activities which we hope you will enjoy with your child, indoors and outdoors.

The school reports will be posted to your home towards the end of June.

**Planning for the new school year**

* Pupil wellbeing is our priority in every decision we make for next year.
* We will be in touch by phone and post with parents of incoming Junior Infants, incoming Early Start children, and First Classes transferring to St Fergal’s and St Brigid’s Senior School.
* We will let you know about your child’s teacher and classroom for next year before the end of June.
* In the new school year, we will be adhering strictly to the government guidelines for health, safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff, parents and visitors. We know we can depend on your support and cooperation. We will take the upcoming changes in our stride and do whatever it takes to keep everyone safe, happy and busy.
* We will have further updates before the end of June.

**Places in school**

Any parents enquiring about places in Junior Infants or Early Start can email the school at [info@stbrigidsinfantschool.ie](mailto:info@stbrigidsinfantschool.ie), call/text Olwen on 086-3705773 or call the school phone on 01-8348770 and we will be in touch.