**Summer Newsletter 2021**

After this long and difficult school year, we would like to thank our many families whose good humour, patience and loyalty to our school has made our job rewarding.

We made a huge effort to ensure that all our children would have a great year at school. With parents’ support we worked hard to make up for lost time and set up our remote learning system on Class Dojo.  We hope the children will have happy memories of the following activities: nature education with Red Squirrel; nature trails in Gabrielle’s Garden, our lovely school garden;  Halloween Dress-Up days; 12 days of Christmas; Santa’s Grotto  kindly sponsored by Finglas Celtic; Squeeze in a Read; World Book Day; Seachtain na Gaeilge and  St Patrick’s Day parade; Jerusalema challenge;  Easter Parade; Easter Egg Hunt; class dance-off;  visit of the tortoise family; Summer Spraoi school festival featuring carnival, outdoor yoga, GAA skills workshops, ice-cream van, sports day, fairy doors, pirate trail and first class graduation ceremony.  Amongst our staff are talented gardeners, choreographers, dancers, creatives, visual display artists, and amazing event managers.

Olwen has put together a booklet of local summer activities for children.  Book early for the     very popular camps run by our friends in Erin’s Isle GAAclub and Finglas Celtic and tell them we sent you! We hope that all our children have a summer of fresh air, friendship and fun.

The Department of Education has told schools to continue with Covid safety plan in the new school year. We are all well used to this by now and we will hit the ground running on Monday 30 August when school reopens for Junior Infants to First Class.  Early Start will start on Tuesday 31 August. Our new entrants will soon get used to standing in their spaced lines, saying goodbye in the yard and sanitising on their way in.

Starting times for all classes will be posted on our website in late August. We will also send an Aladdin text message to all families before school reopens. We will keep you informed of any updates from the Department of Education over the summer through our website.

During the summer, our school email [info@stbrigidsinfantschool.ie](mailto:info@stbrigidsinfantschool.ie) will be checked regularly for queries and messages.

School book money can be paid at the office window.  The costs are €60 for Junior Infants; €55 for Senior Infants and First Class. There is a discount for siblings. There is no charge for Early Start materials.  The office will be open for book payment for the first week in July and last week in August.

Senior Infants and First Class children can continue to access their PM books online until the end of August. We highly recommend a book online every night to maintain progress in reading.

Enrolment forms for Early Start and Junior Infants are available on our website.

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| ***A  very  special  thank  you….*** |
| We say a huge thank you to a very special person who is retiring from our school community. Mrs Monica Dunne has been taking care of generations of children, teachers, SNAs, principals, secretaries, caretakers, and even a few school inspectors. She has spent 44 years working at the school and is the longest-serving member of the St Brigid’s community.  We all loved to hear the sound of the trolley coming down the corridor as Monica delivered milk, fruit and lunches to the children and tea or coffee to the staff, sometimes with a little treat! Monica took special care to have the staffroom table set and the kettle boiling for the staff lunchbreak. After a chat in the office with Jackie, Monica would then take all our school letters and post them on her way home.  Monica walked to school and back every morning. This past year, Monica has been keeping safe at home and the staff have been following Covid-friendly rules with split breaks in separate staffrooms. We miss those lunchbreaks for Monica’s care and attention to all the staff.  Many of the parents and some of grandparents will remember Monica (Mrs Dunne) from their own school days. We know that all families will wish her every happiness and good health as she spends time with her lovely family who treat her as royally, as she deserves.  Monica will always be treasured by us, her school family at St Brigid’s. |

With very best wishes for a safe and happy summer to all our families.

*Staff of St Brigid’s Infant School*