**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to school everyone. Here is some need-to-know information.

**Lunches**

Free school lunches, snacks, fruit, milk and water are provided to Junior and Senior Infants and First. New menus will be given out at the end of the month. Good news: ham and jam are back on the menu. The children should bring an empty lunch box to take home their uneaten lunch. Early Start classes bring their own small lunch and get milk or water to drink.

**Starting and Finishing times**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Start**  | **Finish**  |
| **Early Start**  | **8.55 morning group****12.00 afternoon group** | **11.25****2.30** |
| **Junior Infants (from 20th Sept)** | **9.00** | **1.35** |
| **Senior Infants (from 20th Sept)** | **9.10** | **1.40** |
| **First Class** | **9.05** | **1.45** |

**Keeping our school and locality clean**

Thanks to Finglas Family Resource Centre for sponsoring the mural at our entrance. We are keeping our school environment as nice as possible, so please BRING HOME all rubbish. Our neighbours in Wellmount Avenue, Court and Crescent have been working hard to keep the local area clean and deserve our support.

**Payment for books and learning materials**

Payments (workbooks, book rental, art & craft materials and stationery) may be made at Jackie’s office window or to a member of staff in the yard. Receipts will be issued. The workbooks are provided on a sale or return basis by the publishers so we cannot hand out workbooks until they have been paid for. Anyone who would like to arrange a weekly payment plan can talk to Jackie. Crests and ties also available at the office.

First Class & Senior Infants = €55. Junior Infants = €60. Early Start. No cost.

**Uniforms and warm clothes**

The class teachers will let you know about their specific tracksuit day. Children may wear layers under and over their uniform to keep warm this year. We will have the windows open for ventilation. They should also have a hat and gloves ready for the winter.

**Communication**

Keeping in touch with families: The class teachers will send you an invitation to join Class Dojo. Class Dojo is the learning platform we will use in the event of school or class closures. The teachers will also post information and photos about class activities and learning. You can message the class teacher **with day-to-day queries**. They will check the Dojo directly after school, not during teaching time or not in the evening. Please download the app to your phone and accept the invitation.

Our school email is info@stbrigidsinfantschool.ie

WhatsApp Home School Community Liaison teacher Olwen is available at 086 370 5773. Olwen is always happy to assist with any queries during the school day.

Appointments: If you have a concern you would like to discuss with us, please ring in advance to arrange a call back/appointment. All school appointments will be held in a well-ventilated room with chairs spaced 2m apart and adults masked in compliance with guidance to schools.

Aladdin text messages will be used for brief school messages and reminders. The school attendance monitor will text if your child’s absence is unexplained.

Website: www.stbrigidsinfantschool.ie is updated regularly. We also publish our school calendar and important policies e.g. Annual Admissions notice, Code of Behaviour and Safeguarding Statement on our website.

Phone calls: Please call 8348770 to explain every absence, every day. We will phone you if your child is unwell and needs to be collected. A member of staff will mind your child until they are collected. The HSE public health advice is that children who are off-form in ANY way should stay home and parents should seek medical advice. We will phone you to let you know if your child has a head bump in the yard.

Parents’ Noticeboard in the entrance alley is refreshed regularly with updates.

**Health & Safety**

All schools are continuing with the Covid Response plan. Our safety measures include the following: washing and sanitising hands throughout the day; lessons on respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene; children lining up on their smileys/footprints in the yard; no mixing of class groups indoors or outdoors; limited group of staff dealing with each class group; open windows; outdoor education and play; staggered starting and finishing times; all staff wearing masks; request to parents to wear masks on school grounds as it is a crowded outdoor setting; all children with any sign of illness staying at home until 48 hours symptom-free. Thank you for supporting us in our efforts to keep our school safe and open.

Reminder: Bikes and scooters must be wheeled in. No dogs are allowed on school grounds.

We are delighted to be getting back to work and play at school this year. Happy new term.