**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

Happy St. Brigid’s Day to all our families. Spring in in the air and we are all looking forward to longer and brighter days ahead.

In February, we are celebrating connection **-** ways we are connected to our friends, our teachers and SNAs and to our families.

**Calendar Dates:**

8th February is Safer Internet Day. Check out www.webwise.ie for more information on the importance of children using the internet safely.

Week of 14 – 18 February Parent-Teacher meetings will take place over the phone again this year. Your child’s teacher will send you an appointment time by Class Dojo. We will call from a private number or from the school landlines 8348770 or 8569760. Please be ready to answer the call. Your child’s support teacher may also book a call with you.

Tuesday 14 February All classes will go home twenty minutes early to allow teachers time to prepare for meetings. Junior Infants at 1.15pm, Senior Infants at 1.20pm and First Classes at 1.25pm. Early Start classes will go home at the usual time.

Week of 21- 25 February St. Brigid’s Infant and Senior and St. Fergal’s schools will be closed all week for the mid-term break.

**Public health and attendance**

If there is a confirmed case of Covid in your child’s class we will contact you by letter and text message. Children can continue to attend school if they are a close contact, once they are doing regular antigen tests and have no symptoms.

All schools are still operating under their covid response plan. We have been closely following the public health advice for schools and we publish regular HSE updates for parents on our website.

Like all schools, we have had to anticipate and prepare for some staff absences due to the strict guidelines for the education sector. Here are the ways we have been keeping teaching and learning going:

* Our class teachers prepare their lesson plans in teams. If a class teacher is being taught by another teacher in the school or a substitute teacher, the plans are always ready.
* Each of our four support teachers works with three classes in their classrooms and in groups. They are very familiar with the children and the work they are doing and are ready to take over from the class teacher at any time.
* The government has given all schools additional support teaching to compensate for lost time at school over the past couple of years. Our colleague, Mrs Gabrielle Reidy, has come back from retirement to help with literacy teaching.
* We have merged the two very small afternoon Early Start groups, allowing Barbara and Evelyn to work with the first classes in the afternoons.
* We are very fortunate to have a team or substitute teachers and SNAs to carry on the work when necessary.
* It is very important that children attend every single day, unless they are unwell. As we look forward to returning to more normal times, we will once again promote and reward pupils’ attendance and participation. Watch this space.

**We love learning**

Music Generation lessons will start for some more classes this week.

We will be livening up yard times with some music and outdoor toys.

Keep in touch with your children’s learning through the photos on Class Dojo.

Barnardos Better Finglas programme have some excellent online and live courses for parents dealing with popular topics of interest such as childhood anxiety. Check them out on Facebook.