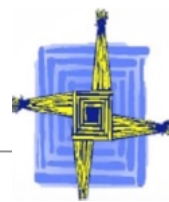


ST BRIDE'S BUZZ!



News & Celebrations | @StBridesPS1 | www.stbridesps.org.uk

Keeping everyone safe...

As we approach typical flu season, with COVID-19 still with us alongside other respiratory infections and seasonal illnesses, we continue to ask parents to carefully consider your child's health and fitness for school. Schools are very vulnerable to the rapid spread of bugs and viruses due to the sheer number of people on our premises daily. St Bride's whole school community want our staff, children and families to be able to stay safe and well - **so we need your help!**

Please ensure you:

- **inform school** immediately of any suspected/confirmed COVID, chickenpox or other illnesses
- **Keep any sick children at home**
- Promote good hand hygiene
- Complete any necessary periods of isolation to stop spread
- **Once a week, take a peek!**
Please ensure that you treat any cases of headlice to prevent spread.

Health Guidance...

Do I need to keep my child off school?				HSC Public Health Agency
Chicken Pox Last 4 days before onset	Conjunctivitis This week only if affected eye is red and watery	Dandruff or Seborrhoea No need to stay off school	Glandular Fever No need to stay off school	Head Lice No need to stay off school
Scabies or Scabies Rash After 48 hours of treatment	Measles After 7 days of treatment	Scabies Until after 48 hours of treatment	Scarlet Fever 21 days after onset	Strep Throat 24 hours after onset
Phu Until resolved	Head Lice Until after 48 hours of treatment	Throat Swellings Until after 48 hours of treatment	Tonsillitis Until after 48 hours of treatment	



Welcome back to Term 1B! We hope everyone had a spooktacular Hallowe'en break! In New Ways **November** we turn our attention to **#FRIENDSHIP** and explore the many ways in which we can be a good and kind friend to others and to ourselves by exploring positive self-talk.

Next week combines two important aspects of our Preventative Curriculum and PDMU learning as we acknowledge and celebrate both NIABF **Anti-Bullying Week** and National **Road Safety Week**.

We have an action-packed week of activities to coincide with provincial theme days but it's important to note that our learning in these areas takes place all year round on an ongoing basis.

Kicking off events on **Monday**, we are taking part in **#OddSocksDay** acknowledging and celebrating our **diversity and individuality**. We encourage everyone to get involved by wearing their wackiest odd socks for all to see!





Birthdays so far...

Happy birthday with love from everyone at **St Bride's PS, Belfast**

📅. End of October Birthdays

- Cameron (P3McN) Kathleen (P6McA)
- Charles (P5LW). Gavin (P2KP)
- Emann (P5MMcK). Alannah (P7BM)
- Khalfan (P3RL) Rachel (P2MOP)
- Mary-Kate (P1AM). Felicity (P3ML)
- Cassie (P3McN). Brody (P3ML)
- Olivia (P6JD). Henry (P2JODG).

November birthdays so far 📅

- Niamh (P5LGH). Yousif (P4McI)
- Patrick (P7BM). Elias (P3McN)
- Eva (P1AM). Samantha (P4McI)
- Anna (P3McN) Kate (P4KG)
- Cillian (P3RL). Ciaran (P2JODG)
- Maggie (P2JODG). Callia (P1MW)
- Ellen (P4McM). Angela (P5LGH)
- Hernan (P3ML). Rua (P3McN)
- Hanna (P2JODG). Jake (P7BM)
- Brendan (P5LW). Sean (P5MMcK)
- Niamh (P7JM). Noah (Nursery)
- Austin (P2MOP). Gersi (P4McLL)
- Daniel (Nursery). Antonio (P7BM)
- Harry (P3ML). Maya (P2KP)
- Patrick (P3McN). Oscar (Nursery)
- Katie (P4McM). Rory (P2KP)
- Michael (P5MMcK). Matilda (P6CK)
- Orla (P4KG). Emma (P7MC)



All classes have a range of activities planned to explore key themes across the week but, as a whole school, we will end the week on **Friday** with a **neon bright non-uniform, #DitchTheDark** day, encouraging our pupils, staff and families to **#BeBrightBeSeen** when out and about on these darker winter days.

Both photos below contain



children. This illustrates just how important it is to be sure that our children and us adults too, can be seen on the roads at this darker time of year.

Congratulations to last month's **Hot Chocolate Friday** winners who were selected for being excellent role models for all in demonstrating and living out our focus on **RESPECT**. Who will be nominated this month for **#FRIENDSHIP**... I look forward to finding out soon!



Thank you to our fabulous staff & **PTA** who organised and ran **two fantastic Hallowe'en discos for P4-7 children**. Well done families and children on the fantastic outfits and groovy dancing! It was lovely to have everyone back partying together! **Thank you everyone for your support!**



Thank you to our fantastic **Canteen Staff** who went all out to create a frightfully tasty Hallowe'en themed surprise for our pupils!

Good luck to our **Boys Gaelic Team** who will play in the semis (and hopefully finals) in the Cumann na mBunscol Schools League next week. Naomh Bríd Abú



As our P7 pupils begin a series of examinations over the next few weeks, we keep them and their families in our prayers.

Sincere thanks to all staff for supporting our pupils to prepare so well and to their family members supporting and encouraging them at home.

All of our P7 children have worked so hard and we are so very proud of them!

Go, do your best children and remember, to us, you are so much more than a score on a test! **#Superstars** 🌟🌟🌟

To help prepare our P7 children to stay calm, focussed and relaxed, we have been enjoying lots of mindfulness, resilience and aromatherapy sessions.



Huge thanks to Mrs Gaffney-Fee for leading these wonderful sessions.

Sending lots of love, luck and positivity to our P7 children! 💙

So much more

You, dear child, are so much more,
Than a number, a percentage a level or a score,
You're a brilliant artist painting a scene,
A wonderful poet describing a dream,
An author creating mystery and surprise,
A rugby player scoring a hat trick of tries,
A chorister singing a beautiful song,
A mathematician who is rarely wrong,
A sailor sailing away in a boat
A musician hitting the perfect note,
An amazing athlete winning the gold,
A fearless adventurer so brave and so bold,
The list is long and I could go on,
You really are a talented one,
Your tests are important but be in no doubt,
They do not describe what you are about,
You see, dear child, you are so much more,
Than a number, a percentage, a level or a score.

B. Banks

Help with Childcare and School Costs

Help with childcare costs for working parents

- Tax-free childcare:** Save 20% of childcare costs, up to £2,000 per child per year.
- Childcare vouchers:** Salary sacrifice scheme. Save up to £969 per year per parent.
- Universal Credit:** Provides claimants with 85% of their registered childcare costs.
- Tax Credits:** Provides claimants with 70% of their registered childcare costs.

Help with school costs

- School uniform grant:** Contribution to the cost of school uniforms.
- Free school meals:** Entitles claimants to free school dinners.

St Bride's PS staff are **here to help and support** all families. If you, or a family you know, are in need of our support, please get in touch to speak to us in confidence.

Need to chat to us or raise a concern... We will always be happy to help!

Most often **class teachers** are the best person to speak to. They can be contacted via the school email address or landline.

Email: info@stbrides.belfast.ni.sch.uk or Telephone 02890 381700. If, after speaking with class teachers, the matter remains unresolved, it may be further raised to the Head of Key Stage, SENCo, Senior Leadership Team, VPs and then the Principal.



Keeping up with St Bride's... I'd encourage all adults to follow St Bride's PS on **Twitter** to get a glimpse into all that goes on in our school. Check us out [@StBridesPS1](https://twitter.com/StBridesPS1).



Have you moved house, changed your telephone number or email address?

Please ensure that you update the School Office Team with any change of details to ensure that you have continued access to our SchoolComms & Gateway App for important information and payments. **Thank you!**

Looking ahead... Dates for your diaries



Monday 14th November - Odd Socks Day



Friday 18th November - Ditch the Dark Neon Non-Uniform Day



Monday 21st November - School closed to all pupils - Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings

Safeguarding our premises...

Families, unfortunately adults are still 'hanging around' on our school premises between school pickups, despite our pleas to vacate the areas. We cannot facilitate parent, grandparent or childminding waiting areas. Anyone arriving before 1.50pm or remaining on site after 2.10pm and before 2.50pm will be asked to leave in adherence with safeguarding procedures. Respectfully families, once you have collected your children, you are politely requested to leave school premises. **Thank you for your co-operation.**



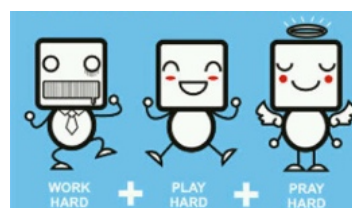
Other Reminders:

- **Parking:** I appreciate and have witnessed the difficulties associated to traffic management, however, I respectfully request that parents adhere to road markings, **avoid using staff carpark areas, refrain from blocking school or residents' gates**, zigzag crossing lines etc and instead park **responsibly**, with **respect** for local residents and of course, children's safety.
- We will call the **police** in respect of any **illegal parking or dangerous driving**.
- **Our only concern is the safety of our school community.** Parking convenience is not a priority.
- **Abuse towards school staff will also not be tolerated** and could result in further action taking place.



- **Safer School Premises:**
- Families, you may be aware that we have a number of children with severe, often life-threatening, allergies, others with mobility issues and many who have experienced trauma which can be easily triggered. With that in mind, as the children's safety and well-being is my paramount concern, I respectfully ask that ALL food coming into school is nut-free, adults refrain from smoking on school premises and that dogs are not brought on to our school sites.
- **Thank you** for your co-operation in protecting and safeguarding our children.

Now for a summary of **what's on next week...**



Day & Date 📅	Events 🧑🧑	Points to note 📌📄
Monday 14th November Odd Socks Day	🕒 Early Morning Drop-off 8.30am 🎵 Clarinet Lessons 🧑 P5 Mandarin Lessons 🧦 Odd Socks Day 💻 Miniversity (ICT Suite) 🕺 Irish Dancing (DV Hall) 🗣️ Many Faces Drama P2-3 ⚽ Girls' Gaelic P6-7 (Ashleigh Pitch)	📌 Remember to book school meals by Sunday for the week ahead.
Tuesday 15th November	🕒 Early Morning Drop-off 8.30am 🙏 Mass P5M/McK & LGH 🎵 Brass & Cello Lessons 🎨 Arts & Crafts Club - DV Site 🇫🇷 French (Derryvolgie Front Entrance) 🤸 Gymnastics MR Sports - DV Hall ⚽ Playball After-School Club - Ashleigh 🎵 Orchestra & Brass Ensemble 🎷🎺	<div>  <p>Follow us on twitter</p> <p>@StBridesPS1</p> <p>to keep up with all that goes on in our school!</p> </div>
Wednesday 16th November	🕒 Early Morning Drop-off 8.30am 🎵 Violin Lessons 🏊 P7 Swimming - Queens PEC ⚽ BOYS' Gaelic League Semi/Finals 🏏 Hurling & Camogie - St Brigid's ⚽ Soccer MR Sports - DV Hall 🇫🇷 French (Derryvolgie Front Entrance)	📌 As the weather changes, please ensure that all pupils have coats for outdoor play in all weathers and that all items of uniform are clearly labelled with names. 🌧️☔
Thursday 17th November	🕒 Early Morning Drop-off 8.30am 🎵 Viola & Percussion lessons 🙏 P7BM Retreat 🏀 P7 Basketball Coaching ⚽ KS1 Gaelfast 🗣️ School Counsellor Sessions 🏀 Basketball Club - Ashleigh Hall ⚽ Boys' Gaelic Coaching - Queens PEC	<div>  </div>
Friday 18th November Ditch the Dark Non-Uniform Neon Brights Day	🕒 Early Morning Drop-off 8.30am 🎵 Flute lessons 📖 P6JD Library Visit 🗣️ P7BM Assembly for P6&7 🌍 World Children's Day 🤹 Judo DV Hall 🧘 Yoga (Ashleigh Hall) 🇮🇪 Irish Lessons (DV Front Entrance)	<div>  </div>