



# The Bridge

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ST. BRIDE'S CCMS | Belfast Education & Library Board

## Welcome to the Twenty-Third issue of The Bridge Newsletter, packed with photos and stories!

### A Message from Acting Principal Mrs Quinn

Welcome to the latest edition of our Bridge Magazine.

It has been a busy and exciting first term with pupils enjoying a range of activities and lessons both in school and further afield. There are plenty of articles written by the children with photographs to enjoy, which will give you a flavour of what's been going on in St



Bride's. Our Nursery and Primary One children have settled well into the life of St Bride's and are happily making new friends and learning new skills, whilst our Primary Seven children are preparing for their final Christmas Carol Service with us, which will be emotional for all.

The School Council are busy with their 'Recycle/Reuse' project and the Eco Committee are gathering evidence to help the school achieve the Green Flag Award. Mr Murray is kept busy keeping our new web site 'live' with staff, pupils and PTA providing articles, photos and video clips to go on line.

The Christmas concerts have, as always, been a great success with a great turn out of parents and friends. I have enjoyed my first term as Acting Principal and thank the staff and parents for their support. I especially want to thank the pupils for showing such kindness to one another in our 'Year of Friendship' and wish you all a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



### School Council Launch New Reduce/Reuse Book Project



#### Our Jobs as School Council Members

In the school council we try to make our school a better place for the pupils. We attend regular meetings and discuss ideas, read our class' suggestions and occasionally nibble the odd biscuit or two! Our latest project has been trying to improve our class libraries. We have organised a poster competition about re-using our old books. We have been holding a drop-off fortnight where you can drop off all of your old books for our school. Also Scholastic, have sent us five book catalogues for us to choose even more books for the libraries.

Finally and probably the most important thing about being in the school council is that you know that you can make a difference. We can see results of our work in things like Yr 5 swimming and the new I-pads in Mr Murray's ICT suite. Without the School Council this school would not be as good as it is now. We have tried to persuade Mrs Quinn to give us a Onesie day in February but we get the feeling it's NOT going to happen! Oh well, we tried! By Cara & Colm Year 6 Duffin



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## Yr2 Genevieve the Goat from Cancer Focus

Genevieve the Goat came to visit us at school. She eats lots of healthy food. She also does lots of exercise.



Eat right be light!

We got our photo taken. We said thank you!

We played a game with 3 different boards. One was red, one was orange and one was green. We picked food pictures out of a bag and stuck them on to the boards for 'a lot', 'some' and 'a little'. If we want to be big and strong we have to eat the right foods and get plenty of exercise!



By Maria Yr2H

## Yr1 Have Been Having Fun with Shapes



We have been sorting shapes and making pictures. We have been exploring the different shapes and working out how many sides they have. We are using this to help us tell the difference between the shapes.

By Yr1W

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## Victorian Washing Day



This term Yr3 have been learning about Houses and Homes. We looked at houses 100 years ago called Victorian houses. During Structured Play we dressed up as Victorian children. The girls wore big aprons and mop caps. The boys wore flat caps and waist coats. We pretended to do the laundry. In a Victorian house there were no washing machines or driers, everything was done by hand. First you filled the big metal basin with water and the teacher used a knife to cut the bar of soap into flakes. We mixed the flakes and used the peg to swish the clothes around. For the stubborn stains we scrubbed them on the washboard. It was hard work we had to squeeze the water out with our hands. Finally we used wooden pegs to hang them on the line to dry.

Yr3 O'Prey

## iPads have Landed in the Nursery



The nursery children are having great fun with the new ipads.



Oliver, Nasser and Matthew are taking turns and testing how they are getting on.



Ciaran is sorting for colour.

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## Food & Fitness

On Thursday 6th November, our class went over to the Parish hall for an activity about food and fitness with the Dairy Council.



We learnt that milk and dairy food are important for our bodies as they give us calcium, protein and vitamin B12, and that we should be doing at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity every day. We also learnt a rap about food and fitness.

*Listen to me and peel your eyes!  
Food and Fitness - no surprise  
It's what you need for looking good  
And feeling great, the way you should!*



It was great fun!!

*Shoug & Catherine Yr6Y*



## Eco Committee Project

Did you know that printer ink is more expensive than rocket fuel? Reusing ink cartridges will save a lot of resources. Only 20% of the energy used in a new cartridge is needed to recycle an old one. Recycled cartridges are sold at a lower cost than brand new. Cartridges that cannot be reused can be made into many other items needed in daily life such as soles for shoes. In the past St Bride's recycled cartridges by sending them by freepost to a company in England. As we now have more local recycling facilities and a hardworking and committed Eco council at St Bride's, we thought it was time to investigate how we could do more. We found a recycling company called Empty Cartridge Recycling which has a facility near Newry and were really pleased when Mrs Quinn gave us the GREEN light for the project. We are now registered and up and running with collection boxes in the Derryvolgie and Ashleigh foyers. The money raised will be split between eco council projects and charity donations.

Please support us by sending in all your used ink cartridges. The company has told us smaller ink cartridges are usually the most valuable!!



*Many thanks and hope you can donate.  
St Bride's Eco Committee*

## Our Music Morning in the School of Music

On the 21<sup>st</sup> November our class was very lucky to take part in a music morning organised by the School of Music. The theme was 'Fairground Sounds'. We joined 5 other schools to sing, play instruments and perform our own musical compositions, using many instruments.



we were trying to make. Our performance went well and we got to be creative and produce our own original sound.

*Lucy and James Yr5A*



## Visit of Fire Authority to Yr 2 McD



On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November some firemen came to our school. They brought their fire engine. I was very excited. The firemen showed us the protective clothing they wear when there is a fire. Miss McDermott dressed up in the clothes and we all laughed.

After that I was allowed to use the hose and shoot water at a cone. The water was very fast and the fireman helped me to hold the heavy hose.

I saw where all the tools and special equipment for cutting are kept in the engine. Then I got to climb inside the engine. It was great fun and I could hear the radio messages coming in. I loved to be sitting in the fire engine. Finally we all got to



hear the loud siren as the firemen got a call to go to put out a fire. They all had to rush away. It was a very exciting day.

*By Lucy Yr2McD*

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## Newcomer's Coffee Morning



Mrs Meehan and Mrs Quinn invited newcomer parents to the school for a look at our EAL facilities and a short talk on the resources and how they are used in the school.



It was an informal and informative occasion  
and of course a cup of coffee and some nice biscuits went down well!!

## Year 2 Meet Stuffee!

In the Autumn Term Yr2M went to the Ulster Museum to meet 'Stuffee', a blue haired, 2m tall teddy with a big smile. Our class helped 'Stuffee' to choose food from his lunch box to make a healthy sandwich.



Aoibhin and Prabhroop showed 'Stuffee' how to brush his teeth and wash his hands. We even learnt about our organs including finding out where each organ is, what it does and how we digest our food. Cillian discovered what we use our intestines for!



Afterwards, we cut out the organs in our bodies (Yuck!!) and stuck them onto a model of 'Stuffee'. It was great fun meeting 'Stuffee' and learning about how to keep healthy. Maybe we will be surgeons when we grow up?

Or butchers! *Yr2 Mc M*



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## Girls' Gaelic Football

St. Bride's Girls Gaelic team train every Monday afternoon from 3-4pm in the Ashleigh Playground. Each week we learn to develop our soloing, catching, kicking and hand passing skills.



Every year we take part in the Girl's School League and Girl's Championship.

Mrs McMahon and Miss O'Leary have been very lucky to have Frank Mc Gurk, from the local St. Brigid's GAA Club, helping us organise games and train the girls.



So come on and join in. The craic is great!

## The Ulster Schools' Swimming Gala



St Bride's Swim Team went to Ballymena to compete in the Ulster Schools' Swimming Gala.

The day got off to a great start when Ava got silver in 50m breaststroke and gold in 50m freestyle. Conn came fourth in the freestyle and tenth in breaststroke. Later on in the day Caoilainn came sixth in the backstroke. Charlotte got silver in breaststroke and fourth in freestyle. I came seventh in the backstroke and butterfly. Grace came seventh in breaststroke and 100m IM. Niall came seventh in breaststroke and tenth in IM.. Garret came twelfth in the butterfly and eleventh in freestyle. Freya did well in both her events. Louis and Hugh did very well in IM. The boys relay team came third in the IM relay and fourth in the freestyle. The girls came second in both. A lot have now qualified for the Irish schools in Dublin. It was a very good day and everyone should be very happy with their results.

Dara Yr7G

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## Yr5 Hurling Blitz



On Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November Yr5 Mr Cunningham's class and Mr McCauley's class had a hurling blitz in the Parish Hall. Mrs McAllister and Miss O'Leary's class took part the following week.



First we got into our table groups and worked through hurling booklets while we were waiting for our turn to play. We had named ourselves after Irish counties which were Tipperary, Tyrone, Derry

Armagh, Antrim and Kilkenny.

All the counties played their matches and Derry (surprise surprise!) were the overall winners. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we all got certificates!

By Conor and Charlotte Yr. 5 C

## Botanic Gardens

On Thursday 23rd October, Mr McAuley's class went on a school trip to the Botanic Gardens where we learned about Ulster Wildlife including the many different trees and animals in Northern Ireland. First, we put on our high visibility jackets for safety and walked to the gardens. When we got there we met the Ulster Wildlife leaders Siobhan and John. Once we were split into groups where we were given various nuts, which we had to hide around trees to show how squirrels both hid and collected their food.

We went off in our groups where we learned about different trees in the area such as the Ash tree, which had ladder leaves on it. We also picked a leaf from the Oak tree and sang the Oakey Pokey to help us remember its name.

Before we left for school, we collected various leaves and branches around the Botanic gardens, which we would bring back to class and use in our Art lessons. We were also given pedometers for the walk back to school to help remind us that we should be active and healthy.

We loved our trip to the Botanic Gardens and can't wait to go back.

Thanks John and Siobhan.

Olivia and Hannah. Yr5McAuley



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## Religious Retreat at La Salle Pastoral Centre

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, our class went on a retreat to La Salle Pastoral Centre. We were greeted by Michelle and Margaret, who are two of the instructors at La Salle. We went inside and played a game called 'Lions, Tigers and Bears.'

Once we were done we all sat down and agreed a class contract. We were split into three groups. Our group was with Margaret. We talked about God and how we can all shine our light to help others. Then we wrote down our ideas and discussed how our kind actions can make God and other people very happy.



After we had our break, our group was taken to the church for a meditation session. We sat on cushions and closed our eyes. We did this for about 15 minutes. Then we drew or wrote what we thought about during meditation on a piece of card. We stuck streamers to these and made them into kites. After lunch we talked about shining our light. We got card and drew around our hands and cut them out. On the hand we wrote ways we could shine our light.

Next it was time to plan our prayer service. There were five groups. The groups were music, focus, drama, prayers and posters. I was in the group which created the focus, which would be placed in the middle of the church. The decoration in the church was a flowing river and this represented us shining our light continuously. Music was played and a drama took place about a rainbow of colours, and why each one was special for different reasons. Some people said prayers and at the end we all said a prayer together.

It was a very enjoyable day and I would love to go back there again!



By Aoife Yr7 McGivern

## WAU Alarm Systems

We were given a task to make a simple circuit, and incorporate an alarm into it. We were given crocodile clips, batteries, buzzers, and butterfly clips (for a switch). We could also bring in things ourselves. We used a motion sensor, buzzer, battery and a shoe box lid. When the wires aren't connected to the sensor, the circuit was open, but when the wire was touching the motion sensor, it was closed. We had a week to complete our task and bring in everything we needed. We had to present our systems to the rest of the class. We got to see the alarms that other groups had made, and they were all very good. We all really enjoyed it and we hope we can do something like this again.



By Betsy and Maria, Yr6 Graham

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## Halloween

Terrifying Halloween it couldn't get any scarier  
Cavernous werewolves roam the streets  
Icky monsters covered in hair  
Carnivorous phantoms with red blood eyes  
Killer witches make a shadow over the earth  
Oh what a scary Halloween!  
Random creatures popping up in my face  
Terrible sounds fill the air  
Ripping skin and nobody cares  
Eating candy bars and sweets  
Awesome Halloween it couldn't get better,  
The horrible things knocking on my door....oh  
that's just my mum!



By Adam Yr4 D

## Trick or Treat



*Tonight the witches fly up high,  
Ravens soaring in the dark sky,  
I like to knock on all the doors,  
Can I see rats on witches floors,  
Kangaroos scared in the zoo's*

*Only small ghosts smell of raw egg fuse,  
Ripping Zombies all apart*

*Twiggy Monsters in a cart  
Roaring pumpkin with a spark,  
Eating children in the dark,  
Abracadabra, wiggly woo, make this toad just  
like you,  
Tip toe tip toe through the house be as quiet as  
a mouse.*

By Clionagh Yr4 D

## Netball



Netball takes place every Thursday after school. It is open to all Yr6 and Yr7 girls, new members are always welcome. Coached by Mrs Kennedy, the Yr7 training is from 330pm - 430pm at Olympia Leisure Centre. Mrs Cowan coaches the Yr6 squad at school from 315pm - 415pm. The PTA are kindly funding a professional coach to assist with our training this year. The Yr7's have already benefitted from this and the coach will work with the Yr6's later in the year. The Yr7's are preparing to enter the Belfast League and matches will begin after Christmas. Netball is a really enjoyable sport to play and we would really encourage next year's Yr.6's and Yr7's to play it!

By Amy and Ellie P.7K



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## Fire-Fighter Fun in Yr1

We have just finished our topic on fire fighters; we discussed the jobs they do, what equipment they use and what they wear.



In class we painted and drew pictures of fire fighters we even used wooden shapes and nails to make fire engines too! The fire

station was really good fun because we got to dress up and pretend to drive in our own fire trucks and go and rescue people!

Fire fighters do a really dangerous job and we are all glad we have fire fighters to take care of us! Some of us said we would like to be a fire fighter when we grow up!!

**We would like to thank the  
PTA for all their hard work.**



Year 2 teachers are working hard to make learning fun. Recently the PTA bought the Year 2 classes new outfits for our Santa's grotto. Don't they look great? The PTA are involved in many fun and social activities which raise money for school funds and extra curricular activities. This money also helps to purchase much needed resources. Thank you to the PTA for organising the Fun Day in September , the Family Organiser, the Halloween Disco, the Christmas Cards and the wonderfully successful Christmas Fair.

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HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL