
February 2017

St. Brendan's NS

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Dear Parent,

This week is "Friendship week" in our school. We are celebrating friendship and belonging and will be exploring the theme in class and at playtime. We are also supporting Amnesty International and there are wristbands available to buy all week for €2.

Enrolment forms were sent out last week and further enrolment forms are available from the school office.

A little reminder that school starts at **9:20**. We are noticing children arriving in dribs and drabs until 9:45. This impacts on their learning and their classmates learning. Arriving 15 mins late every day adds up to 1 and ¼ hours a week. Let us all make a great effort in the fresh season of Spring to arrive to school on time!

Yours sincerely,

Éilís Treacy

School Principal

School Credit Union

After many requests, the school credit union will reopen on Tuesday 14th February. Pupils need to open an account in Ballinasloe CU to be able to lodge their CU money through the school.

The school credit union will be open every Tuesday from tomorrow. Many thanks to Patricia for facilitating it.



Upcoming Events

23rd & 24th February

Midterm Break

Wed 8th March

First Confession

Friday 17th March

St. Patrick's Day

Friday 7th April

Closing for Easter Holidays

Wednesday 10th May

Closed for teacher inservice on new Language Curriculum.

Please note this new closure on calendar.

Hurling Training

Will return after the midterm break

Money collections:

Music

€20 for Spring Term

Enrolment Sept 2017:

Enrolment forms for next year are available from the school office: Mon-Thurs 9:00am-11:00am

Board of Management Agreed Minutes

St. Brendan's NS, Eyrecourt BOM met on Wednesday 1st February at 8pm.

- Board formulated and ratified schools response to English Curriculum Evaluation. The report is now available to view online on www.education.ie or through our school website.
- Funding for yard resurfacing was refused. Board are very concerned about the safety of children in the yard and plan to pursue this further.
- The school is currently one of the charities for the Tesco blue token collection. Please support if you are shopping in Tesco Ballinasloe.
- The Board have agreed to allow Eyrecourt Coderdojo open to children outside of the school on the condition that the club operate within the guidelines and rules of the Coderdojo foundation
- The school will be painted in the coming months, weather permitting.

Internet Safety

We had Safer Internet Day on February 7th. <http://www.saferinternetday.ie/> Some worrying statistics emerged about children's online safety. www.webwise.ie is an excellent resource for parents. We use it in school to teach about safety online.

Our senior pupils made posters highlighting some basic internet safety tips. They then presented it to the junior and middle classroom. Parents should be aware that while it went over the head of the junior room, the middle room (2nd-4th class) were very interested and asked a lot of questions. While that age group might not have their own social media accounts, they do have access to the internet through tablets, games and parents/older siblings accounts. www.webwise.ie has very supportive and usable guidelines for parents in relation to screen-time and internet use for children.

English Curriculum Evaluation

Our school was inspected in October for two full days. In that time the teachers were observed teaching for an hour each, all notes and planning (this year and last year) were read, children's work and copies in English were assessed, teachers were interviewed and a group of children were interviewed. This was to give the inspector a full picture of the quality of the teaching of English in our school.

The report from this inspection is now online on www.education.ie. There is also a link to it on our school website. This is a relatively new model of inspection and there are less than 20 reports of this type published. We are very pleased with the report. We feel it reflects the care, diligence, preparation and time our teachers put into their teaching. The school board of management along with the teachers formulated a response to the report at the last board meeting and this is also included online. Naturally there are recommendations for improvement and they have been taken onboard. We have a new English Language curriculum being introduced in the next few years. We will receive training on that in May and this will hopefully further enhance our English teaching.