
January 2017

St. Brendan's NS

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Dear Parent,

Happy New Year to all and welcome back to all our pupils.

This is our longest term of the year, packed full of activities and events. Swimming commences next week. Read about it below.

Enrolment forms for next year will be distributed from February 1st.

Yours sincerely,

Éilís Treacy

School Principal

Swimming

It was decided in 2012 by the Board of Management that swimming money would have to be paid upfront in full. The school has a group rate agreed with the bus company and the swimming pool. If children are absent the same amount has to be paid. Therefore paying upfront would ensure the school has covered all costs. (Note in 2011 the cost per child was €8)

- The cost of swimming for 6 weeks is **€35** per child. If a pupil wishes to pay week by week it is **€7**.
 - Swimming commences this Monday 23rd January @ 1pm in Birr Swimming Pool for 6 sessions.
 - Classes **1st to 6th** will attend.
 - Check that your child has all their gear: swimming togs that fit, hat, goggles, towel.
 - Ensure all your child's clothes are labelled.
 - Children will travel to and from the pool by bus with their class.
 - In preparation, children should practice changing themselves at home after baths/showers. The children change in cubicles with a partner. If possible children should wear their togs under their school tracksuit to school on Mondays.
 - Girls should have their hair plaited or in a high bun. Silicone swimming
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Upcoming Events

23rd & 24th February

Midterm Break

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.

Money collections:

Music

€20 to Easter

Swimming

€35 for 6 lessons

caps would be most suitable for the girls. There are silicone swimming caps especially for long hair available in most sports shops. Speedo and Zoggs are the two most reliable brands. The Silicone caps are a few euro more expensive but last forever. My own cap is almost 7 years old and I swim twice a week!

- Parents can attend and help their **own** child get dressed. Due to child protection issues, parents should ensure they have the consent of the parent before helping another child.

Christmas Carol Service

Thank you for your support of the Christmas Carol Service. It was a very enjoyable evening and the children sang some of their songs again at the active retirement mass. There are still some DVD's available for €5.

School Lunches

We have a healthy eating policy in our school. Chocolate (including spreads), sweets, bars, crisps are not allowed. Lunch should include a sandwich, fruit and a drink.

Internet / Phone Safety

Santa was very generous again this year and there is a lot of talk around the school about new phones, tablets, ipods, ipads, laptops and gaming consoles....to name but a few!

As part of our SPHE curriculum we teach about internet safety and personal protection online. We use www.webwise.ie as a resource along with the Stay Safe programme and other SPHE books.

Mobile phones or any interactive devices are still not allowed in our primary school. However sometimes activity outside of school can impact on relationships in school. Parents should educate themselves on all interactions their children are using on phones, tablets etc. Viber, Snapchat, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram are the main buzzwords we are hearing in school. Pupils are in "groups" on these applications and have no control on the membership. This is where a lot of online bullying takes place by messages sent or exclusion from groups.

We would ask that parents would monitor their children's use of phones etc. **We would ask that children do not have phones/tablets/laptops in their bedroom at night**, as we would like our pupils to be as fresh as possible in school!

www.webwise.ie has many supportive documents for parents. It explains Snapchat and other commonly used applications. It gives tips on how to keep your child safe online and how to protect privacy online. In primary school we encourage the children to wait until they go to secondary school before joining Facebook or even having a phone. We encourage the children to interact face to face, play outside and have real relationships. When they split into different secondary schools or friends move away, these applications are all valuable methods of keeping up contact with their friends.



School Activities

- Swimming will commence on Monday 23rd Jan for 6 weeks.
- Hurling/Camogie on a break until pitch and weather improves.
- Library
5th/6th Thurs
- Book Buddies will commence next week with the infant classes

Coderdojo

- Returns Wednesday 18th January @6:30pm
All budding programmers from 3rd class up are welcome. No experience necessary.