

January 2019

St. Brendan's NS

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Dear Parent,

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

A special welcome to our new pupils Denis and Derek who have moved to Eyrecourt from Portumna. 1st and 3rd class have been very kind and welcoming to the new boys.

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

Yours sincerely,

Éilís Treacy

School Principal

Swimming

Swimming returns for 6 weeks beginning next Monday 14th January. We carried out a survey before Christmas and found that parents were hugely in favor of continuing swimming.

Furthermore the Parents Association met and have decided that they will contribute towards the costs to make it affordable for families. We are now able to offer swimming at **€40** per child. This is an increase of €4 on last year but thankfully with the assistance of the PA it is not €60 per family as we feared.

- The cost of swimming for 6 weeks is **€40** per child. If a pupil wishes to pay week by week it is **€9**.
- Swimming commences this Monday 14th 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



Upcoming Events

21st & 22nd February

Midterm Break

Monday 18th March

St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday

Saturday 6th April

First Holy Communion

Friday 12th April

Closing for Easter Holidays

Money collections:

Music

€20 to Easter

Swimming

€40 for 6 lessons

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 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 finally tore last year after 8 years service 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. 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. 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. Fortnight is having a major impact this year on boys relationships and friendships in school.

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 or at all in their bedrooms, 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 Fortnight 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 Snapchat 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.



Nicole, Seán, Isabelle, Ethan & Jennifer
Winners of last terms writing award.

School Activities

- Swimming will commence on Monday 14th 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 9th January @ 7pm
- All budding programmers from 4th class up are welcome. No experience necessary. Children from other schools also welcome