

January 2020

St. Brendan's NS

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Dear Parent,

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

This begins a very busy term for our senior classroom, culminating in 5th and 6th class' confirmation on March 21st.

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 20th January. We carried out a survey last year and found that parents were hugely in favor of continuing swimming. However costs are rising year on year. This year we will continue to charge €40 per pupil. We have calculated with every child from 1st to 6th class attending swimming the school will have to supplement the costs by €13 per child. We will use the Cash for Clobber money for this.

Some general swimming pointers

- 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 20th 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

Upcoming Events

14th January

School Closed for teacher training in New Language Curriculum.

20th & 21st February

Midterm Break

16th & 17th March

School closed for St. Patrick's Day and Monday

Saturday 21st March

Confirmation

Friday 3rd April

Closing for Easter Holidays

Money collections:

Music

€20 to Easter

Swimming

€40 for 6 lessons

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.
- 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.
- We talked through swimming with the pupils today and looked at the towel turban for girls for keeping long hair dry and we looked at a towel robe for changing. Both of those can be found in Penny's or Decathlon (online).

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. Fortnite and online gaming 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 Fortnite 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.

School Activities

- Swimming will commence on Monday 20th Jan for 6 weeks.
- Hurling/Camogie on Wednesdays 12-1pm
- Library 5th/6th Thurs
- Book Buddies will commence next week with the infant classes

Coderdojo

- Returns Wednesday 15th January @ 7pm

All budding programmers from 4th class up are welcome. No experience necessary. Parent has to stay for the session.

Children from other schools also welcome.

Enquiries to

eyrecourtcoderdojo@gmail.com