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March 2020

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# St. Brendan's NS

The Square, Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

This year is flying by and in just over two weeks 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will have their confirmation. Preparations are well underway and we look forward to a lovely ceremony.

Please note the half day closure on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. For the introduction of the new primary language curriculum, staff have a half day for training and planning this term and next term. It is hoped that **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**, right after the confirmation will be less disruptive for parents. School will close for pupils at lunchtime: **12:20pm**.

Yours sincerely,

*Éilís Treacy*

School Principal

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## Cash for Clobber

We had great success again this November with our clothes collection. We received a cheque for nearly €400.

We will hold another collection in June and we will gladly take any bags of clothes, sheets, curtains or shoes. We cannot take quilts or pillows but can take everything else. If you are doing a spring clean, bring your bags to school any morning and 6<sup>th</sup> class will help carry them in and store them in the shed.

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## Upcoming Events

### Thursday 5th March

Celebrating World Book Day

### 16th & 17th March

School closed for St. Patrick's Day and Monday

### Saturday 21st March

Confirmation

### Monday 23rd March

Half day closure for staff training

### Friday 3rd April

Closing for Easter Holidays

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## Money collections:

### Music

€20 for Spring Term

### Swimming

€40 for 6 lessons

## Enrolment Sept 2020:

Enrolment forms for next year are available from the school office:

Mon-Thurs 9:00am-11:00am

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## World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day this Thursday. Pupils are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book characters.

The book buddies are dressing up together. Each week 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class read to their “book buddy” in the junior room. The senior book buddy has decided with their junior book buddy on a traditional story to dress up as. They have sent a letter home with the junior book buddy specifying what they need for Thursday.

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class will dress up as their favourite book character. We encourage the children to be creative and use clothes and props from home. For example, last year one of the best costumes was “Billionaire Boy”. It was simply a plain t-shirt with handwritten money stapled onto it.

## Coronavirus

As you are well aware, there is an ongoing situation with the Coronavirus. It is changing day by day. Children really pick up on adult anxiety and it is important that we all reassure them and sing from the same hymn sheet so to speak. Here are the what we are telling the children in school:

1. It is really important we all wash our hands properly.
2. Cough into your elbow.
3. It is a bad flu but we are all healthy so even if we get it we will be sick but **OK**.

We would really appreciate if those three simple pointers are repeated and reinforced at home to reassure the children.

I would also explain that people who are already sick or elderly people are a bit more vulnerable and we should be careful when we are visiting those family members. We should wash our hands and if we have a cold, we should maybe stay away until we are better.

We are encouraging pupils to wash their hands properly and we have paper towels for drying hands which are probably the most hygienic method.

Pupils could bring in their own little bottle of hand sanitizer to have at their place if they rub their nose or blow their nose. It would save them having to wash their hands every single time.

We have also talked in class about staying healthy so we are less likely to get sick:

- Plenty of sleep
- Eating our vegetables and fruit
- Drinking plenty of water

To read a letter to parents from the Chief Medical Officer, click here:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/National-Emergencies-Public-Health-Issues/letter-cmo-to-parents-020320.pdf>