

# St Brigid's N.S.



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9<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

St. Brigid's NS, Clonegal has a well earned reputation for standards of excellence and I know that the pupils, parents, staff and Board of Management have played an integral part in building this solid reputation.

The pursuit of high standards is at the heart of St. Brigid's but in saying that our school is much more than academic achievement. It's about companionship, inclusion, friendship, minding each other, fun, music, singing, art, debate, leadership, a strong work ethic, team work, commitment and endeavour.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 we were delighted to re-open our doors to one hundred and thirty two pupils. Furthermore, we were happy to welcome seventeen new Junior Infants and their parents to our school. Thank you for co-operating with our drop off system. Our school is open from 9.10am until 9.30am to receive the pupils into school. This drop off time has been working really well. Thank you for your co-operation with this. **The Board of Management accepts no responsibility for any pupil who arrives before 9.10am.** Punctuality has been excellent so far this year. It is very important that good habits are formed early and being punctual helps get the day off to a good start. In the evening time, the pupils who go on the bus are lining up at 2.55pm and at 3pm the other classes are filing out in class order.

We welcome back all our dedicated staff and new staff member Ms Hayden and I thank our staff for working arduously over the Summer to prepare for our return to school. Here is a list of our classes.

Junior Infants - Ms Cawley

Junior ASD class – Mrs Nolan

Senior Infants/First Class - Ms O'Brien

Second /Third Class – Mrs Austin

Fourth/Fifth Class – Mrs Murray

Fifth/Sixth Class – Ms Hayden

Senior ASD class – Mrs Warren

SET – Mrs Ryan

School Secretary – Mrs O'Rourke

As the school year commences I would like to draw your attention to some important items. Unfortunately, there will be no swimming this term. However, the GAA will return to our school on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September for a block of GAA coaching. The coach will only visit one school per day. All equipment will be sanitised before and after each class use it. They will only take one class/bubble at a time. We are very appreciative of our strong links with Seán Gannon and Seamus Comerford from the Gaelic Development Association.

School Fees are as follows:

Junior and Senior Infants – Book rental €40.00 plus €15.00 for copies/folders/pencils etc

First Class – Sixth Class – Book rental €40.00

24 hour Insurance per child – €6.40

Art and Photocopying €30.00 per family

These fees are due now and can be paid into the school account directly or by cash or cheque at the office.

BIC: BOFIE2D

IBAN: IE90BOFI90652311168335

Please check our school website regularly for updates and changes due to Covid 19. Also, from early October the teachers will give a short update on their class from the previous month. Please watch out for this.

### Food Allergies.

We have pupils with serious allergies to fish, eggs, nuts, ground almonds and pulses eg. peas, beans, lentils, chickpeas etc. Please do not include these items in your child's lunch and be aware they can be the base ingredient in other foods. I understand that one of the more

expensive brands of chocolate spread is manufactured in a guaranteed nut free environment. However, it is impossible for us to know what brand of chocolate spread you are using and impossible for the other children to know either. Therefore it would be safer for everyone if you did not use chocolate spread on your child's lunch. Please be aware that mayonnaise contains eggs, hummus contains chick peas etc.

We adopt a Healthy Eating Policy in our school. Please continue to bring healthy lunches and drinks to school each day. Some parents have requested a list of what a healthy lunch might look like. Here are some options.

Bread or rolls, preferably wholemeal/pitta bread/wraps/crackers/ whole meal scone

Lean meat/chicken or turkey

Flask of vegetable soup

Pasta

Satsumas/banana/pear/pineapple chunks/apple/melon/plum

Small bunch of grapes/fresh strawberries/dried apricots

Box of raisins

Half a dozen cherry tomatoes

Sticks of raw carrot/cucumber/sweetcorn/coleslaw/beetroot/peppers

Cheese cubes & plain/wholemeal crackers

Slice of fruit brack

Wholemeal bread cut into small triangles – and filled with ham and cheese

Water/Milk/unsweetened fruit juice

Fruit Yoghurt/Yoghurt drink

Plain popcorn

Cheese cut into various shapes e.g. cubes, triangles, sticks, etc

Staff must adhere to the same rules as pupils for not attending school if they are displaying symptoms of Covid 19. In the event that a teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class. If a substitute teacher is unavailable, unfortunately pupils are not allowed to be divided between classrooms as bubbles have to be maintained. In such circumstances it may not be possible for the class to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

If the school is notified that a person in your child's class has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid 19, Public Health Advice will be sought and followed. The parents of all the children in the class will be notified by the **HSE**.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Yours sincerely

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Mary Gallagher