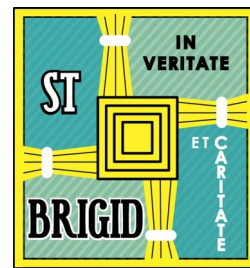




St Brigid's Primary Newsletter



June 2020

In truth and love

From the Head Teacher's desk

Who would have predicted this unprecedented end to the school year? There have been many fears, worries, anxieties and genuine sadness as we were forced to work remotely and to be apart from each other. But as a school community who is always up for a challenge, we have made it to the end of the year having had to make drastic adjustments and find for our community a new way of working in our 'new' normal. We have worked hard to ensure we have touched base with families by phone, text messaging, our Twitter feed as well as our digital learning platform Showbie. Contact with our families is a constant source of inspiration for my staff and I as we strive to produce the best possible remote learning package to meet the needs of our children. **I wish to thank all of our families and specifically our children who have been shining examples of what it means to be resilient in these difficult times. You are incredible!**

Prior to lockdown, we had an incredibly successful year and the highlights of 2019-2020 can be found on page 5. I am proud of each and every achievement big and small. Well done team St Brigid's.

At the end of this session we say a fond farewell to P7 and we wish them the best of luck as they continue their education in Holyrood Secondary. We also say goodbye to Miss O'Kane (P3) and Miss Kennedy (P2a) who are leaving us to take up permanent posts in other schools in the city. Miss Morgan, our English As Additional Language Teacher leaves as well as she starts a full time teaching post in Glasgow. Miss Southerton and Miss Hasson, who covered for staff absences in the school will also move on to pastures new. I would like to thank them all for their contribution to the education and experiences of our children. **We hope to see you all again soon and we wish you the very best of luck for the future.** We welcome two new teachers, Mr J Brady on a one year temporary contract and Miss E Bonar who will also be with us temporarily to provide support—we know that they will quickly feel part of the St Brigid's family.

August will be very different for us but please be assured that we have worked very hard to ensure that our school is as safe as possible for our children and staff. We have assessed risk in line with council policy and have put systems and procedures in place which take activities already assessed as low risk and minimise this risk even further. Hand washing will be facilitated throughout the day by teaching and support staff. In addition, staggered breaks will ensure that everyone comes into minimal contact with others who are not in their class. The school will have a deep clean each Wednesday in addition to the daily cleaning schedule. There is a lot of information in this newsletter so please take the time to fully digest the arrangements.

Paul Cassidy
Head Teacher

Practical arrangements for August 2020



Children will attend school for two days either on Mondays/Tuesdays or Thursdays/Fridays. Children will be in groups of no more than 13. In order to facilitate this, we have had to increase the number of classes we have from 11 to 14 and use all available space to ensure 2m social distancing. There will be two composite classes, P3/2 and P5/4, this is necessary to ensure that we have enough teachers and spaces to accommodate our children. Classes have been made up based on the groups that the children have been working in. Classes (also known as bubbles) will play together in designated spots in the playground. Children in the house groups Mercury, Venus and Neptune will attend on Mondays/Tuesdays and Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will attend on Thursdays/Fridays. Please note that some children's House Group may have changed as part of our planning.

The school day + School uniform

The school day will be 30 minutes longer than it is currently ensuring that all children will receive 11 hours face to face teaching per week —school will start at 8:45am and run until 3:15pm.

Half of our classes will follow timetable 1 and the other half will follow timetable 2.

School uniform should be worn as normal unless there are issues sourcing uniform. Further information re uniforms as well as start dates can be found overleaf on page 2

	Timetable 1 P1-P4b	Timetable 2 P5/4-P7b
Start	8:45	8:45
Interval	10:15	10:45
Lessons	10:30	11:00
Lunch	11:45	12:30
Lessons	12:30	1:15
Interval	2:00	2:15
Lessons	2:15	2:30
End of day	3:15	3:15

Diary Dates

August 2020



Monday 10th August – In-service day for all teachers and support staff in schools

Tuesday 11th August – in-service day for all teachers and support staff in schools

Wednesday 12th August—Monday/Tuesday groups to return for one day (this is to balance out teaching days with the holiday that is now scheduled for the 5th of February 2021)

Thursday 13th August—Thursday/Friday groups to return

Friday 14th August—Thursday/Friday groups to return

Please note—As of Monday 17th August groups will run on allocated days.

High Expectations— School Uniform

Please support our full uniform policy when purchasing new items. This helps children to feel included and to be proud of their school.



- ✓ Pale blue school shirt (not a fashion variation)
- ✓ School tie or P7 tie (both available from the school office)
- ✓ Grey skirt or grey tailored school trousers
- ✓ Plain grey v-neck pullover or cardigan
- ✓ Grey socks or tights
- ✓ Black gym shoes
- ✓ Simple hair accessories

In the interests of health and safety, **jewellery should not be worn to school**. If you are thinking of having your child's ears pierced, then the start of the school holidays is a good time as this would allow the necessary healing to take place for the earrings to be removed by the beginning of the new school session prior to any physical activity.

Thank you for your support.

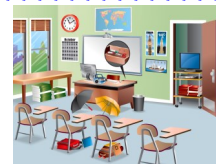
Uniform Bank

Going forward Fr Byrne and the Parish have kindly offered to run and organise a uniform bank for us. If you have any old uniforms then please consider dropping them off at the Parish house and these will be part of a stock that can be donated to any family who needs it. **If you wish, in return for any garments, you could make a small donation which will go to parish and parent council funds; this is however not necessary.** Please contact Fr Byrne on e-mail stbrigid@rcag.org.uk or by telephone if you can donate or make use of this service.

My gratitude to Fr Byrne and the Parish for facilitating the uniform bank.



Classes and Teachers 2020-2021



Head Teacher—Mr P Cassidy


Depute Head Teacher—Mrs C Wishart

P1a	Mrs K Simpson (PT)
P1b	Mrs L Din/Mrs S Moretti (PT)
P2	Miss M Sweeney
P3/2	Mrs N O'Neill
P3	Mr S Walker
P4a	Mrs D McShane
P4b	Ms M Jones (Mon/Tues)
P5a	Mr Cannon
P5/4	Miss S Kavanagh
P5b	Ms M Jones (Thurs/Fri)
P6a	Mr J Brady
P6b	Mrs R O'Neill (PT)
P7a	Ms L Wilkinson
P7b	Mr J Woods

Improvement Challenge - Miss MC Shaw (PT)

Support Mrs C Gallacher
 Mrs D Burns
 Miss E Bonar

Please remember that more than ever this classification is subject to change due to on-going developments at Scottish Government level as we tackle this virus—thanks in advance for your understanding.

A TEACHER
OPENS MINDS
AND TOUCHES
HEARTS 

lifeforjourneyperfection.blogspot.com

Entering the school building/Playground—August 2020

Parents are not permitted to come into the playground and each child should be accompanied by 1 parent/carer only. Your child enters the playground from the allocated gate no earlier than 8:40am and there will be a member of the management team in each playground. Once your child has entered the playground, we ask that you make your way home in order to minimise the number of parents/carers gathering at the gates.

P1a/P1b door (Glenmore Ave gate)

P2/P3/2 door (Glenmore Ave gate)

P5/P6a main entrance (Newhouse Rd gate)

P3/P4a/4b & 5b library door (girls' toilets) (Prospecthill Rd gate)

P7a/P7b music room door (Newhouse Rd gate)

P5/4/P6b door (boys' toilets) (Prospecthill Rd gate)



Children will gather in their small groups in designated areas before being brought into school— children will be directed where to go on their first day.

! Important !

If you wish to speak to a member of staff for any reason, you must phone the school—new national protocols mean that we can no longer have a quick chat in the playground. I am hoping this will not last too long.



What to bring to school.....



Children should bring a school bag with their water bottle and lunch if applicable.

Toys from home are not permitted in school for the foreseeable future.

All children will receive their own set of resources - please do not send your child to school with pencil cases or any stationery from home. Thank you for understanding.

Mobile Phones

To keep all children safe, children may not have phones with them in class, around the school or in the playground.

As we cannot guarantee phones will be safe and Glasgow City Council has no insurance for personal items, mobile phones **should not** be brought to school. I am happy to discuss this on the phone.



Curriculum/Blended Learning /Outdoor learning

- ✓ The curriculum in August will comprise of mainly Literacy, Numeracy, Health & Wellbeing and R.E.
- ✓ We are working on what Blended learning will look like for our context. When we return in August, children will have consolidation work to do on the days that they are not in school. The staff and I need to have discussions and development work as to how this will be delivered.
- ✓ To maximise time outdoor and social distancing-the children will experience increased Outdoor Learning Opportunities.
- ✓ Any P.E lessons will be outside and children will not require to change for this for the foreseeable future.



Breakfast Club / Lunch (Dining Hall) arrangements



You will have to apply on-line to access the Breakfast club. Links will be sent to mobiles as soon as they become live.

Children who are entitled to a free school meal will use the dining hall with social distancing in place. Children who have a packed lunch will eat their lunch in class or outside if the weather is good.

Some free school lunches may be delivered to classrooms in order to ease the amount of pressure on the serving times in the dining hall. We do not want to rush children to finish their lunch. Please note this and other arrangements are subject to change as there is a long time between now and August. Any changes will be communicated to parents/carers.

Please remember to check if you are eligible and apply for free school meals and/or clothing grant using this link—<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning>

Arrangements for P1 and where to find information Here are the practical arrangements for P1 in August 2020

Practical Arrangements Monday/Tuesday groups



Your child should attend on the following days

- Wednesday 12th August 9:15-2:30

Please note - I realise that although your child is in a Monday/Tuesday group the start date is a Wednesday – this is to balance out teaching days with the holiday that is now scheduled for the 5th of February 2021.

- Monday 17th August 9:15-2:30
- Tuesday 18th August 9:15-2:30
- Monday 24th August 9:15-2:30
- Tuesday 25th August 8:45-3:15 (Full days from 25th)

See you on the 12th!

Please access the parents zone tab on our website at www.st-brigids-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/ for a presentation with information on starting P1 which can be found in the P1 induction section.

Due to the current situation, parents will not be allowed to enter the school building but we recognise that all parents want a picture of their child on their first day in their classroom. We will ensure that we take a photo of your child in their class and send to you on e-mail. We will gather e-mail addresses on day one.

Practical Arrangements Thursday/Friday groups



Your child should attend on the following days

- Thursday 13th August 9:15-2:30
- Friday 14th August 9:15-2:30
- Thursday 20th August 9:15-2:30
- Friday 21st August 9:15-2:30
- Thursday 27th August 8:45-3:15 (Full days from 27th)

See you on the 13th!

Please access the parents zone tab on our website at www.st-brigids-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/ for a presentation with information on starting P1 which can be found in the P1 induction section.

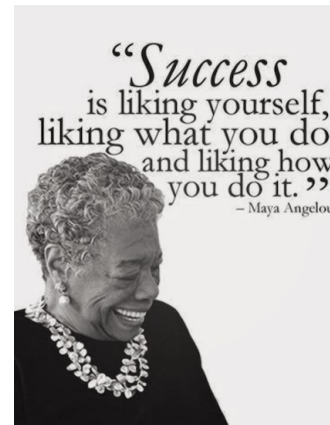
Please consider the following

- ✓ Velcro shoes if your child can't independently tie their laces yet
- ✓ All items of clothing should be labelled
- ✓ Continue to practise toileting independently
- ✓ Continue to practise zipping and buttoning jackets
- ✓ Continue to practise hand hygiene

Achievements and Highlights of 2019-2020

Here are some of the achievements and highlights of which we are very proud during session 2019-2020.

- ✓ Our Baby String Programme (All P1-P3 have been learning violin, viola or cello)
- ✓ Establishing our school counselling service called the Bubble Room
- ✓ Visiting the relics of St Thérèse de Lisieux in St Andrew's Cathedral
- ✓ A successful visit of Australian and French Head Teachers
- ✓ Participation of our football team on the Live STV appeal show
- ✓ Our choirs participation in the opening events of Mòd Ghlaschu
- ✓ Winner of the Scottish Sports School of the year (see below)
- ✓ Placing third in the Holyrood public speaking event
- ✓ A beautiful nativity and Christmas concert in which all children took part
- ✓ Participation in a Holy and prayerful Carol Service in St Brigid's Church
- ✓ Seeing the Dick Whittington Panto in school
- ✓ Winning the Jump to It Basketball event
- ✓ Placing sixth in the Scottish Schools Badminton team finals
- ✓ A highly successful World Book day
- ✓ Establishing our house groups
- ✓ A beautiful service for P7's confirmation in Holycross Church led by Archbishop Tartaglia
- ✓ A trip to Edinburgh Playhouse to see the Lion King
- ✓ Numerous successes in various other sports including football and athletics.
- ✓ **For more information on the above please visit the newsletter section of our website (<http://www.st-brigids-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/>) and have a look through our monthly newsletters.**



Scottish Sports School of the Year 2019



We had a fantastic start to December 2019 with the news that St Brigid's won the School Sport Award at the Scottish Sports Awards. This was awarded to us in recognition of the high level of participation our children have in sport for fun and fitness as well as the many events and titles that our various squads have won over the last few years. Although this has been a team effort, a special mention must go to Mr Woods who has worked tirelessly, in conjunction with our Active School coordinators, Stephen Thompson and Natalie Swinney, to ensure that our children have as many opportunities to find a sport that suits everyone. Thanks to everyone who has helped us achieve this award; we are truly honoured to have our work recognised at a national level.

A sad farewell and a huge thank you....

Martin Flynn and Raymie Welsh are taking a step back from coaching our school football team after a number of successful years working with children from St Brigid's. We are hugely grateful to them for the dedication they have shown and hope they get to enjoy a well-earned long lie on a Saturday morning!



First Holy Communion

The school and parish community were, like many children across Scotland, extremely disappointed that our P4 First Communicants were unable to celebrate their special day. Father Byrne and I will start discussions about when this will be rescheduled as soon as restrictions begin to be lifted.



We have produced a video of staff on their First Communion day to help cheer up our children—this can be found on our Twitter page. We also ran a competition to see if children could guess teachers and support staff from their photos on the video—we had five winners who were Holly P4/3, Isla P4/3, Aysha P5a, Connal P6 and Daniel P7b—well done everyone and enjoy spending your book vouchers.

Achievements in Family Learning 2019-2020

Family Learning was a big focus for us in St. Brigid's Primary this year. We understand and appreciate the positive impact learning can have on the family as a whole. We carried out an initial canvass exercise at our first Parents' Evening in which a number of parents participated. This allowed us to establish what our parents/carers felt passionate about. As a result of this, we contacted our partners Clyde College who were able to facilitate an accredited sewing class in the school. This ran weekly from January to March 2020 and we had 12 parents who attended. Thankfully we were able to complete this just before the school closures. The feedback we received was extremely positive and many of the parents who attended expressed an interest in future accredited courses. We are hoping that this will be back up and running ASAP.



Mrs Wishart also offered a number of information sessions in relation to various aspects of children's learning and possible influences they may face, e.g. social media. Unfortunately, these were unable to all go ahead due to the school closing at the end of March. Mrs Wishart and Mrs Simpson attended training through Save the Children to facilitate the 'Families Connect' programme. This is aimed at parents/carers of children in P1/P2 and there will be more information to follow on this as soon as we are able to run the programme safely. We had also planned to implement a 'Languages Café' for our parents/carers where English is an Additional Language (EAL). This was scheduled for this term so again was unable to go ahead but is definitely something we will ensure is available when it is safe to do so. We look forward to further developing opportunities for you to be actively involved in your child's learning journey.

Contact us:

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Follow us on Twitter @StBrigidsPS

<http://www.st-brigids-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/>

Pupil Absence Reporting Line:

0141 287 0039

Parent Council email address:

st.brigidsparentcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

