



St Brigid's Primary Newsletter



October 2021

In truth and love

From the Head Teacher's desk

August and September are traditionally very busy months in school and although we have settled in very well and all children are working extremely hard, we continue to operate against the backdrop of a number of restrictions which have a negative impact on the service we provide. We are still not allowed to have whole class assemblies indoors and the restrictions on parents and carers accessing the building remain in place. This is disappointing but the reality of life in schools at the moment.

We are also heartbroken at the passing of Jacky Tierney, our treasured team member who sadly passed away in school on Monday the 6th of September 2021. I would like to thank every one who was able to make a contribution to erect a permanent memorial to Jacky. The details of this will be shared as soon as we have them. In the next column, I have shared details of Jacky's life. Please keep Jacky and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Please keep our children and staff in your prayers also. I continue to be so proud of our children, staff and school community for their resilience. Despite challenging and tragic circumstances in which we find ourselves, we negotiate our core business of ensuring children are learning well, while maintaining a safe and nurturing environment.

I have included a section on our Improvement Plan for this academic year. We are looking forward to overtaking these priorities and continuing to improve the work of our school. With this newsletter, I am sending out a copy of our Standards and Quality Report which summarises and highlights all of last year's achievements. This will also be available on our website.

School staff value greatly the relationship between home and school and the important role played by parents and carers in their children's learning. Unfortunately, we have just received confirmation that we are not able to host term one's Parents' Evening. However, I have instructed staff to complete a short written report on your child's progress so far, before we break up for the October school holiday. This report will be sent home on Thursday 7 October 2021. I am currently working with staff to think of creative ways to develop parental engagement next term.

I am delighted to share the news that Mrs McCue has given birth to a baby girl named Clara Maria. My warmest congratulations to the McCue family; we can't wait to meet the newest member of the St Brigid's family.

Paul Cassidy Head Teacher

School Clubs information from Mr Woods

We have slowly and carefully resumed sporting activity within the school in recent weeks. Our school football team love their new kit, kindly sponsored by PMK Civil Engineering, and have had positive results in the matches they have played.

P5-P7 classes have had the opportunity to learn Gaelic football during P.E. lessons with a coach from Tir Conaill Harps; any parent of P5-P7 who would like their child to attend Gaelic football sessions with Tir Conaill Harps outside of school hours please contact Mr Woods via the school office, for information.

After the October break, more sports clubs will resume at both lunchtime and after school; more information will follow after the holidays.

Remembering Jacky (16 June 1969—6 September 2021)



Jacqueline was born and raised in Oatlands by her mum and dad, Margaret and John along with her brother Kenneth. She went to St Bonaventure's Primary School and then onto St John Bosco for her secondary education. Growing up Jacky made many friends with her outgoing and bubbly personality. She enjoyed majorettes and was a Scottish champion in her chosen hobby.

Jacky's mum sadly passed away in 1988 and did not have the chance to meet the twins, Victoria and Gillian born in 1989 or Alex who was born just over a year later in 1990. Jacky's dad passed away not long after in 1992 and by this time Jacky was living in Prospecthill Circus, Toryglen. It is in Toryglen that she spent the next 30 years of her life. This is where she met her husband James. Jacky enjoyed spending time with her family during days away and holidays abroad. After having three wonderful girls, Jacky was excited to welcome her son Ben into the world in 2008. Jacky, James and Ben enjoyed weekends at caravan parks (often with Kelly Ann) and holidays to Bulgaria, Turkey and Spain making friends wherever she went. Jacky and James made their marital home in Glenmore Avenue, just across from the school.

Victoria, Gillian and Alex are all grown up now, working hard and having fun; Jacky was so happy and proud of them all. Jacky lived life to the full and loved when the family got together for Christmas even though she did all the cooking. She also loved chatting and going through to Cambuslang to visit her cousin Margaret (more like sisters) and family.

Over the years Jacky had many jobs starting in Remnant Kings, Cafe Amalfi, Liptons and finally in St Brigid's. In the school, she would talk to everyone and had friends all over. She had only been working in St Brigid's since November 2020 but knew everyone there and had time for them all and would always have a laugh. She would come home and say things like Paul did this, Mhairi Clare did that and Michael said this. This was, however, no good to James as he only knew the staff by Mr, Mrs or Ms.

On behalf of St Brigid's Primary, Mr Cassidy would like to express our deepest sympathies for the loss of our wonderful team member Jacky. Jacky was an excellent support to the school as a parent. We were delighted when Jacky came to the school to work as our day cleaner. She was always smiling and brightened up everyone's day. Every staff member and child who was lucky enough to interact with Jacky came away the better for it. She was a treasure in every sense of the word and carried out her duties tirelessly – flying up and down the corridors like a whirlwind. Nothing was too much of a bother for Jacky.

As a school community we have been blessed to know and have her in our school.

October Month of the Holy Rosary



Unfortunately due to current restrictions, we are unable to hold our usual daily morning prayer before school in October.

However, there will be increased opportunities for children to pray the Rosary in their classes. We may also try to pray together too during a 'virtual' Rosary if the technology allows.

Halloween 2021



Again, due to restrictions, we are unable to have our annual Halloween party which is organised by the Parent Council.

However, we would like to invite children to attend school dressed in their Halloween costumes on Friday 29 October. The children can wear their costume all day. My thanks to our Parent Council who will provide individual wrapped refreshments for the children.

Please note—children **should not** have their face covered with a Halloween mask or attend school with any accessories associated with their costume.

Cop 26/Climate Change



As you know, the COP 26 conference is being held in Glasgow in November 2021.

Our classes have been engaging and learning about all sorts of topics linked to this event and climate change in general. Through our Catholic lens, we are learning to be good stewards of God's earth through keeping the work we do in school as sustainable as possible. Please keep an eye out on our Twitter page for updates.

Funding—Playground Development



I am delighted to announce that we have received £10,000 of funding from Sanctuary and £9927 from the National Lottery.

This money will be spent on developing our playground including a new climbing frame. This exciting work is starting at the end of November 2021. Many thanks to Mrs Moretti for completing the applications.

Please follow our Twitter page for updates.

Parking/School Gates



I have received reports from a number of parents and carers about continued parking on the yellow zig zag particularly on Newhouse Rd. Please for the safety of our children, do not park on yellow zig zags.

In addition, please refrain from smoking at the school gates and bringing dogs to the school. There have been a number of concerns reported to me about this.

Let's work together to continue to make St Brigid's a happy environment for all. Many thanks for your support with this.

School Improvement Plan 2021-22



This year our three priorities are to:

- To continue to raise attainment in literacy & numeracy maintaining a consistent approach to teaching and learning and ensuring a robust assessment model. This will support teachers to identify gaps in children's learning ensuring that new initiatives introduced as per Glasgow's Improvement Challenge are consistently and appropriately used across the school. Staff will continue to engage in regular, robust moderation activities to ensure that assessment is integral to the planning of learning and teaching and to agree standards and expectations within our school and with St Conval's Primary
- To develop a whole school strategy to the implementation and delivery of STEM subjects putting Developing the Young Workforce at the heart of this curricular improvement using the GCC STEM framework
- To evaluate and improve the school's Learning for Sustainability programme. Using the context of the UN climate change conference (COP26) and within the Laudato Si programme, develop a sustainable approach to the teaching of environmental/ecology education, children's rights, equalities and equity as well as mental, social and spiritual health and wellbeing

I will keep you up-to-date with our progress in future newsletters.

Important Forms



We are still waiting for a significant amount of consent forms (43), annual data checks (46) and photographic permissions (9) to be returned.

Please note that if you have not returned these then your child may not be able to go on trips or be part of photos and videos that are shared on our Twitter and YouTube accounts. A further copy will be sent out this week. Please return ASAP.

October & Christmas Holidays

- Friday 8 October 2021 (In-Service Day)
- Monday 11 to Friday 15 October 2021 (October Week)

Children to return on Monday 18 October 2021

- Schools close at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 22 December 2021
Thursday 23 December 2021 - Tuesday 4 January 2022
- Schools return on Wednesday 5 January 2022

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