



## **Welcome to the St. Brigid's Boys' School Newsletter of 2021!**

### **Message from Ms. Griffin**

Welcome to our 2021 summer newsletter. This school year has been a year like no other for the boys, the school staff and the parent body. When we re-opened for the new school year in September 2020 we were all filled with excitement at being back on site, but also with nervous apprehension at what lay ahead. The focus in St. Brigid's this year has centered around keeping our school community safe and the school open for all of our pupils. I am delighted and incredibly proud to announce that as of today, June 28<sup>th</sup> our school has remained Covid-19 free! This means that no cases of Covid-19 have been brought into our school or have been transmitted between staff and pupils. Despite the countrywide closures for all schools in January and February, St. Brigid's has been in a position to remain open for all pupils and classes this year. This is due to the vigilance and care of every single member of our school community; our pupils, our staff and our parent body. I cannot thank you all enough for your support in this past year.

Our heroes of the past year have been our boys. They have taken so much in their stride; school closures, online learning, being separated from their friends, the new rules and safety protocols in school, the absence of their sports and clubs and hobbies. We commend them for their maturity, their resilience and their positive attitudes. Well done boys! To acknowledge these efforts, the boys received a special treat this week. An ice-cream van arrived at the school and everyone enjoyed a cone! The perfect way to celebrate the summer holidays.

Although the year has been dominated by Covid safety protocols, we have had many opportunities for learning, fun and adventure in St. Brigid's. I hope you enjoy our news from Term 3 in St. Brigid's.

Fiona Griffin, Principal



### **Message from the Parents' Association**

On behalf of the Parents' Association I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the parents for their continued support and for helping to make all of this year's activities a success. I would also like to say a big thank you to all the parents who attended our virtual meetings this year - your attendance and contributions are greatly appreciated.

A huge thank you to Pauline for all her assistance and to Fiona for her continued support of the PA. On behalf of the PA I would like to wish all the sixth class boys the very best of luck in their futures. Enjoy the summer break!

Sinead Clarke, Chair BNS

### **Message from the Chairperson**

The end of a very different, and very testing, school year at St Brigid's BNS. While we all hope the worst is behind us, we have been deprived of many sports, after school activities and Christmas plays. Additionally, the important milestones of Holy Communion and Confirmation are still to be celebrated. Despite this we should be very proud of how our community of staff, pupils and parents have adapted to meet the challenge of this crisis and ensure learning has continued whether onsite or online. We have also missed the joyous chaos of our annual School Fair but despite this I want to thank the Parents Association for their generous contribution of €10,000 raised through the raffle.

As always, we began the year welcoming our wonderful new Junior Infants to the school and we end with our Sixth Class departing as young men having completed their 8 years with us. We wish them every success in the next stage of their school careers wherever that may be, and hope that they will always reflect fondly on their time at St Brigid's.

The Board of Management are hugely appreciative of how everyone involved with St Brigid's has contributed to the school for our collective benefit. In particular, I want to thank Fiona Griffin and her team for their tireless work. Additionally, I want to thank the members of the Board who give their time to the school freely. We break now to enjoy a well-earned summer rest and alfresco entertainment with hope and optimism of better times ahead.

Nick Baird, Chairperson,  
Board of Management

### **Farewell Mr. Coleman**

This summer, we bid farewell to Mr. Brian Coleman who has been a member of the teaching staff in St. Brigid's since 2002! We congratulate Mr. Coleman and wish him every success as he takes on his new role as Principal in Scoil Mhuire, Shankill. We extend our thanks to Mr. Coleman for his service to St. Brigid's over the past 19 years in particular in the areas of Sports and Athletics. Countless boys achieved wonderful success in cross-country and athletics events under his watchful eye. A fun run was held in the field today to celebrate Mr. Coleman's contributions to running in St. Brigid's and to allow the boys to say goodbye. A great day was had by all! On behalf of all the staff and school community I wish you all the best in Scoil Mhuire!





### Class of 2021

We bid farewell to 55 wonderful young men this week. Our graduating class of 2021 have been an asset to our school for the past eight years. They have contributed to our school in countless ways and we are very proud of the young men they have grown into. As they got ready to go their separate ways, we ensured their final days in St. Brigid's were ones to remember. We were blessed with sunshine for their Graduation Mass in Cabinteely Church and their Graduation Ceremony on the school grounds. They enjoyed pizzas from the Parents' Association and a great day out in Clara Lara. Boys, we wish you every success in your futures.



Above: Mr. Melia's 6th Class Below: Ms. Lynch's 6th Class



Clara Lara Fun!



### Term 3 News

All of our classes enjoyed trips and activities over the past number of weeks. Many classes took to the wide-open spaces of Cabinteely Park for a day of sports, picnics and fun. Teddy Bear Picnics were enjoyed by our younger pupils with some very impressive teddy bears making an appearance in St. Brigid's. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes enjoyed a day of orienteering and team-building activities on site. Our Junior and Senior Infants delighted in the farm coming to them and turning our yard into a farmyard for a day. I would like to thank our team of teachers for the ingenuity in creating such fun and enjoyable end of year events this year.



Our virtual assemblies continued right through to the end of the year and we all marvelled each month at the wonderful talents and performances of each class. For our last assembly, we were treated to one last Power-Point presentation from our presentation pro, Richard O'Donovan. His topic, 'The History of Film' captivated everyone! Well done Richard.

Our annual Sports Day was a huge success and was enjoyed by all pupils and staff. Many thanks to Mr. Coleman, Mr. Melia and Mr. Burke for their work in organising this day. A number of classes also stayed fit in term 3 by taking part in the Fit4class athletics programme run by Athletics Ireland and it was thoroughly by all. Jonny Magee, our GPO from Geraldine Morans GAA club also returned to train the boys much to the delight of the boys and their teachers



Although we are situated on a very small site, our dedicated caretaker Barry, has once again wowed us all with his gardening skills. Barry, with the assistance of the boys has been growing a range of fruits and vegetables on the school grounds. Barry and Ms. Meagher even made elderflower cordial with some lucky classes and it was just delicious!



St Brigid's Strawberries



Elder flower cordial



## Fundraising

We would like to sincerely thank you for supporting our two fundraisers since the school reopened in March 2021. We are aware the last year has been challenging financially for many families and we appreciate your generosity. We raised €1,007.00 for the Irish Guide Dogs on Lá Glas and



€1,343.00 for My Canine Companion on our recent non-uniform day. As a result of our My Canine Companion fundraiser we were in a position to buy raffle tickets for their competition. This resulted in us winning the first prize, a sensory pod! This sensory pod will be in situ for the new school year and will be of huge benefit for a number of our pupils.

## Staff news

We extend our congratulations to Mr. John Duignan and his new wife Niamh who recently got married following a year-long delay! We extend our best wishes to Ms. Caoilfhionn Ní Chléirigh and her fiancée who will be tying the knot this summer! We wish you all the best on your special day!

I would like to thank our numerous substitute and temporary teachers and Special Needs Assistants for their service to St. Brigid's this year. Without them, we would not have been able to keep the school running each day.

## Tribute to Mr. Jerry Kiernan

This year we tragically lost a valued past colleague, friend and teacher, Mr. Jerry Kiernan. Jerry was a teacher in St. Brigid's from 1973 – 2013. His legacy lives on in St. Brigid's and he left his mark on every pupil who was lucky enough to pass through his classroom door.

A memorial bench has been placed in the yard under his old classroom window in his honour. We hope it will be a place to remember Jerry and share stories of his wonderful career in St. Brigid's.



## Sacraments

We wish our pupils, both past and present, the very best for their First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies which are scheduled to take place this summer and autumn. We hope it is a memorable and enjoyable day for each and every one of you.

The dates are as follows:

Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class of 2020

Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> – outgoing 3<sup>rd</sup> class

Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class of 2021

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October – outgoing 2<sup>nd</sup> class

## Looking ahead to 2021-2022 year

As we close our doors for the summer break we all look forward to a summer of rest and relaxation after the most unusual of years. The Department of Education, in a recent letter to all schools, have advised us that schools are expected to reopen in September under the current health and safety guidelines. Therefore, our policies and procedures will continue into the new school year.

There will be two minor amendments to our drop off and collection arrangements when school reopens on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

1. Our staggered drop-off will operate from 08.45 a.m. to 09.00 a.m. only. This change from 09.05 to 9 a.m. is to ensure all classes can commence on time with all pupils present. The gate will be closed at 9 a.m. sharp. All senior classes (2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>) will leave the school at 2.35. This is a change from our current collection arrangements where 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes remained on site until 2.45.
2. Collection times for the new school year are as follows:  
Junior and Senior Infants 1.35 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> class 2.30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class 2.35 p.m.
3. From September we will return to the boys having designated uniform and tracksuit days. The boys should all wear their full school uniform to school on the first day of school and their PE day will be issued in the first week. Please ensure the full school uniform is worn on uniform days.

An updated logistics plan containing these details will be sent to all parents in advance of the new school year.

Finally, all parents will receive notification of their sons' teacher in August when the recruitment process has been completed. I am sure the boys are eager to hear the news.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and safe summer from the team in St. Brigid's Boys' School.