

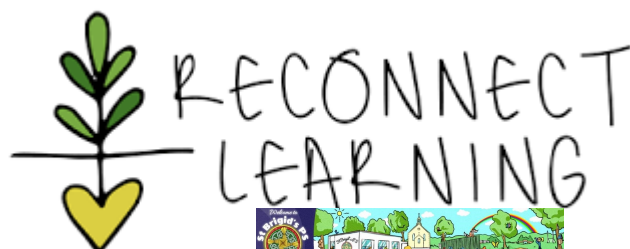


Reconnect 2021

The purpose of this update is to highlight some of the changes we will be making to our school day to help our whole community reconnect with our learning and each other. Please take the time to read it carefully.



At St Brigid's we see this restart as an opportunity for our school family to work together to do everything possible to ensure your school is a safe environment for the children, staff and whole community. Our staff are confident that we will support your children with 'reconnecting' on everything that was missed over lock down; academically, socially and everything in-between!



Health and Hygiene

It is essential that children are reminded of the importance of good hygiene. Please ensure that they know how to wash their hands properly for 20 seconds and that they are familiar with using hand sanitiser also. We would also appreciate if you can remind them to cough/sneeze

into their elbow if they do not have a tissue. We will be going over these routines in school too, but it will be more effective if the children hear the same message at home and at school. The "give me 5" message is a great simple tool for this.



Class Bubbles

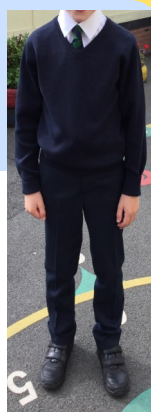
P1/2 and P3 classes will now be in their usual room with no overspilling into other spaces. Children of keyworkers will be in another classroom-The ICT suite. Each classroom will "act as a single consistent bubble with minimal prolonged interaction with other classes". Social distancing requirements of 2m for adults still remain and we ask that parents keep this in mind when interacting with staff and when dropping off and collecting their children.

At St. Brigid's, we see this as an opportunity for our school family to work together to do everything possible to ensure your school is a safe environment for the children, staff and whole community. Our staff are confident that we will support your children with 'getting back on track' on everything that was missed over lock down; academically, socially and everything in-between!

If you feel that you need to share information about your child and would like to speak with your child's teacher then please ring the school office to arrange a time.



Uniforms

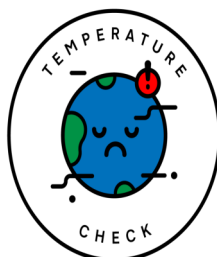


Full school uniform is to be worn as normal, including a warm, waterproof coat as there will be lots of outdoor learning.

Policy on P.E. uniform: children can wear any sports gear however, we ask that parents set aside sports gear that will only be worn to school on specified P.E days: Monday and Wednesday.

Temperature

We ask you to check your children's temperature every morning before coming to school-
Thank you!



What to bring to school?

Bring **nothing additional to school** - no schoolbags etc. Please do not worry if you have already purchased these, hopefully we will be able to use them as the situation improves.
A book bag and a plastic/paper bag for lunch.



Masks

Pupils and staff will have the option of wearing face masks and or shields to school. Adult visitors to the school (by prior appointment only) should wear a mask/face covering, unless exempt.



Meals

When your child is **bringing a packed lunch**, we ask that you use **disposable recyclable containers/wrappings** and send it in a **disposable/paper bag** which can be placed in the recycling/bin when lunch is over.

Cooked meals will be available, and the menu has been shared via the school whatsapp. P1-3 children will eat in their classrooms to facilitate 'protective bubbles'.



Drop Off and Collection

Children can be dropped off at school between 9-9.15am.

All children should enter through the pedestrian gates as usual. They will then be directed to their classrooms. Children will sanitize hands before going inside the school/mobile.

A staggered collection for P1/2 between 1:45-2pm. Please wear a mask when collecting children.

The same system applies for home time.

Face coverings are strongly encouraged on school transport if you are able to wear and use them. Bus drivers will be wearing them. Face coverings are mandatory for over 13's on public transport. Buses will be out as normal on Monday 8th March.

Visitors

We stress that no visitors/parents will be permitted into the school building without an appointment. This goes against our ethos as we take great pride in being a very warm and welcoming school, particularly to parents.

Children's Wellbeing as they Return

Allowing pupils to reconnect with each other and with school routines will take time. Pupils will have experienced lockdown in many ways. There must be time for children to reconnect with their friends, sharing their experiences and exploring how to move forward together as a school community. This must happen before pupils can be expected to engage meaningfully with learning.

2 O Clock Club

The 2 O Clock Club will run as normal from Monday 8th March. Please pre-book your slot using our School Money app. 2 O Clock Club costs £2 per child per day.



Playtimes

The playground areas around the school will be zoned when there is more than one class outside at the same time, to ensure that 'protective bubbles' are maintained.

Contingency Planning

Children (and staff) who have any symptoms associated with Covid 19 **must not attend school**. Children who live with someone who has symptoms associated with Covid 19 must also stay at home. These symptoms include a new, continuous cough or a high temperature/fever or anosmia (a loss or a change in your normal sense of smell, which can also affect your sense of taste).

If a child (or a member of staff) becomes unwell in school, they and any members of their household will use our temporary waiting room, Mrs Gormley's office, until someone arrives to bring them home, and parents will be advised to follow the PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.

Water Bottles



We ask you to check your children's temperature every morning before coming to school- Thank you!

Classrooms

P1/2	P1/2 Classroom	Mrs Gormley	Mary
P3	P3 Mobile	Mr Lynch	
Keyworker Children	ICT Suite	Miss Mc Anenly	



The children of St. Brigid's will have an amazing surprise when they return to school after lockdown!

The Department of Education have committed to creating an amazing space for playing field sports at St Brigid's by spending £80,000.00 to install a 'Prunty Pitch'!

The current pitch at Altamuskin has been the venue for many epic matches between the teams picked in the classrooms by our sports mad pupils. The boys and girls often plan their day around playing out games that span breaktime and lunch time with last minute 'next goal wins' drama everyday!

The pitch, which for some part of the year had been too wet to use, will receive a new drainage system with the works on the project beginning in the coming days. Pioneers of the revolutionary Sand Carpet Pitches, Prunty Pitches has led the way in the Construction, Maintenance & Renovation of Sport Pitches for over 50yrs. Over the years Prunty Pitches have received recognition from many sports clubs, and councils and other organisations for the superior quality of their work. The outstanding drainage properties, playing qualities and appearance of a Prunty Pitch has also won many national awards.

Having access to high quality sports facilities is a must for giving the children the opportunity to enjoy being active and improving their confidence in playing the games they love. A fun, healthy lifestyle and Gaelic games is such an important part of how we define ourselves in St Brigid's and this is just one example of how we work to improve the opportunities for the children at St. Brigid's.

The staff at St. Brigid's are looking forward to using these new facility to continue to promote Gaelic games for the boys and girls who will be able to use it for coaching sessions. Currently, they participate in coaching with Errigal Ciaran's schools coach, hurling coaching and numerous after school activities.

This facility isn't the first new addition to St. Brigid's play ground this year. In November the school completed work to a new play trail. The playground features an enormous pirate ship, numerous climbing walls, role play house, trim trail balance beams, soft play surfacing, bridges, rope bridges and lots of other tricky obstacles all under the setting of the mature trees that have been growing behind St Brigid's for generations now. The trail was paid for by the hard work of the Parents Association at St. Brigid's who raised the funds through initiatives, including climbing Slieve Donnard! The benefits for the children are immeasurable. The trail creates opportunities for; Spontaneous Play, the best place for spontaneous play is outdoors; Playful Movement, where they learn how to move multiple parts of their body at the same time, developing a greater sense of balance and movement in relation to objects around them; Independent Mobility, this playful pathway gives children an opportunity to experience this important developmental milestone in a fun and safe way and they can experience nature.

So you can see why we're all so excited about returning to use these amazing facilities at St. Brigid's together

