**Scoil Bhríde**

*Nurney, Co. Kildare*

*Telephone: (045) 526767*

******[***www.nurneyns.com***](http://www.nurneyns.com)

***sbnurney@gmail.com***

31st January 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

**Enrolment (September 2024) Closing Date is February 14th**

For more details, please see the reverse side of this note. Thank you.

**6th class Swimming payment due!**

**A six-week course of swimming classes in K-Leisure Athy for 6th class began on Wednesday 10th January. Payment of 50 Euro from each 6th class pupil is now due. *Thank you to all who have paid in full to date.***

A six-week course of swimming in K-Leisure Athy for all other senior classes will start as follows:

4th class – April 10th 2024

**Dance lessons for all pupils**

 **A 6-week course of dance classes for all pupils with a specialist instructor starts on February 20th.** Payment of 5 Euro from each pupil is now due. Thank you.

**Dates for your diary**

* School will be closed on Monday February 5th for Saint Brigid’s Day.
* Mid-term break closure – ***School will be closed on February 15th and 16th***
* Saint Brigid School Mass – Friday February 2nd @ 11:30am in School Hall. Parents welcome.
* Parents Association Bun sale – Tuesday February 13th
* **School closed on Friday March 1st for all pupils as staff must attend a Department of Education seminar on the New Primary Maths Curriculum.**
* School Book Fair – **March 6th and 7th (pupils) March 11th 2:20pm-3pm (parents)**
* **School closed to facilitate referendum voting – Friday March 8th 2024.**

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* **Easter Bun sale for pupils – Wednesday March 13th 2024**
* Dress up in Green Day – Friday March 15th 2024
* School will be closed on Monday March 18th for Saint Patrick’s Day.
* School will close for Easter on Friday March 22nd for all pupils at 12.30pm. Buses have been told. The school will re-open on Monday April 8th 2024 for all pupils at 9.20am
* The Parish office wishes to inform you that Communion for families with children in 2nd class will be May 18th 2024 @ 11:30am in Nurney Church
* The Parish office wishes to inform you that Confirmation for families with children in 6th class will be April 20th @ 11:30am in Nurney Church.

**Brigid 1500**

******To mark Brigid 1500 and fulfill our Department of Education obligation to initiate a wellbeing promotion review and development cycle for staff and pupils by 2023, we began a project to develop in our school a Saint Brigid well-being garden.

Last year we hired the educational group “biodiversity in schools” to do workshops with our pupils on the biodiversity in our locality. From these workshops emerged a desire for a school garden where both the pupils and staff could learn about the plants, trees, animals and insects in our locality, whilst also at the same time learn practical gardening skills such as growing vegetables, wildflowers for pollination. In tandem with learning these skills, pupils and staff could experience the emotional joys and physical benefits of working in the garden as an aid to their overall well-being.

The workshops allowed our school community to engage in a highly enjoyable garden design exercise. Ideas from the pupils were assimilated through art projects and written text.

When the final design was agreed upon, we began fundraising to build our Saint Brigid’s Garden one year ago. Through bun sales and support from our local community, the Department of Education and Kildare County Council our school has managed to landscape the school site, install 16 wooden raised beds, a wooden bridge, a raised pond, 4 large picnic tables, a large bug hotel, a Saint Brigid cross planter for wild flowers, a tree bench, a bird bath, a bird feeding station, a bird table, 64 metal information boards on Irish flora and fauna and finally….our center piece, on the gable of our school building, an 18 foot high large scale mural of Saint Brigid herself at the entrance to the garden. We have also purchased thirty sets of hand gardening tools for the children, a tools storage unit, compost, seeds and plants to begin bringing our biodiversity garden alive and make a real positive impact on the well-being of our pupils and school staff and the biodiversity within our school and locality.

We have worked really hard to get this far…but we still have more to do this year, including… the installation of a Celtic cross by parent Martin McCormack, and the placement of wooden stakes holding large metal plated signage giving lots more information on native Irish flora and fauna and their habitats.

We are really up for the challenge and look forward to officially opening our school garden at some stage this year as soon as it is ready and looking well. We look forward to seeing you there when that time comes.

Our inspiration comes from Saint Brigid herself, who beneath the leafy shade of one simple acorn, changed our home county of Kildare and us forever.

We wish everyone a peaceful and Holy Saint Brigid’s Day and enjoy the Brigid 1500 celebrations over the next few days, weeks and months.



***Wednesday Note and school information also available***

***on* www.nurneyns.com**

***Thank you for your co-operation with the above.***

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**Dr. Vinny Thorpe – Principal**

*******Ed.D (SL) M.Ed (SL), MA.Comp.Mus, H.Dip.Prim.Ed, H.Dip.Mus.Tech, P.Grad.Dip.Ed.St(SEN), B.Mus.Ed(H.Dip.Ed), Dip.Mus.Ed, T.Dip.ICT*

**\* *Junior Infant Enrolment Process and Timeline***

1. *“Expression of Interest in Enrolment Form”* available from school website all year long. This Form puts applicants on a mailing list only.
2. Enrolment forms posted to families on mailing list first Friday of February.
3. Enrolment Forms to be returned to the school fully filled in by 3pm the last school day before February mid-term break.
4. BOM meets the second Tuesday in March to (firstly) prioritize Enrolment Applications based on the Admissions Policy criteria (secondly) create a list of offered places and (thirdly) create a waiting list for places.
5. Letters offering a place are sent out on the second Friday of March. Letters informing applicants they are on the waiting list are sent out on the second Friday of March also.
6. Acceptance of offered place letters are to be returned to the school by 3pm the last school day of March.
7. During the month of April, the BOM meets to (firstly) discuss, create and finalize an accepted places list (secondly) to review the waiting list and decide if places are available for those on the waiting list (thirdly) issue letters to those who have been successful/unsuccessful in gaining a place from the waiting list.
8. The induction day for new junior infants and their parents is held on a date in June.
9. The school’s Annual Admissions Notice can be accessed here [www.nurneyns.com/enrolment](http://www.nurneyns.com/enrolment)