St. Brigid's Primary School
Castle Street
Ballymoney
Co. Antrim
BT53 6JX
T: 028 2766 2664
F: 028 2766 5657
E: info@stbrigidsps.ballymoney.ni.sch.uk **www.stbrigidspsballymoney.com**

DATES TO REMEMBER MARCH 2017	
Tuesday 28 February	**Pancake Tuesday and Reading for Refugees Day (50p for a pancake and 50p for a book)**
Wednesday 1 March	**Ash Wednesday – Children will get ashes in school. World Book Day Celebrations**
Thursday 2 March	**School Closed – Election Day - Polling Station**
Tuesday 7 March	**Girls' Hockey: Ulster Regional Qualifier, Limavady Boys' Football: Killowen Cup Group Stage Week 1 in University 1.00 – 3.00 pm**
Thursday 9 March	**Boys' Football: Doherty Cup Semi Final v Ballsally @ Coleraine Showgrounds 1.00pm**
Tuesday 14 March	**Year 3 Parent Information evening for Sacrament of Reconciliation 7.00pm in school**
Thursday 16 March	**St Patrick's Day Celebrations – Green Day/Ceili and Celebrations**
Friday 17 March & Monday 20 March	**St. Patrick's Day & Staff Development Day School Closed**
Thursday 23 March	**Year 7 Sacrament of Confirmation @ 11.00 am**
Wednesday 29 March	**Year 7 Trip to Ulster American Folk Park**
Thursday 30 March	**Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation**
Friday 14 April - Sunday 23 April	**Easter Holidays School Closed** 
Monday 24 April	**School Opens for New Term**

TRÓCAIRE

Each class will study developing world issues and the work of Trócaire. All of the classes have a Trócaire box and the collection of small change is promoted, given that 'pennies make pounds'!
We will also have a designated Fund Raising Day for Trocaire in late March/early April. More details to follow! There will also be a **bun sale** on this day.
The annual **Green Day** will be held on **Thursday 16 March** in conjunction with our St Patrick's Day Céilí and Concert. Each child will dress in green and donate £1 to Trócaire.
During the Lenten season, the classes will attend mass and confessions in preparation for Easter.

April Milk Money due 24/03/2017

April only: 13 days @ 20p = **£2.60**
or
Term 3
April, May and June: 53 days @ 20p = **£10.60**



This is a very busy term for school sport, which has already kicked off with our boys participating in the Doherty Cup Quarter Final against St John's. The boys had a good win in preparation against Damhead PS and this helped them as they went on to beat St John's 4-0 in the quarter final. Next up is the semi-final against Ballysally PS in the Coleraine Showgrounds on Thursday 9 March @ 1.00 pm. Best of Luck to all involved.

Killowen Cup Group Stages Tuesday 7 & 14 March @ University in Coleraine ko 1.00pm

Hockey: The Girls' Hockey team will compete in the Ulster Hockey primary schools mini hockey competition. The girls will travel to Limavady on the 7th of March to play in the regional qualifiers.

The children in Year 6 and Class B are continuing with their swimming programme up to Easter and Year 7 will start swimming in Term 3.

Golf: Year 7 will get the opportunity to try out Golf thanks to the local council sports development team.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Reading for Refugees

Dear Parents,

The children in St Brigid's have expressed an interest in supporting local author Garry McKinney's efforts to provide a library of books for Syrian children in Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan. Garry plans to travel to Jordan with members of the UN Refugee Agency to provide as many novels and text books as possible to the refugee camp library.

He needs our help!

Garry has appealed to schools across Northern Ireland to help raise £5,000 to buy books. The books will make a huge difference to the lives of refugee children. Despite their difficult circumstances, these children want to read and learn, just like the children of Ballymoney!

What can we do?

Book Sale

To celebrate World Book Day, we have decided to hold a book sale on Tuesday 28th February. We are asking everyone to bring in books they have finished with (books that will appeal to children of their own age). This will raise funds for *Reading for Refugees*, but will also promote reading for enjoyment amongst our pupils. Books will be sold at 50p each.

Pancake Sale

Tuesday 28th February is Pancake Tuesday. In keeping with school tradition, staff will make delicious pancakes for the children. We are asking for a donation of 50p, which will go towards our fundraising efforts.



This type of initiative fits in well with the caring ethos of our school, teaching our children to have empathy with those who are suffering, while also giving the opportunity to help others in a meaningful way.

Thank you for your support.

Welcome and Thanks!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the kind welcome I have received since joining St Brigid's on the 1st of February. I have really enjoyed my first few weeks and it has been lovely getting to meet all the children, parents and many grandparents too. I have been so impressed with everything about St Brigid's and I have loved hearing so many positive comments about the school. I look forward to working with you all to continue the great tradition of St Brigid's in the community and lead the school in offering the highest possible educational experience for all the children in our care. Together we can achieve our school motto of **Building Better Futures** for the children. Please log on to the school website for up-to-date information and photos about what is going on in St Brigid's.

www.stbrigidspsballymoney.com

Mr Kieran O'Neill
Principal

Holiday Dates Term 2 & 3

Easter: **Friday 14 – Sunday 23 April**

May Day Bank Holiday: **1 May 2017**
Staff Development Day: **2 May 2017**

May Bank Holiday: **29 May 2017**
Staff Development Day: **30 May 2017**

Saint Patrick's Day

St Patrick's Day Celebrations
Thursday 16 March

Go Green for St Patrick's Day!!!
Children come to school wearing green. Head to Toe in Green or anything green at all. £1 for Trocaire. The children will get the opportunity to celebrate the Patron Saint of Ireland's Day with a mixture of culture, music, dance and prayer.

THE BIG PEDAL

Get set… we're taking part in The Big Pedal 2017, the UK's largest inter-school cycling and scooting challenge that inspires pupils to choose two wheels for their journey to school.

The challenge runs from 20 to 31 March. It's free to enter and we would love everyone to be involved. **We will be involved on 21 & 22 March and 27-31 March**

On each day of the challenge schools and classes compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils cycling or scooting to school. Our best days will determine our final position in the challenge. We'll be competing against other schools right across the UK, and if we clock up the most bike and scooter journeys we could win a prize. Most importantly it is about active and healthy travel to school. It's a great way to get more of our pupils travelling to school on their bikes and scooters.

Sacraments 2017

Confirmation Thursday 23 March @ 11.00am. We welcome Bishop Trainor to our parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with the Year 7 children

Sacrament of Reconciliation Thursday 30 March @ 11.00am. Year 3 children celebrate their special day in making their First Confession.

Holy Communion Saturday 27 May @ 11.00am. Year 4 children celebrate their special day.