**Scoil Bhríde**

*Nurney, Co. Kildare*

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1st February 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

**Enrolment (September 2023) Closing Date is February 15th**

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

**Swimming**

**A six-week course of swimming classes in K-Leisure Athy for 4th class starts on February 22nd.** Payment of 50 Euro from each 4th class pupil is now due. Thank you.

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

3rd class – April 26th 2023

**Dance lessons for all pupils**

**A 6-week course of dance classes for all pupils with a specialist instructor starts on February 23rd.** Payment of 5 Euro from each pupil is now due. Thank you.

**Kildare Lilywhite Day**

To celebrate the arrival of Spring, the feast of Saint Brigid and all things Kildare, all pupils are invited to wear anything ‘white’ on Thursday February 2nd. It’s also our way of giving a nod to all our heroic and amazing Club and County GAA football, hurling and camogie players, management teams, referees, officials, grassroot volunteers and workers (past and present) and the exciting season ahead, in particular all those with a close connection to our school. Thank you for sharing your skills and for showing all our young pupils the merits of dedication, practice, patience, hard work, planning, teamwork, volunteerism, dreaming big and how to take great joy in our national games. Up Nurney and up Kildare!

**Music Generation Kildare**

As part of the continuing development of the primary music curriculum in our school, our 4th class pupils began a year-long pilot program of ukelele lessons last week in partnership with Music Generation Kildare! Many thanks to Dr. Thorpe and Ms. Doyle for organizing it and the school’s Board of Management and Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board for funding it!

****Brigid 1500 Arts and Creativity Grant Scheme 2023 (Kildare County Council)**

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 and the Department of Education, 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 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 are really determined to officially open this garden as our way of marking the Feast Day of Saint Brigid in February 2024. We have worked really hard to get this far.

We are delighted to announce that project leader Dr. Thorpe, has successfully secured additional funding worth €2,500 from ***Kildare County Council’s Brigid 1500 Arts and Creativity Grant Scheme 2023*** to allow us as a school community to purchase thirty sets of hand gardening tools for the children, a tools storage unit, more compost, and some 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.

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.



**Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent Teacher conferences will be held on a phased basis in February. You will receive notification from your child’s class teacher over the next few days via text and email. Thank you.

**Dates for your diary**

* School will be closed on Monday February 6th for Saint Brigid’s Day.
* Ceremony of light 6th class – February 7th 2023 @ 7:30pm in Nurney Church.
* Mid-term break closure – ***School will be closed on February 16th and 17th***
* Saint Brigid School Mass – Friday February 3rd @ 11:30am in School Hall. Parents welcome. Very limited space. Possibly standing only.
* School Book Fair – **March 9th and 10th**
* The Parish office wishes to inform you that Communion for families with children in 2nd class will be May 13th 2023 @ 11:30am in Nurney Church
* The Parish office wishes to inform you that Confirmation for families with children in 6th class will be March 25th @ 12 midday in Nurney Church

***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*

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**\* *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 along with a non-refundable deposit of the applicable book rental payment. This payment is not a condition of enrolment. It merely allows the school to purchase your child’s Book Rental Books so they are in place for your child in September.
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.

The school’s Annual Admissions Notice can be accessed here [www.nurneyns.com/enrolment](http://www.nurneyns.com/enrolment)