

**Scoil Naomh Bríde,
Baile an Bhóthair,
Áth Troim,
Co. na Mí.
C15 TP62**

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**St. Brigid's N.S.,
Boardsmill,
Trim,
Co. Meath.
C15 TP62**

Roll Number: 17947K

Website: www.boardsmillns.com

29th January 2024.

Dear Parents,

I would like to draw your attention to the following;

Confirmation.

I would like to congratulate the boys and girls in 6th class who made their Confirmation last Friday 26th January. This was a beautiful ceremony celebrated by Bishop Tom Deenihan. Many thanks to Mrs. Dobie for her help in preparing the boys and girls for this very special sacrament. I hope all the boys, girls and their families had a wonderful day.



Preparation for First Communion.

The next mass in helping to prepare the 2nd class children for First Communion is this Sunday 4th February at 10.00am mass in Boardsmill.

Lent.

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday 14th February.



School Closure.

The school will be closed next Monday 5th February (Bank Holiday for St. Brigid) and on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February for the February mid-term break.



Enrolments.

Offers of places to those who applied to have their child enrolled in Junior Infants for the **2024/2025** school year will be posted out this week. The closing date for the return of forms confirming that you are accepting a place for your child in Junior Infants for the **2024/2025** school year is **Friday 9th February**.

Arts & Crafts.

There are a number of families who still have yet to pay the Arts/Crafts/Sundries fee for this school year. I would appreciate it if these payments could be made as soon as possible. I do, however, understand that there are financial constraints on families at the moment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are having difficulty with these payments. Please note that the link has been re-activated on Aladdin to pay these fees online.

Inclusion Week.

Here in Scoil Naomh Bríde we treat all children the same. All of the children get the same opportunities to learn the curriculum and to participate in extra-curricular activities and school initiatives. It is important that we also work with the children themselves to raise awareness of the importance of inclusion in everyday society. Beginning Monday the 12th of February all of the children in the various classes will work with their class teachers talking about and discussing the theme of inclusion, what it means to them and ways in which we can ensure a more inclusive society.



St. Brigid's Day Service & Grandparents Day.

This Thursday the 1st of February is St. Brigid's Day. February 1st also marks a special time in the Irish calendar because it signals the end of winter and the beginning of spring. To celebrate St. Brigid's Day in our school we are having a St. Brigid's Day service at 11.00am on Thursday. We would like to invite members of the community to join us for the St. Brigid's Day service. In particular we would like to invite Grandparents to attend and to enjoy a cup of tea and some refreshments with us after the service.

Our school 'Scoil Naomh Bríde' is named after St. Brigid. Brigid is one of our three official patron saints. They are Saint Patrick, Saint Brigid and Saint Columba (also known as Saint Colmcille). Saint Brigid, also known as Brigid of Kildare, is Ireland's only female patron saint. She was born around the year 451 AD, just north of Dundalk, County Louth. During her life, she was an early Irish Christian nun, abbess and founder of many different monasteries of nuns. Her most famous monastery is in Kildare, built in 480 AD. During her life, she was devoted to God, she was known for her generosity to the poor. Saint Brigid died at the age of 74 in the year 525 in Kildare. Perhaps the best-known story about Brigid of Kildare is the story of Saint Brigid's Cloak. As a nun, she wanted to build a convent, but had no land on which to build one. So, she asked the King of Leinster for land, but was laughed away. Brigid later prayed and asked God to soften the King's heart. After asking the King again, she asked for the land that her cloak could cover. With the king thinking it was a small cloak, he accepted. When Saint Brigid placed her cloak down on the ground, it grew and grew until it was big enough to build a convent on. The King of Leinster then had a change of heart and gave permission for the building of the convent. He soon became a Christian himself and changed his ways to help the poor.



Bug Busters.

Please see the accompanying sheet.

Board of Management.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new members of our Board of Management;

- Fr. John Kennedy – Chairperson
- Ms. Orla Lennon
- Mrs. Elaine Farrell
- Mr. Eric Cribbin
- Mrs. Thelma Byrne
- Mr. Fergal Dunne
- Mrs. Ciara Maguire



I would also like to thank sincerely all the members of our last Board of Management who worked tirelessly on behalf of the school. In particular I want to thank Fintan McEvoy who served as Chairperson for the last 12 years.

Yours sincerely,

James Battersby

James Battersby (Principal).

Community News

Trim Haymaking Festival are hosting a St. Brigid's Day Tales & Folklore day in the Heritage Garden at Jack Quinns on Sunday the 4th of February from 2pm – 4pm. There will be story-telling and making of St Brigid's Cross, with displays and demonstrations of times gone by. The aim is to keep these traditions and history alive in the young people, so our heritage is not lost.

Bug Busting- Term 2

The issue of 'Head Lice' causes considerable frustration for parents, children and staff alike in all national schools. There is also a lot of mistaken information and advice on the causes of and prevention of head lice. Head lice is a community and family problem, but about 80% of cases affect school-aged children, the 4 - 16 year olds.

As a school we have decided to take a pro-active approach to dealing with 'head lice' based on a specific educational programme aimed at developing awareness of and treatment of head lice. The specific educational programme that we will use is called '*Bug Busting*'. Bug Busting started in England in the 1980's and is used by the NHS, National Health Service, in schools there. Bug Busting is a very safe, effective and non-invasive way of preventing, detecting and/or treating outbreaks of head lice without the use of pesticides.

Bug Busting is based on the evidence that head lice when completely saturated in moisture stay still. It uses an ordinary shampoo and conditioner and a special fine tooth comb. There is no need for parents to purchase expensive 'treatments' in pharmacies with this initiative. Bug Busting is successful because it interferes with the lifecycle of the bug through a united whole school approach. It is important that all parents/guardians work together to wash their children's hair on the specific nights chosen to 'Bug Bust'. It is also advisable that all members of the family should bug bust.

Instructions for parents/guardians.

- Wash your child's hair with your own ordinary shampoo as usual and rinse.
- Dry it off a little.
- Put conditioner on the hair and leave it on.
- Detangle the hair using your own ordinary white tooth comb.
- Leaving the conditioner in place, begin combing the hair section by section using the bug buster comb.
- Slot the teeth into the hair right at the roots and draw it up to the tips.
- Check the bug buster comb for head lice after each stroke, by wiping it with kitchen paper or by rinsing it under the tap
- Repeat until the whole head has been combed through.
- Rinse the hair and repeat the process when the hair is really wet.
- This process is repeated on Day 4, 9 and 13 whether you have detected head lice or not.

Facts about Head Lice

- The eggs of head lice usually take 7 to 10 days to hatch (recorded range 5 to 11 days). Live eggs and head lice are **not easily spotted on the head**.
- **Combing dry or damp hair** with a fine-tooth comb is **not a reliable** way to detect lice, and especially deceptive in short, straight hair, where you would think it would be easy.
- **Metal combs are not suitable for louse detection** because these combs are primarily **nit combs**. Lice caught between the tightly spaced teeth remain unnoticed against the metal and can be combed back into the hair unharmed at subsequent strokes.
- It is not scientifically proven that head to head contact has to be prolonged to catch lice - **close contact is enough**.

Vital knowledge about the life-cycle

- A head louse (*Pediculus capitis*) usually hatches 7 to 10 days after the egg is laid (sometimes 5 to 11 days).
- A newly-hatched head louse becomes full-grown in a minimum of 6 days.
- Full-grown head lice move from head to head; younger lice tend to stay on the head where they hatch.

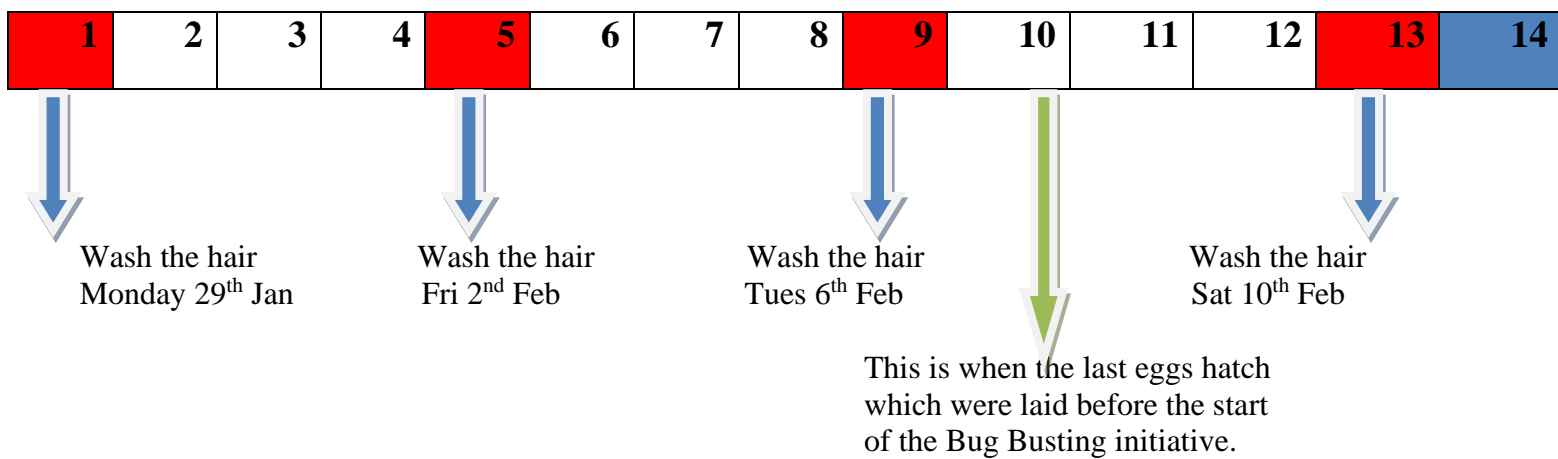
- Many products rely on killing lice as they hatch because it is difficult to kill live eggs with chemicals and hard to ensure the removal of all eggs by combing.

Breaking the life-cycle

Preventing head lice from spreading: it is critical to remove the lice before the sixth day from hatching.

Preventing head lice from reproducing: a new generation of eggs can be laid from day seven after hatching.

Days to Bug Busting



On Day 14 the head is clear of all head lice. Only empty egg shells are left on hair.