



St Brendan's Primary School & Nursery Unit

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'When We Welcome A Child We Welcome A Family'

1st April 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we begin our Easter holidays I want to say thank you to everyone for making our return to school run so smoothly. It has been just great to have all the children back to school and I am sure parents/guardians will join the teachers in saying a very happy goodbye to remote learning. Technology is wonderful but there is nothing like having children sitting in front of us in the classroom. The delight on the faces of parents, teachers and children confirmed this over the past few weeks.

As we are still to remain within all the COVID guidelines and you may be restricted in what you can do over the holidays we have added some Easter Activities for you below. I'm not sure we'll be having the sunshine we enjoyed over Easter 2020 this year!

Throughout this pandemic we have all risen to the many challenges we have faced. Our whole school community have been fabulous. I would like to mention two pupils who have not only risen to a challenge but just happen to be on top of the world. HUGE congratulations to Amelia Greene and Scarlett Watt who both just happened to have quietly stepped up to NUMBER 1 in the WORLD in Athletics!!!! A brilliant achievement girls, massive congratulations from everyone – we are SO very proud of you.

While we are delighted, we are not at all surprised as we know how brilliant everyone in St. Brendan's is. So whatever you are doing and wherever you are, keep working hard to follow your dreams.

We have also been aware of so many families who have faced very sad circumstances over the past year. And over the past few months in particular we are aware of families who have faced tragedy and loss. We are thinking of all of you and keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.

This thought will continue to encourage us all to continue to keep safe and to work collectively whether in a pandemic or not to do the best for our community. Wishing you all a very happy Easter and looking forward to seeing everyone again on 12th April.

Yours sincerely,

L French PRINCIPAL

WHO TO CONTACT

Hopefully we will not need this but if a child tests positive for COVID-19 up until Saturday 3rd April please inform us as PHA may need to request some people to self-isolate.

Email to info@stbrendans.craigavon.ni.sch.uk. Stating the child's name, D.O.B. class and teacher and the last date that they were in school. It would be helpful if you also send a message on our FaceBook page.

EASTER ACTIVITIES

Steps to wellbeing

Be Active - Play, join a team sport, walk, cycle, run around. Being active helps us keep fit and also makes us feel good.

Connect - Have fun with friends, talk with family, help out at home, and share your feelings. Being connected makes us feel loved.

Take Notice - Watch and listen to what's going on around you, changing seasons, bugs, birds, flowers and rainbows. Take notice of how you feel. Last week I was very impressed when I went into a class and asked if anyone knew anything about the Suez Canal. One boy knew everything about it. See if you can find out about what's happening around the world.

Give - Do something nice for a friend or family member, share, smile. Give to yourself - play, be creative, use your imagination, draw, paint, dance, and dream. When we give to ourselves or others it makes us feel happy.

Keep Learning - Read for fun, learn how to do something new, try your best. Set a challenge you will enjoy. Learning new things makes us feel proud as well as being fun to do.

My Holiday Journal

Remember – learning doesn't just happen when you have a pen and paper! Even while you are having a rest you will still be learning. Make a note at the end of the break of all the things you have done!

- Had an Easter egg hunt (I found 4 eggs!)
- Baked Easter chocolate bark and then left it on Auntie Angela's doorstep (and I licked the bowl)
- Went on a scavenger hunt in the park
- Stayed in my pyjamas all day (it was raining and windy outside)
- Had a water fight in the garden (we were all soaked!)
- Ate lots of chocolate!!!! (I learnt that I prefer milk chocolate to white chocolate)

Give

Why not take up the Kindness Challenge and make some lovely Easter food or even a card for someone who deserves a special treat!

1. Think about the people you would like to give a treat. A neighbour, a friend, a family member?
2. Look at some recipes and decide what to make – we have a great one for you below.
3. Wash your hands and then get baking!

Easter Nests Recipe:

Ingredients

- 200g [milk chocolate](#) , broken into pieces
- 85g shredded wheat, crushed

- [2 x 100g bags mini chocolate](#) eggs

You'll also need

- cupcake cases

Method

STEP 1

Melt the chocolate in a small bowl placed over a pan of barely simmering water. Pour the chocolate over the shredded wheat and stir well to combine.

STEP 2

Spoon the chocolate wheat into 12 cupcake cases and press the back of a teaspoon in the centre to create a nest shape. Place 3 mini chocolate eggs on top of each nest. Chill the nests in the fridge for 2 hrs until set.

Be Active

Egg Rolling

Have a go at dyeing some boiled eggs:

Step One- Hard boil and dye your eggs. Put lots of food colouring into the water and the shell will change colour as the egg cooks.

Step Two- Find a hill, then have a go at rolling your eggs. Which eggs roll down the hill fastest?

Easter Egg Hunt

Step One - Have someone hide eggs either inside or in the garden.

Step Two - Hunt for the eggs! Ask the hider to let you know when you are getting close to a hidden egg.

Oxford Island Spring Trail:

Follow this link to find out more - www.oxfordisland.com/events-and-activities

Plan a 'Dream Holiday'

We are all feeling a little fed up and dreaming of the days when we can go on holiday again. One Mum was so ready for a family holiday that she sat down with her children and planned a holiday around the world. Then, without leaving home, they made their holiday happen! Here is what happened...

In each "country" they visited, Lydia, Toby and Mum, Alison tried out some of the local food and had a go at some of the activities that can be done there. They made some amazing memories along the way!

Day 1

We packed our cases and made sure we had our tickets and passports! We had our luggage checked and then got ready to sleep on the plane. The Air Hostess read us a story. P.S. Tomorrow we are off to America!

Day 2

Howdy from Austin, Texas! Today we did some rodeo activities and ate Southern Fried Chicken and donuts. We even had time to visit Mickey Mouse in his Clubhouse before we were on the plane again. Calf roping and making American flags!

Day 3

Here we are in Peru! We learned a Peruvian game called Sapo and climbed Macchu Picchu with our dogs. We even listened to Peruvian panpipe music. P.S. Tonight we are getting a boat to our next destination...

Day 4

Brrrrrrrr! It's freezing here in Antarctica! We did some fishing and ice sculpting and even decided we could manage a slushee!

Day 5

We made binoculars for our safari trip to Africa! We made our own African drums and finished the day with a relaxing DVD of The Lion King.

Day 6

Today we were in China. We had lots of fun eating noodles and prawn crackers with chopsticks and had a go at making some Chinese symbols. Then we experienced Mount Everest in the film Abominable.

Day 7

Ciao! We woke up this morning in Italy and have had a fab day eating ice cream and pasta! What do you think of our pasta shape pictures?

Day 8

Bonjour! Today we were in France. We're nearly home again! We built a Lego Eiffel Tower, went for a cycle along the "Seine" and made our own Snails and Frogs legs for dinner!

Day 9

We met up (via Zoom) with our aunt in London and our Grandad in Devon. What a great time to enjoy a very British roast dinner (yum!) and a Devon cream tea, before our flight back home!

If you, like Lydia, Toby and Alison are dreaming of your next holiday, have a go at choosing a "destination" and spending a dream day there, eating the food, doing the activities and maybe even catching a movie!

Accelerated Reader, Mathletics and Education City

We are so lucky to have these great online resources, why not make a head start on next terms targets?!

When We Need Support

If you are having financial difficulties during this time, there is help you can access. Here are some of the local supports that are available if you are in difficulty.

The Trussell Trust website has links to several foodbanks in Northern Ireland. They also have a dedicated Financial Crisis Helpline for families who are in financial difficulty.

St Vincent de Paul is a locally run charity that can provide assistance to families who are in financial difficulty.

Minding your own and your family's mental health is of paramount importance. If you are in difficulty, here are some organisations who provide immediate telephone and online support.

- Lifeline Helpline
- Childline
- ParentLine NI

