



# BIRR SCHOOLS *Newsletter*

JAN/  
MAR  
20  
25

ST. BRENDAN'S CS · OXMANTOWN NS · MERCY PS · ST. BRENDAN'S NS

## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL PARENTS & THEIR FAMILIES!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Birr Schools HSCL (Home School Community Liaison) Parent Newsletter. This newsletter will serve as a platform for sharing information about upcoming events, activities and courses in our community.

HSCL and community activities are designed to empower parents and create opportunities for building stronger relationships with our schools, which in turn positively support your child's learning journey. These activities also offer parents a chance to connect, engage and share experiences with one another. We hope you find this newsletter informative and helpful, and we look forward to working together to support our children's growth and education.

### Attendance Matters Every School Day Counts

As we embark on a new term, we kindly urge all parents and guardians to prioritise regular school attendance, as it plays a critical role in ensuring that each child progresses steadily in their learning journey. Consistent attendance is essential, as it not only enhances academic performance but also fosters the development of valuable social skills, friendships and healthy habits that are key for success in adulthood.

Together, we can focus on *Making Every School Day Count* by improving attendance through commitment, positive reinforcement and continued support. Parents and guardians are instrumental in this process, and your involvement in helping your child establish strong morning and evening routines is invaluable. Let's work together to make this term a successful one for every student.

### Primary to Post Primary Transition

We are excited to announce that our 1st Year Post Primary Induction Programme for 6th class students has commenced. This programme is designed to equip students with the essential learning skills needed for secondary school and provide support for the social, emotional and personal aspects of this significant transition.

The initiative aims to make the shift from primary to secondary school as smooth as possible by offering guidance on common challenges faced by students, along with engaging activities that foster adjustment and growth. We are committed to working closely with 6th class students and their parents throughout this transition period and look forward to supporting their continued development as they embark on this next phase of their educational journey.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SCHOOL EVENTS

### PARENT COMPASS CLINICS

**Tuesday January 28th & February 25th**

Workshops which assist parents to download and navigate the Compass Post Primary School Communication App.  
Facilitator: St. Brendan's CS  
Location: St. Brendan's CS Parents Room  
Registration: Text your details to Sabrina 087 6406920

### WALK ON WEDNESDAYS PARENT WALKING GROUP

**Each Wednesday commencing February 12th**

All parents are invited to join in what will be an ideal opportunity to connect, engage and share experiences with other parents. Members of the Walking Group will have free entry to Birr Castle and buggies are always welcome.  
Facilitator: St. Brendan's CS, Mercy PS, St. Brendan's NS & Oxmantown NS  
Location: Birr Castle  
Registration: Text your details to Sabrina 087 6406920

### MINDFULNESS COURSE

**4 Week Course commencing Friday, February 7th at 10am**

Learn to relax, reduce stress, anxiety and overthinking and BE more mindful in your daily life in our new four week Mindfulness and Relaxation Course. You will also build new and lasting happiness habits and ways of thinking that benefit not only you, but your relationships with family and friends.  
Facilitator: St. Brendan's CS, Mercy PS, St. Brendan's NS & Oxmantown NS  
Location: St. Brendan's CS Parents Room  
Registration: Text details to Sabrina 087 6406920 or Paula 086 6045024

### 5th YEAR PARENT SUBJECT CHOICE SUPPORT WORKSHOPS

**Tuesday February 25th**

Workshops which help parents guide their children through career and subject choices and gain better understanding of their child's potential and available opportunities.  
Facilitator: St. Brendan's CS |  
Location: St. Brendan's CS Parents Room  
Registration: Text your details to Sabrina 087 6406920

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### TRIPLE P PARENTING PROGRAMME

**6 week Programme commencing on Thursday, January 23rd at 10am**

The Triple P Parenting Programme equips parents with simple, practical strategies to build strong, healthy relationships and confidently manage their children's behaviour. The programme is designed to foster positive, caring connections between parents, children and teenagers, while also helping to prevent potential challenges from arising.  
Location: Tullamore Family Resource Centre  
Registration: Contact TFRS on 057 9320598

### BREAKFAST BOOK CLUB

**1st Tuesday of each month, 10.30am**

The Birr Library Breakfast Book Club is a vibrant, participant-driven group that fosters a sense of community and connection among its members. By coming together to discuss books over breakfast, participants have the opportunity to share ideas, engage in meaningful conversations and form lasting relationships.  
Location: Birr Library  
Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

### BABY BOOK CLUB

**Each Wednesday, 11am**

Weekly story and rhyme times for babies and toddlers.  
Location: Birr Library  
Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950



### STAY CONNECTED - SMARTPHONE AND TABLET WORKSHOPS

**Commencing Tuesday January 14th, 10.30am**

Six week course aimed at assisting parents to learn new technology skills and stay connected with the world.  
Location: Birr Library  
Registration: Contact Birr Library 057 9124950

### SAFETY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

**Wednesday January 29th, 7pm to 8pm**

This workshop will focus on the key online risks children face today and will equip parents with practical solutions and tips for keeping their children safe while online.  
Facilitator: Barnardos Tullamore  
Location: Online event  
Registration: [www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training](http://www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training)

### BIRTH MOTHERS SUPPORT GROUP

**Monday January 20th, 7pm to 8:30pm**

Providing a safe space for birth mothers to meet others and avail of support.  
Facilitator: Barnardos Tullamore  
Location: Online event  
Registration: [www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training](http://www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training)

### LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

**Date: Ongoing**

One to one assessments aimed at assisting learners in building and sustaining their literacy and numeracy skills.  
Facilitator: LOETB  
Location: LOETB, Birr  
Registration: Contact Debbie Looby 057 9121571

**Sabrina Carroll HSCL Coordinator**  
St. Brendan's CS | Oxmantown NS

**Paula Carey HSCL Coordinator**  
Mercy PS | St. Brendan's NS