



# O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The mid-term break is just upon us and all the children are very excited about the Halloween celebrations. We have had a very busy start to our new school year and all the children have been working very hard in class.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> class had a very exciting month, they took part in a short form documentary with Lee Strand and it was recorded by the BBC – we are looking forward to seeing the finished piece. 6<sup>th</sup> class have been doing a fantastic job with Play works on the front yard at lunch time while 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> have been studying Christopher Columbus.

Our budding scientists in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class have been studying about rainbows while in 4<sup>th</sup> class they have been studying all about the Digestive system. Ms. Carroll's and Ms Slattery's Junior and Senior Infant class have been doing fantastic Art work recently and are making great progress with their Jolly Phonics.

Well done to all classes we are all very proud of how hard the children are working.

We also have a lot to celebrate this month we received our 4<sup>th</sup> Green Flag for Travel, our 10<sup>th</sup> Discovering Primary Science and Maths award and celebrated Positive Mental Health Week also. The whole school really enjoyed our Hallowe'en Hike today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support with our Halloween Hike. The Board of Management and Staff greatly appreciate your ongoing contributions to the school. All cards were put into a raffle for some Smyths vouchers and the winners are:

- Junior infants – Sophie Horan
- Senior infants – Ciara Enright
- 1<sup>st</sup> class – Kyle O'Sullivan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> class – Aoibhinn Leen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> class – Tadhg Brick
- 4<sup>th</sup> class – Lexi O'Connor
- 5<sup>th</sup> class – Olivia Sweeney
- 6<sup>th</sup> class – Ryan Burke

In September we appointed two Assistant Principals (APII) in school – Eoin O'Neill and Michelle Broderick. They are now part of the In School Management Team.

We would also like to welcome some new staff for the current academic year: Ms Lorraine Sheehan who is Job Sharing with Ms Brosnan, Ms Barry who is covering for Ms O'Shea, Ms O'Carroll who is covering for Ms Sheehy and Mr O'Connor who is covering for Mrs Costello.

Finally, I'd like to wish all pupils, staff and their families an enjoyable, relaxing Bank Holiday weekend and mid-term break,

Le gach dea-ghuí

Michelle O' Brien

## Junior Infants

Junior Infants settled really well into school. We have had a very busy few weeks getting used to school life here in O' Brennan.

Over the past few weeks, the children have learned to say and write the first 12 Jolly Phonics sounds. Some of the children are reading words all by themselves. They are really looking forward to reading books with words soon.

The children have learned lots of new words and songs as Gaeilge.

In Maths we learned how to make sets and had fun with maths games.

Aistear is a big favourite here in junior infants where we have looked at the home, the farm shop and Halloween. We read the story *Cave Baby* as part of our home theme in Aistear and created some interesting cave paintings. The children are very lucky here in O' Brennan to have lots of local produce in the area. We got some real eggs for our farm shop from Jessica, Sam and Feardorcha's hens: Smoothie, Cuckoo and Cookie to name a few. Our classroom came under a spell from the witches house as the children made potions in the witches caldrons. The children have learned lots of new language and enjoy learning through play!

It has been a busy few weeks! We've had lots of birthdays since we started school. In September we celebrated Georgia, Julia and Fiadh's birthdays! In October we celebrated Tom and Erin's birthdays.

The Junior Infants have worked so hard these past few weeks they really deserve a week off. Happy Halloween everybody; have a lovely mid-term!!

Ms. Carroll

### Senior Infants

What a lovely group of Senior Infants we have this year. They are wonderful boys and girls who love learning and who have settled back in to school life exceptionally well. We have had a very busy eight weeks which have included revising all our sounds and letter formations, recount writing, tricky words, pattern, numbers and fine motor skills. We have taken part in lots of games in PE, the Daily Mile, and have also had a fire drill. We learned all about Autumn in *Don't Hog the Hedge* and read about the animals that are getting ready to hibernate for winter, as well as learning some songs and rhymes in as Gaeilge agus as Béarla. We have some lovely art work in our classroom and have really enjoyed ourselves creating it.

When Minister Norma Foley visited the school Timmy and Cara had a very special job of presenting her with some cards and a potted plant and they did a great job representing our class.

One of our favourite things to do in Senior Infants is read and I have been really impressed with their reading of their Word Lists and books on SeeSaw. So far, we have been to dragon school with Zog, on a broomstick with a witch in *Room on the Broom*, had a bad case of stripes, met some interesting Mr Men characters, learned how to be kind in *Have You Filled a Bucket Today* and we've had lots of laughs with *Witch with an Itch*, just to mention a few. Well done everyone!

Mason and Zoeya were our first assembly certificate winners in September with Zuzanna and Rian joining them in October. Rian also had the honour of being first to celebrate his birthday in September to be followed shortly by Kate, Mia and Zoeya! Breithlá Shona Daoibh! Star of the Day is fiercely sought after every day and I have no doubt you have all heard about how hard we work in our pods to collect the most cubes!

We have chatted about healthy eating and it is a pleasure to say our lunchboxes are exceptionally healthy, meaning we can really enjoy our Friday treat.

We're looking forward to taking part in the Halloween Hike on Friday and admiring each other's costumes. Wishing you all a lovely Mid – Term break. Oíche Shamhna Shona daoibh go léir.

Ms. Slattery

### First / Second Class

We have had a busy few weeks since September getting to know each other, learning and having fun in 1st and 2nd class. We did lots of art work including 3D hot air balloons four season trees, concentric circle trees inspired by the artist Kandinsky and some spooky Halloween witches and silhouettes. We have been discussing healthy eating lately and how we can make better choices for our meals and we are also learning all about the teeth and the names and functions of our teeth. First and second class also learned about the history of communications and we made some string telephones to demonstrate how sound travels in science. The boys and girls were very curious about all the rainbows in the sky lately so we learned all about how rainbows were formed and even created our own rainbows in science. We are looking forward to Halloween break now after all of our hard work. Happy Halloween!

Ms. Broderick

### Second/Third Class

Everyone in 2nd and 3rd class had a great start to the year. All of the girls and boys have shown great enthusiasm and made great progress in their learning so far this year. We've covered loads in our school work, everything from Christopher Columbus to fractions! The boys and girls have shown a great hand at doing their art work and they all had great fun in October creating their own Autumn forest using all the creatures we learned about in Irish. Everyone is looking forward to the break and coming back refreshed before the build up to Christmas will begin!

Mr. Sheehy

### Fourth Class

What a busy few we have had in 4<sup>th</sup> Class. The children enjoyed a Zoom call with David Williams, where we got to see and hear him read. In Biology the children learned all about our digestive system and got to part-take in a fun experiment, where we saw how our organs work.



The month of October we read the Witches. Some amazing acting and voices were created.

The children worked extremely hard on their narrative writing this month. We used the theme of Nature Writing and Biodiversity as this is our Green Schools theme this year.

## Happy the Hedgehog

by Nicole



Once on a windy day, Happy the Hedgehog went on a walk in Ballyseedy Woods to look for some food. Happy the Hedgehog found an acorn. Happy the Hedgehog decided that she would pick it up and give it to her friend.

Have a wonderful midterm break from all in 4<sup>th</sup>!!!!!!!

Ms. Buckley

### Fifth Class

5<sup>th</sup> class have settled in nicely to this new academic year. A warm welcome to our newest class member-Darijan. Here's a flavour of some of the activities we have been doing over the past few months; In English, we revised the Recount genre and focused on the success of the Irish Paralympic athletes in Tokyo. We watched a live interview on Zoom with author David Walliams-thoroughly enjoyable! We have also been busy setting up the **Spellings for Me** programme. In October, we focused on descriptive writing.

5<sup>th</sup> class explored the Normans and the effect they had on Ireland. We did mini-projects, created a timeline and Norman helmets using papier-mâché.

There was fierce competition when reciting our 'Rivers of Ireland' poem with our rivals next door! In science, we explored chromatography and created some spooktacular art using our results! We've been enjoying football with visiting coach Tom Joy.

In Irish, we've been exploring the 'Pirimid an Bhia'. Rinneamar dánta acraستاice leis na focail 'Bia Blasta'.

Of course, the biggest highlight of the term so far has been making our TV debut! A camera crew visited the school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of October and briefly on the 6<sup>th</sup> to shoot for the BBC documentary on the School Milk Scheme and Lee Strand's new recyclable Tetra packs. The pupils had footage taken of them working in the morning, using the iPads, their Daily Mile, art activity (We recycled the new Lee Strand packaging by creating desktop organisers), Vox Pops and playing in the halla! We can't wait to see the fruits of our labour!

Maith sibh! Well done everyone!

Wishing you all a lovely midterm break! ☺

Mrs. Corridan

### **Sixth Class**

6<sup>th</sup> class have settled in extremely well to our final year in O'Brennan! We have had a fantastic start to the new school year and it's been a very busy few weeks. The boys and girls have worked tirelessly and have well and truly earned their break!

In September, 6<sup>th</sup> class started Playworks at break times. The children are working in pairs to plan, organise and play lots of playground games with pupils in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class during their own lunch break! There are fantastic, innovative games and activities being played and both older and younger pupils are having a ball!

We also had a webinar with the widely renowned and hugely popular author - David Walliams. Before the interview, we read about Mr Walliams, created an author fact file and learned more about his life. We listened to Mr Walliams being interviewed where he spoke about lots of different topics including where he got the ideas for the characters in some of his books!

We have been making a huge effort to speak as Gaeilge in Rang a Sé. Irish can be heard right throughout the day in our classroom with lots of

pupils asking questions, answering questions, giving instructions and talking to their partner as Gaeilge. Our Irish has improved massively and we're having great fun putting the words we have learned into practice in real life!

There are some incredibly talented artists in 6<sup>th</sup> class who've completed amazing works of art since the beginning of the year. Our latest project was to design a classroom door (Halloween themed). The boys and girls designed their Halloween door display, with the winning design being chosen to be made into a poster for our classroom door! Eabha J and Kate H were the winners with their Halloween scene! Their finished poster greets everyone who enters our classroom!

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents for their support with school work, homework and Seesaw! Have a great mid-term break and a Happy Halloween!

Ms. Barry

### **Dates / Upcoming Events:**

- Hallowe'en Hike – 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 10am (weather dependant)
- Mid-Term Break – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October. School re-opens Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.
- STEAM week – November 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>. We have some very exciting projects planned.
- Christmas Movie night - 16<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Holidays – school closes at 12pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and shall re-open on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.



**Green School Update**

Our Greens Schools Committee celebrated achieving our latest Green Flag based on the Travel theme by attending a virtual awards ceremony yesterday. Our current sixth class will now hand over the reins to a new committee who will begin working on our next exciting theme of Biodiversity. Well done to all involved.

### **Discover Primary Science**

O' Brennan NS has been awarded our 10th Discover Primary Science and Maths Award 🏆🏆. The judging committee remarked that they were very impressed with all of our STEM activities that took place during an exceptional year of both school-based and remote learning and congratulated our many budding scientists and engineers for their wonderful work. Our 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes represented the entire school last Friday when they attended the Virtual Awards Ceremony. It was a fun-filled ceremony with exciting experiments and with special guests including Prof Luke O'Neill and NASA Astronaut Greg Johnson. We even got a big national shout-out for achieving our 10th annual award!! Well done to all our children and staff for their amazing ongoing STEM work and achievements.

### **Positive Mental Health Week**

We recently celebrated our third annual Positive Mental Health Week in school from 11th to 15th October 2021. It was an enjoyable week when children and staff practised the '5 Ways to Well-being'. We learned that connecting with others, being active, keep learning, taking notice and giving are all ways that can help us to feel good about ourselves and support our mental well-being. We enjoyed activities such as mindful meditation in the Halla, playing 'secret friend', learning a Bob Marley song and the Hamster Dance and 'walking a mile with a smile' for our Daily Mile. Our week finished with a wonderful 'No Uniform Day' fundraiser for Help Rose Bloom. Check out Facebook for lots of great photos of the week. Have a lovely mid-term break and remember the 5 Ways to Well-

being can be added to your well-being toolbox too.

### **Parents Association**

The Parents Association Committee for the 2021/2022 school year is as follows:

1. Orla Broderick – Chairperson
2. Eleanor Kovac - Co-Chairperson
3. Tara Sheehy – Treasurer
4. Donall O'Sullivan - Secretary
5. Paula Silles
6. Aleksandar Kovac

However, the committee is looking for new members to join from the general parent body. Ideally it would be great to have a parent nominee from each class. The Parent's Association is for the benefit of all the children in the school. If you would like to join our Parents Committee, please contact the school office and your details shall be forwarded to our Chairperson. We look forward to welcoming new members.

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN  
EVERYBODY!**

October 2021

