



O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of all the staff and pupils of O' Brennan NS I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

We hope that 2022 will bring an end to the pandemic and normal life may soon be able to resume in some way. I would extend my thanks to all the whole school community who have put in an amazing effort into ensuring that the children experience some level of normality in school, whilst being kept safe each day.

Cancelling our Christmas Show was a tough decision as the pupils had worked so hard on it but each class had lots of fun recording snippets of their show. All the videos are available on our school website. We would like to thank Santa for making a very special visit to our school on December 17th. Santa brought all the boys and girls some chocolate Santa's and it was a lovely treat for them to enjoy!

On Wednesday December 15th we held our annual Christmas Mystery Movie night here in O'Brennan which was well supported. The school staff did great work in organising the event which helped to make it a very enjoyable night for all who attended. Well done everyone!

The children have taken part in 5 Days of Wellness before Christmas, they have been very busy writing letters, taking part in Christmas quizzes and our Jingle Jog. On Monday all classes watched the pantomime "Little Red Riding Hood" and lastly we watched some Christmas adverts and had a discussion on which ones were our favourites.

Finally, I'd like to wish all members of our school community and their families a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again in January. May your Christmas be filled with the love of family and the joy of friends.

May you be blessed with health, happiness and abundance in 2022.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Michelle O' Brien

Junior Infants

It's been a fun-filled term here in Junior Infants. We have had a very busy few weeks and now the children are ready for a well-earned break. We have learned 24 of our Jolly Phonics sounds! In maths we have learned the numeral 1 and 2. The children know a lot of words as Gaeilge and are having great fun at home catching their Moms and Dads out! In Aistear we learned all about the Emergency Services and had lots of fun in our role play area pretending to be doctors and nurses. Ms Carroll's Classroom was then transformed into Santa's Workshop. The children learned how the toys are made by the elves in the North Pole and now know how to wrap presents.

Unfortunately, our Christmas Concert couldn't go ahead but we had just as much fun getting dressed up, taking photos and recording our songs. We hope you enjoy our video as much as we do.

Our Movie night was a huge success. The children all loved coming to school in their pyjamas to watch Santa Buddies.

We were very lucky this year in Junior infants that Twinkle (one of Santa's Christmas fairies) wrote to us and told us all about life in the North Pole. She even had a peep in our books to see how everyone was getting on and she was very impressed with the work she saw. We hope she will write once more before Christmas!

We have celebrated birthdays too. In November, we celebrated Jack C birthday! In December we celebrated Sam's birthday.

Wishing you all a lovely break and best wishes for the New Year! I look forward to seeing you all again in January 2022!

Ms. Carroll

Senior Infants

Senior Infants have been very busy since Halloween. We have had a busy few weeks and now the children are ready for a well-earned break. We were delighted to take part in STEAM week and had loads of fun experimenting with different materials. In Aistear we learned all about the Post Office and how Santa gets all his letters. We really enjoyed our book *The Jolly Christmas Postman* and hearing about all his adventures. We have been joined by another student in recent weeks – Robin the Elf. Robin has caused all sorts of mischief in our classroom from covering our Christmas tree with toilet paper to making photocopied pictures of himself and hanging them up in our room. He also went ziplining across the room and hid inside the dolls house not to mention looking in Ms Slattery's press and finding all the sweets!! (which he told us about!) Robin has reported back to Santa that everyone in Senior Infants is on the good list this year because they have worked so hard on their sounds, maths, art work cutting and organisational skills. Robin had a look in our books and was very impressed with what he saw! We had a special visit from Santa during the week and he loved listening to us singing Jingle Bells. We worked very hard on our Christmas show 'A Wiggly Nativity' and were delighted to record it and send snippets of it home. Robin really liked it too especially all the costumes. Santa Buddies was our movie on movie night which was great fun. We also had hot chocolates, made rice krispie buns and had a Christmas party.

We have celebrated some birthdays also. We celebrated Zuzanna, Mason, Zoey and Oisin Leens birthdays in November. December was also a

busy month for birthdays with Saoirse, Kalen and Jack all celebrating their special day.

Wishing you all a lovely break and best wishes for the New Year! Nollaig Shona Daoibh!

Ms. Slattery

First / Second Class

First and second class have had a very busy December preparing for Christmas. We have composed Christmas poems, written Christmas stories, learned songs, celebrated advent and made lots of lovely Christmas art. We created star decorations from clay, made Christmas cribs using lollipop sticks and we used chalk to create some lovely winter pictures.

We mostly enjoyed practising for our school Christmas show. We were disappointed the show could not go ahead but we still enjoyed learning lines and practising our songs, especially the one where Santa goes on strike.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year. Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir.

Ms. Broderick

Second/Third Class

All the boys and girls in Mr Sheehy's class have worked so well this month. December has been a busy month for everyone and we're all so excited for our Christmas holidays. Mr Sheehy agrees that we all deserve to be on Santa's nice list. Here are our highlights of the build-up to Christmas in 2nd & 3rd class.

2nd class

Luke – Christmas painting

Kyle – Christmas art

Abby – Christmas art

Donnchadh – Christmas movie night

Fionn – Everything!
Callum – Everything!

3rd class

Tadhg – Christmas Adverts
Doireann – Christmas Panto
Alison – Christmas Panto
Gearóid – Christmas Panto
Fionn – Christmas Adverts
Dara – Christmas Adverts
Úna – Christmas Play
Tristan – Christmas Play
Rúta – Everything!
Carmen – Christmas art
Evan – Christmas art
Micheál – Christmas art
Gearóid – Christmas art
Sophie – Christmas art
Anna – Christmas art

We hope you all have a merry Christmas and a happy new year!
Nollaig Shona!

Mr. Sheehy

Fourth Class

What a busy term we have had upstairs. The children and parents have put in a huge amount of effort, so an enormous - Thank you! The children learned a vast amount in science the first term. The Digestive System was a huge topic area and we also looked into making Wind Power Cars in STEAM to give the children a clearer understanding of how Science and Maths are interlinked.

Art was great fun this term; the children learned how to make pom poms and stars from recycled paper.

In the new year we hope to start sewing and learn a new skill. We painted Rudolph and got an understanding of how different brush strokes create wonderful designs and thankfully they turned out really well.

On a final note, I would like to wish you all a healthy and safe Christmas from my super 4th Class Team.

Ms. Buckley, Mr O' Connor and Regina.

Fifth Class

As the Christmas season beckons, we look back on the activities of the past two months.

Firstly, a warm welcome to the newest member of our class, Kate.

In English, we read the novel '*Hitler's Canary*' and the PM readers are also in use. In Irish, our themes were Sa bhaile, timpiste (tine) agus an margadh Nollag.

We thoroughly enjoyed S.T.E.A.M week in November.

Our festive arts and crafts included making Mini-hats from wool, snow/winter gnomes using clay and Winter themed triptychs. The finished products were adorable! Unfortunately, our Christmas Play which was set to be Robin Hood had to be cancelled. The pupils put in a huge amount of work learning the lines, songs, actions and sourcing costumes. So, well done everyone! We hope you enjoy our Christmas recording on the school website. A special mention to Tara who designed and used her savvy sewing skills to make her own Robin Hood hat. Maith thú!
In Geography, 5th class undertook a study of a European Country (France) and produced well-researched projects.

In recent weeks, PE took on a festive twist with an Elf Workout and a Christmas edition of the game Four Corners.

Well done 5th class on a wonderful term 1. I'm so proud of you all!

Nollaig shona & athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!

Mrs. Corridan

Sixth Class

What a busy two months we have had in Rang a Sé! The boys and girls have worked tirelessly and

have now completed their final first term in O'Brennan NS!!

In history we learned all about World War One, including life in the trenches and the Christmas Truce. We created timelines and also completed a web quest, using the iPads to research key information. In geography, we focused on Europe and the European Union and how it operates.

In November, we celebrated STEAM week where we completed lots of activities in science, technology, engineering, art and maths! Some events included a maths trail around the school, a webinar on forces in our environment, a pod challenge to design a wind-powered car, a maths eyes poster task, lots of optical illusions and a construction challenge. A highlight of the week was creating a battery-powered car from our kits from DigiWiz!

In November we also had the Student Council elections. There was lots of excitement right from the beginning with the candidates creating posters and making speeches to promote their fantastic ideas. Well done to Éabha Jones and Shane Cassidy who were elected as the 6th class representatives for the coming year.

As the Christmas preparations got under way, we also had lots of excitement preparing for our play - Away With the Manger. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 restrictions, we were unable to continue but instead focused our attention to making a Christmas video! The boys and girls researched Christmas traditions around the world and recorded 'Merry Christmas' in different languages!

Lots of fabulous art work was completed by our artists over the last few weeks too. Winter scenes, Christmas bunting, oil pastel Christmas lights and origami snowflakes are on display around the room and corridors while we also made wooden snowmen decorations to take home!

Finally, on the 16th of December we had our enrolment ceremony for our Confirmation. Thank you to Fr Gearóid who officiated the

ceremony in the halla. Well done to the boys and girls who prepared so well.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas!

Ms Barry

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- School closes from 11.30 on Wednesday 22nd December for all pupils - staggered home time.
- School re-opens on Thursday 6th January, 2022 at 9.00am
- February Mid-Term Break 24th – 25th February inclusive– school closed on these days
- St. Patrick's Day 17th March – school closed
- Extended St Patrick Holidays – 14th to 18th March inclusive– school closed on these days



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.

Five Days of Christmas Wellness

We celebrated five days of wellness at O' Brennan NS where we enjoyed a range of activities and treats.

Day 1- Design a Christmas card for someone important to you.

Day 2 –We had a special visitor – SANTA CLAUS!
The children wore their Christmas jumpers and we had a Christmas Assembly via Zoom to celebrate our achievements for the month of December.

Day 3 – We watched a Christmas pantomime - Little Red Riding Hood - and the children received a treat. Thank you from the school for staying in your pods, hand washing and all your hard work since September.

Day 4 – We watched some Christmas Adverts and had a class discussion on which is their favourite. We also took part in some mindful colouring while listening to Christmas music. We also took part in a Jingle Jog: the children jogged for 10 minutes while wearing a Christmas hat

Day 5 – We watched a Christmas Movie and had a party before Christmas holidays.

Parents Association

Many thanks to the Parents Association for organising treat bags for the children at O' Brennan NS to enjoy while watching the Late Late Toy Show.

Photos can be seen on the O' Brennan NS Facebook page.

December 2021

