



# O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

October 2023

Welcome to the first Newsletter of this school year. For any newcomers, we will use the Newsletter to update everyone on school news and any events throughout the year. Anyone with any news to include is welcome to contact the school office with their contributions.

Dear Parents/Guardians,  
The mid-term break is almost here 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 all classes. Well done everyone!

The whole school really enjoyed our Hallowe'en Hike today. There were some wonderful costumes on display and I am sure it caused great excitement in houses this morning. Many thanks also to Garda's Aidan O'Mahony and Trish Fitzpatrick for speaking to classes about Halloween safety. 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 – Paddy Dineen
- Senior Infants – Natasha O'Sullivan
- 1<sup>st</sup> class – Sam Connaughton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> class – Zoey Conroy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> class – Kyle O'Sullivan
- 4<sup>th</sup> class – Sean Ireland
- 5<sup>th</sup> class – Tristan Foley
- 6<sup>th</sup> class – Jay Dooley

In September we appointed an Acting Deputy Principal Pat O'Connor and an Acting Assistant Principal (APII) in school – Méabh Barry. They are now part of the In School Management Team.

For pictures and images of some of the wonderful activities happening in O'Brennan NS please check out our school Facebook page and website.

Best Wishes to the Ballymacelligott Senior Mens team, management and their families this Sunday in the Junior Club County Final.

Two staff members welcomed new additions to their families last weekend. Big congratulations to Michelle White on the birth of her son Conall and also to Pat O'Connor on the arrival of his daughter Ellen.

Finally, I'd like to wish all pupils, staff and their families an enjoyable, relaxing Bank Holiday weekend and mid-term break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Le gach dea-ghuí  
Mary Slattery  
Acting Principal

## Arabella

We have had a very busy few months in our classroom! The children have all settled in really well and have been making us so proud with all the hard work they are doing and the progress that they are making. We have been getting to know each other, building relationships, making friends and learning all about the classroom and school rules in O'Brennan National School. The boys and girls have particularly enjoyed their yard breaks and the play time on the yard!

Keep up the good work!

Wishing you and your families a lovely mid-term break!

Ms Brennan

## Junior Infants

Junior Infants have settled very well into O'Brennan NS this year. The first two months of primary school have been very busy indeed. The children have learnt so much and are excited to learn lots more after the Halloween break.

In phonics we have learnt our first 12 sounds and are beginning to blend sounds in words. We are also putting sounds together to make words too. Very soon we will be reading words in books! We have read some really great books this half term too. Here are some of our favourites; 'Cave Baby', 'Ready Steady Ghost', 'The Scarecrows' Wedding' and 'Room on the Broom'.

We have been working hard on our pencil grip and practising lots of fun fine motor activities such as threading beads, drawing, colouring and making things with playdough, all to get our fingers ready for handwriting. We are very excited to start our cursive handwriting in another few short weeks!

We have so many highlights from this half term. The 'Food Dudes' came to our class for a whole 16 days and brought us lots of delicious healthy fruits and vegetables. We learnt how eating these foods give us lots of energy to do all the fun things we like to do.

We really enjoyed Positive Mental Health week; particularly the Yoga and Sound Bath sessions in the halla. Our Aistear themes of the Home and the Farm Shop have been so much fun. And this week the Farm shop has been decorated with pumpkins and scary witches just in time for Halloween.

We have had one Birthday so far in Junior Infants; Mollie celebrated her birthday in September. Our Class Bears, Barry and Rosie, have had some great adventures already at the weekends in lots of children's homes. They are very excited to come and visit some more children after Halloween. We have really enjoyed seeing Barry and Rosie out and about in the photos sent on Seesaw.

The children have worked so hard for the past two months and are so excited to dress up for Halloween on Friday. We can't wait to see everyone on our Halloween Hike.

Wishing you all a very Happy and safe Halloween break.

Mrs. O'Donnell

## Senior Infants

What a busy first term we have had here in Senior Infants. The 27 boys and girls love learning and have settled really well into school life as a Senior Infant. We were sad to see Ms. Slattery leave us at the end of September as she took up her new role as principal, but we think she has been doing a fantastic job so far!!

The last 8 weeks have been very busy in the classroom revising all our sounds and letter formations, learning lots of new songs as Gaeilge and practicing our tricky words and numbers. We have begun to learn Lámh in Senior Infants and we love using our signs around the classroom and on the yard. Aistear is a popular part of our school day and we really enjoyed creating our own spooky potions for Halloween in The Witches Den this month. We love welcoming Fionn, Oliver and Cora from the Arabella class into the classroom to join our Aistear playtime too. We have also been very lucky to take part in football sessions with Tom Joy and visit the complex on Wednesdays for our swimming lessons.

During this term we have celebrated Positive Mental Health Week where we learnt all about the different things that can keep our brain happy and healthy. We enjoyed Sound Baths, Yoga, Daily Mile with a Smile and we learnt lots of new Lámh signs for Halloween. The Senior Infants were extremely generous and created some lovely shoeboxes as part of the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal too.

Food Dudes has been a big hit in our classroom, and we have tried lots of new fruit and vegetables including apples, cucumbers, blueberries, carrots, tomatoes, peppers, bananas and oranges. We earned all our rewards and now we are now very excited to use our new Food Dudes lunchbox to bring in our own fruit and veg for lunch.

Siún, Rory and Natasha were our September assembly certificate winners while Jora, Jack and Grace joined them in October. Star of the Day is highly sought after every day and the whole class is working really hard as a team to fill the Star Jar and earn a night off homework!!

We cannot wait to take part in the Halloween Hike on Friday and we are very excited to see all the fabulous Halloween costumes in Senior Infants.

We are also hoping that Mr. Breen and his Ballymac teammates will be bringing back a county title to

O'Brennan after the mid-term break. Ballymac Abú!

Wishing you all a very enjoyable Mid-Term break.  
Oíche Shamhna shona daoibh go léir.

Ms. A. O'Sullivan

### *First Class*

We have had a very busy few weeks learning and having fun in 1st class. We have done self-portraits inspired by the artist Picasso, along with Halloween Art including pumpkins and witches.

We have been discussing healthy eating and have enjoyed tasting a variety of fruit and vegetables from The Food Dudes.

We have been working very hard on our writing, especially our recount writing. In Gaeilge, we have been learning all about Mé Féin and An Scoil. The children's favourite song has been 'Ag Dul ar Scoil'. We have been focusing on Addition and Time in Maths and have been busy sequencing our days.

We have also been closely monitoring the signs of Autumn and the changes that we see around us during this time.

We are very excited for Halloween and have discussed past and present Halloween traditions. We are looking forward to the Halloween break after all of our hard work.

Happy Halloween everybody and have a lovely break!

Ms O'Sullivan.

### *Second Class*

What a busy two months we have had in Rang a Dó! The boys and girls have worked very hard and have settled in so well to life in second class!

In September we began reading our novel, Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl. We had great fun learning about the characters, making predictions, creating wanted posters, interviewing Mr Fox and much much more!

In Maths, we spent lots of time practicing our addition tables and our skip counting. During maths stations, we played number games and practised the RUDE problem-solving strategy. Some topics we learned about were addition, subtraction, patterns, greater than and less than and 2D shapes.

During October, we were lucky to have Ms Ciara McCarthy complete her school placement in our class. Some of the highlights were the science experiments, learning about what life might have been like 100 years ago and creating a thunderstorm using body percussion! A massive thank you to Ms McCarthy for all her hard work and for teaching our class!

Some other highlights this term include football with Tom Joy, a yoga and a sound bath workshop as part of Positive Mental Health Week, a Nature trail and a Maths Trail. Finally, lots of fabulous art work was completed over the last few weeks too. Name mosaics, autumn printed trees, a mosaic of Mr Fox and some Halloween ghosts are all on display around the room and corridors!

Wishing you all a Happy Mid-Term Break!

Ms Barry

### *Third Class*

3rd Class have been settling in very well to 3rd class, including Miss Carroll. We have had a very busy term.

Lots of art activities - autumn and Halloween inspired. We did some STEM activities such as creating the longest paper chain with one sheet of paper, ghost ziplines, witches' broom, spider webs and a monster trap.

In English we read the Roald Dahl book, The Witches. The children created their own potions to escape from a witch using procedural writing.

We welcomed a new pupil to our class Amelie. In September we celebrated Eve's birthday. In October is celebrated Emma and Sadbh's birthday. We are all looking forward to our Halloween break!

Ms Carroll

 *Happy Halloween* 

### *Fourth Class*

What a busy couple of months we have had in 4th class settling into our new routines. The boys and girls have worked hard in September and October and truly deserve their break. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest class member

Jasmine.

What an amazing effort all the boys and girls put into campaigning for the Student Council. We had PowerPoints, posters, speeches and even a few treats to win each other over. There was a great atmosphere on Election Day, with many children saying they could hardly sleep with the excitement. Well done to Abigail and Mikey who were successful in the end.

In History in October, we learned about Patrick Pearse and why he was such an important person in our Irish history. The children read about his story and created timelines of his life.

So far this year we have been learning about recount writing in English. The children created a plan for their own recounts, which they used to write their first draft. Some of the recounts included "My Birthday", "Spain", "Galway" "My Favourite Holiday" and "When my Relatives Visited".

For the month of October, 4th class have been taking part in a Maths challenge- They pair up to take part in the online game "Hit the Button" where they have to answer tables questions against the clock. Well done to Polina and Margo who achieved 21 points in our first round.

Click on the link below to see how you get on.  
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Scott and Milly were our first Assembly winners in September with Aoife, Fionn and Mikey joining them in October. Well done everyone!

Let's not forget all the other activities these past two months - swimming at the Complex, Food Dudes, reading stories online on EPIC, Golden Time on a Friday, Positive Mental Health Week, Games Club and Daily Mile to name but a few.

We're looking forward to taking part in the Halloween Hike on Friday and admiring each other's costumes. Finally, a big thank you to all parents for your support with homework this year, especially Seesaw.

Wishing you all a lovely Mid-Term break. Oíche Shamhna Shona daoibh go léir.

Ms Costello and Ms Brosnan

### **Fifth Class**

What a quick and busy term this has been for the

boys and girls in fifth class!! Everyone has been working really hard in class since we returned and are now all ready for a well-deserved Halloween break!!

We started the year with very enjoyable swimming sessions and this tied in nicely with mental health week where we learned some valuable techniques and skills for looking after our mental health. The children benefitted greatly from partaking in our yoga and sound bath sessions in which they learnt the value and importance of relaxation and mindfulness for the benefit of body and mind.

Following on from this the children greatly enjoyed partaking in our Maths week activities around the school. Pupils were assigned practical tasks that involved the use of maths to solve everyday problems around the school. The boys and girls displayed great teamwork and cooperation to complete all the assigned tasks perfectly.

We marked safer internet day in 5th class by inviting a guest speaker (Ger Brick) to speak to the children about the pitfalls and dangers on the internet. What an informative and well worthwhile talk that this was for all.

Finally, October was a busy month in which the pupils engaged in the Food Dudes healthy eating programme. From this, pupils learned the importance of having a varied balanced healthy diet in their lives and were rewarded with a daily reward for their efforts. We look forward to completing phase 2 after the Halloween break.

There was great excitement around the school in the last few days before mid-term as the student council elections were running. A big congratulations to our elected 5th class representatives Fionn and Una and also well done to the other candidates who put in a great effort in the run up to the elections!

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a very healthy and happy Halloween and I look forward to seeing you all refreshed after the break.

Mr O'Connor

### **Sixth Class**

What a few weeks we have had! The children are now well back into the swing of school life. Especially as it is that time of year again, when our 6th class get to hear about the local secondary schools. The children of 6th were visited by schools from both Castleisland and Tralee. The schools outlined their

facilities and subjects. We wish to remind parents to keep an eye on the websites of secondary schools as the applications close soon for many.

Wishing you a lovely break!

Miss Buckley



### **Green School Update**

Here at O Brennan, we are so proud of our Green Schools. We have been awarded these flags which are displayed within the school of

- Litter and waste
- Energy
- Water
- Travel
- Biodiversity

Our current theme this is year is Global Citizenship Litter and Waste.

We hold meetings for the committee once a week and update the Green-Schools team page regularly. Our Green Schools committees are very dedicated and frequently chat to the students and teachers on bins regarding recycling, bin contamination and bin charges.

#### **NEWS FLASH!!!!!!**

Brilliant news we have a new committee starting in November!

### **Student Council**

The Student Council Elections took place in October to elect our new Student Council representatives for this school year! Boys and girls wishing to run for the council completed and submitted a nomination form. Before election day, students campaigned by making speeches, hanging posters, making PowerPoint presentations and much more! On Friday 20th October students in 3rd, 4th, 5th 6th class voted and two students from each class were elected!

Well done to Rory, Sadhbh, Úna, Fionn, Mikey, Abby, Eva and Rory! Best of luck in your new role!

### **Positive Mental Health Week**

We recently celebrated Positive Mental Health Week in school from 16th – 20th October. 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 a soundbath and a yoga workshop in the halla, and 'walking a mile with a smile' for our Daily Mile. We also learned some Lámh signs for Halloween. Our week finished with the collection of the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal shoeboxes. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the appeal and brought in a shoebox!

Have a lovely mid-term break and remember the 5 Ways to Well-being can be added to your well-being toolbox too.

### **Food Dudes**

A BIG congratulations to all the boys and girls who participated in Food Dudes!! Remember our healthy eating will continue after mid-term break!!



### **Our School Choir**

There was lots of excitement this week as choir rehearsals started back. There was a taster session for new members, many of whom are delighted to be now part of our school choir. The choir is already busy learning new melodies and harmonies for various performances this year, the first being our school Christmas Concert.

If anyone missed the taster session and would like to join, come along to the next rehearsal after Midterm break and have a chat with Ms Brosnan. Rehearsals take place once a week during lunch time.

## Football

O'Brennan's school football team had a very busy first term. Competing in the eight-teacher category in the Cumann na mBunscoil for the first time in our history, we were drawn against Dromclough NS, Scoil Iosagáin (Ballybunion) and Ardfert NS. All of the players acquitted themselves very well in all three matches. We got our first win in the final outing away in Ardfert.

Following the conclusion of this competition, the team was also invited to participate in a one-day blitz organised by Mounthawk Secondary School. Again, all of the players performed admirably on this occasion, securing impressive victories over teams from Listellick NS, Fenit NS, Ardfert NS and Moyderwell NS in the process. We were eventually defeated by a strong Holy Family NS side in the semi-final.



