



O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

School life has been very busy this term with the celebration of Pancake Tuesday, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Book Fair, World Book Day, Mother's Day and St. Patrick's Day to name a few. We welcomed back four past pupils Skye, Tom, Micheal and Niall as they celebrated making the final of the Hogan Cup. Unfortunately, they were unlucky on the day but no doubt the boys will get to play plenty more football in the future.

We held our Open Mornings on the 14th and 15th of February and we had an extremely successful turn out and welcomed lots of new pupils to our school. They had a great time and are looking forward to visiting us again in June before their big day in September.

We continue to welcome new friends from the Ukraine to our school, the most recent welcome extended to Ivan, Miia, Danyil, Matvii and Ivan. We hope they and their families enjoy their time here with us.

It was lovely to see a great turnout from O'Brennan families at the first St. Patrick's Day parade in Kielduff. The children had a great time marching in the parade proudly representing the clubs they are involved in as well as the school.

Congratulations to all in Sixth Class who received the Sacrament of Confirmation recently. It was a lovely celebration. Many thanks to Bishop Ray Browne and Fr. Gearoid Walsh for a warm and touching ceremony. Thanks also to Ms Buckley for all her hard work preparing the children over the last few months.

Our Second Class are busy preparing for their First Holy Communion on May 18th under the guidance of their teacher Ms. Barry and their parents. We wish them all the best in their work and will keep

them all in our thoughts and prayers.

I'd like to wish all pupils, staff and their families a very Happy Easter! Looking forward to seeing you all again on April 8th 2024!

Le gach dea-ghuí
Mary Slattery

Arabella

What a wonderful term it has been in the Arabella class! In January the children really enjoyed making the most of the snow during that early cold snap, we wrapped up warm and had a great time outside with all our friends in Junior and Senior Infants. We enjoyed reading and listening to lots of stories about cold weather, including the story of 'Big Bear and Little Bear'.

We have done lots of baking and cooking in our classroom this term. Cookies, pancakes and pizza have all proven to be a big hit, and have given us an opportunity to practise so many new skills - following a recipe, measuring the ingredients, mixing, baking and most importantly sampling what we have made!

This term we have celebrated many occasions including, Grandparents Day, Valentines Day, Mother's Day and now Easter, by reading stories, singing songs and creating beautiful art work. A big thank you to Ms.Slattery, Anne, Tracey, Marian and Noel, and the wider school team, for all their help this term.

The children have all been working hard and learning so many new skills, I hope everyone has a fun and relaxing break over Easter. Wishing you all a wonderful Easter!

Ms. Brennan

Junior Infants

What an exciting second term of Junior Infants we have had! The past three months have been so busy and we have learnt so much!

In phonics we now know 35 sounds and are blending so well, that we can read real books! We have been working very hard on perfecting our cursive letter formation and are so proud of our beautiful letters.

In January we went on a trip to an African market in Aistear. It was great fun making different crafts such as masks and jewellery to sell in the market. In February we really enjoyed playing 'The Vet'. We had some very sick animals who needed a lot of different procedures as well as x-rays! Lucky, we had lots of very capable vets in our classroom. Some children really enjoyed making signs for the different parts of the vet surgery such as 'Waiting room' and 'Reception'. We even had a visit from two beautiful gentle husky dogs from Serra Husky.

This term we have had some lovely events. As part of 'Creative Schools' we focused on the artist Jackson Pollock and made some action paintings inspired by his work. We combined our paintings with paintings made by the Senior Infants children to make a beautiful collaborative artwork piece in the shape of St. Bridget's Cloak.

During Seachtaine na Gaeilge we learnt lots of fun dances, songs and poems. We performed some of them for the whole school during the 'Ceolchoirm'. We really enjoyed learning some Irish dances in P.E. Our theme of 'Eadaí' inspired our Aistear theme, in March, so we made a washing machine and clothes line. We had lots of fun pretending to do the laundry in the home corner.

For World Book Day, we designed a cover for the book 'The Wolf's Story'. The real book cover was a secret while we made our designs. What a surprise

when we saw the real cover, some of our designs were very similar.

We have had lots of Birthdays in Junior Infants this term; Emiliana, Éabha, Ben and Katie celebrated their birthday in January, Sam, Ella and Killian had their birthdays in February and James and Michael celebrated their birthday this week. Seán will celebrate his birthday during the Easter Holidays this year. Lá Breithe Shona daoibh!

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and enjoy the well-deserved break.

Mrs. O'Donnell

Senior Infants

What a busy few months we have had here in Senior Infants!

In Aistear we have learnt all about The Estate Agents, The Sports Shop and this month we are learning all about how to grow our own plants and flowers. We even managed to grow our own cress plants in the classroom before the Easter holidays.

In January we all blasted off into Space and learnt about our solar system. We learnt about the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong while we also talked about the sun, the stars and the planets. We made fabulous artwork showing our rockets blasting off into space which we hung up in the hall for everyone to see!

In February we welcomed the season of Spring. We learnt all about the signs of Spring happening around us and listened to the story of St. Brigid. We were very busy with Pancake Tuesday, Valentines Day and Grandparents Day too along with the visit of the Mounthawk Corn Uí Mhuirí champions with their trophy. The book fair also visited at the end of the month with some fabulous books on offer for us to buy. We made some Jackson Pollock inspired artwork with the Junior Infants as part of the February Creative Schools.

The month of March has been the busiest of them all with our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations taking centre stage. We thoroughly enjoyed our Lá Glas and our ceolchoirm in the halla. Everyone performed brilliantly and Senior Infants had a fantastic time singing our song 'Tá Feirm ag an bhFeirmeoir'. We also made Shamrock people for art and learnt all about St. Patrick as we got ready for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Along with all this, we were busy bringing in Easter Eggs for our Easter Egg Wall and buying raffle tickets for our Amber Flag fundraiser. We were lucky to have enough space for all of our Easter eggs in the classroom! Senior Infants also started Hurling training with Coach Colm on Thursdays. Everyone is really enjoying it and there definitely will be some Kerry hurling stars in Croke Park in the future!

Varvara, Helena and Cillian were our January assembly certificate winners while Kayla, Jade and Illia joined them in February. Gráinne, Donncha and Conor were chosen as the March winners. Star of the Day is still highly sought after every day and the whole class have worked really hard to fill the Star Jar and have earned a night off homework when we come back after Easter!!

I hope you all have a fantastic Easter break and enjoy all the Easter Eggs!

Cáisc Shona duit.

Ms. A. O'Sullivan

First Class

1st class have had a very busy month of March. We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge and enjoyed doing a Ciorcal Comhrá with 2nd class. We learned a new song called Beidh Aonach Amárach and performed it for the rest of the school at the Ceolchoirm.

In Maths, we have been learning all about 3D shapes and capacity. We did a shape hunt outside and even constructed our own 3D shapes

using lollipop sticks and playdough. We made a delicious, healthy smoothie as part of our procedural writing and enjoyed every last sip!

We designed a St. Patrick's Day card as Gaeilge and made Shamrock Art inspired by the artist Romero Britto. This week, we have been learning all about An Cháisc and Easter traditions around the world. We couldn't believe that in Australia they have an Easter Bilby instead of an Easter Bunny!

We learned An Damhsa Mór in PE and celebrated World Book Day by bringing in and presenting our favourite book to our classmates.

Wishing everyone a lovely Easter Break!

Ms O'Sullivan

Second Class

We've had a very busy and exciting start to 2024 since returning back to school in January!

In January we celebrated Grandparents Day with our families. We interviewed our grandparents, created some lovely artwork and celebrated our Granny's and Grandad's with a prayer service in the halla.

In January we also started our workshops with local textile artist Fiona who taught us how to felt! She visited our class for a number of weeks every Tuesday as part of the BLAST artist in residency programme. We explored the voyage of St Brendan through felting with the boys and girls creating some incredible art! What a fantastic experience this was.

At the beginning of February, the boys and girls who will be making their First Holy Communion later this year celebrated their First Confession in the halla with Father Walsh and Father Roche. This was a lovely ceremony and another important milestone for the communicants. Well done to the boys and girls who worked so hard to prepare for this day.

In March we celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge. Bhí comhrá againn le rang a 1, bhíomar ag damhsa 'An Dreoilín', chanamar 'Míonna na Bliana' agus 'Siar Siar Leat' agus rinneamar 'An Haka Gaelach' le rang a 3! Rinneamar an-iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt i rith an lae chomh maith. Bhí an spóirt againn!

Other activities we enjoyed were gymnastics in PE, the science fair, Pancake Tuesday, celebrating and learning about St Brigid and St Patrick, the book fair as well as all things Easter these past few days! A big welcome to Miiia who joined our class this term as well!

Have a lovely break!
Wishing you all a Happy Easter!

Ms Barry

Third Class

What a busy term here in 3rd class!!! We can't believe its Easter its already. This academic school year is going by so fast!

In January, we had Grandparent's Day where we welcomed our grandparents to our school for a prayer service. We got to show them our school, perform a song and produced fabulous art work in celebration of Grandparents Day.

In February St. Brigid's Day was marked by creating St Brigid's drawings using lots of patterns and colours for her beautiful cloak. Lorcan (GAA coach) has started his coaching sessions every second Tuesday with us, we are having lots of fun. Hopefully when the weather improves, we will be able to go outside for our football sessions.

March marked the start of Seachtain na Gaeilge. We had an action-packed week full of caint is cómhrá. Bhíomar ag damhsa, ag canadh, seinm ceol agus ag úsaid Gaeilge i rith an lae sa seomra ranga. Bhí ceolchoirm beag sa halla freisin le gach rang agus bhí an spóirt agus craic again. We

performed the Rattlin Bog and the Haka as Gaeilge with 2nd class as we had been learning about New Zealand in class. The children made a tremendous effort on our 'Lá Glas' to dress up in green for St. Patrick's Day!

Isha and Katy Rose who are our Amber Flag committee organised an Easter Raffle in aid of Pieta House. Huge effort was put into this from buying Easter eggs for the raffle to purchasing raffle tickets. Well done to everyone involved!

Lots of Birthday Celebrations this term - Chloe T and Ciara in January. February - Eva, Róisín and Chloe F. March - Grace, Darragh and Lewis.

Happy Easter Everyone I hope you all have a lovely Easter Break!!!

Ms Carroll

Fourth Class

It has been a busy Term 2 for us in 4th class with lots going on.

We have enjoyed having visiting teachers to our class during the past month for both GAA and German. Every second Tuesday since Christmas, we have practiced our football skills with our GAA Coach Lorcan Martin. We get the chance to improve our football skills while having fun and being active. Every Wednesday in Term 2, Mary Devane has visited our classroom to teach us some German vocabulary and expressions. We thoroughly enjoyed the lessons, especially the songs. Danke Mary!

Bhíomar ag ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge i rith na Márta. Bhí ceolchoirm againn sa halla nuair a chanamar "Nead na Lachan" agus "Oh my Johnny". Bhaineamar an-taitneamh as an gceolchoirm go léir. Bhí Ciorcal Comhrá againn le Rang a 3. Bhíomar ag cur ceist agus ag tabhairt freagra. Rinne na páistí iarracht mór an Gaeilge a labhairt. Bhí Céilí againn sa rang freisin. Bhíomar ag damhsa "Shoe the Donkey" agus "An Dreoilín". Bhí an-craic againn! Féach ar an físeán atá ar líne. Tá sé an-greannmhar.

We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge during the month of March. We had a concert in the hall where we sang "Nead na Lachan" and "Oh my Johnny". We enjoyed the whole concert. We had a "Conversation Circle" with 3rd class. We were asking them questions in Irish and answering in Irish too. The children all made a great effort to speak Irish. We had a céilí in our classroom where we danced to "Shoe the Donkey" and "An Dreoilín". We had great fun. Have a look at the video of the céilí on the website.

In English this month, we have been reading the novel "Born to Run" by Michael Morpurgo. It tells the story of a greyhound who has nine lives and how he manages to survive in difficult circumstances. It has brought a tear to our eyes on a few occasions. It is a book we would recommend.

During Term 2 in History, the children have worked on 2 projects - Early Christian Ireland and the Normans. The children have amazed us with their creations for Round Towers, High Crosses, and Norman Castles. There were many materials used to create their masterpieces- lego, cardboard, stone, wallpaper, boxes, lollipop sticks, paper, paint- you name it, it was used. A special word of thanks to the families who helped with the children's creations.

Finally, we would like to welcome our newest class member Danyil who joined us in January. Congratulations also to our Assembly winners for January, February and March – Miah, Seán, Margo, Zoe, Danyil, Córflaith and Kyle.

All the boys and girls in 4th Class have worked fantastically the past few months and truly deserve a wonderful Easter break.

We wish you all a lovely Easter.

Cáisc Shona daoibh go léir.

Ms Brosnan and Ms Costello

Fifth Class

What an action-packed term this was in fifth class. It is hard to believe we are at Easter term already as the academic year is going by so fast!

January saw the boys and girls produce fabulous artwork to welcome grandparents to the halla for grandparent's day! St. Brigid's day was marked by creating lovely colourful portraits of St Brigid for our sacred space.

In February we also had our open days where the children did two fabulous science investigations that were displayed in the halla. The committee children also showed great initiative and competence to inform parents about the wonderful initiatives (Green School, Active School, Student's Council and Amber Flag) being run in school.

Our 5th class boys and girls also got the chance to take part in the mini-7's football competition in Castleisland on March 11th. Thankfully the day was dry and the children had great fun competing very well in each game! Lorcan (GAA coach) has also started his coaching sessions every second Tuesday. Hopefully the weather will improve for these after the Easter break.

March also marked the start of Seachtain na Gaeilge. In class we had 3 action packed weeks ag caint is ag cómhra, ag damhsa, ag canadh, ag seinm ceol agus ag úsáid gaeilge i rith an lae sa sheomra ranga. Bhí ceolchoirm beag sa halla freisin le gach rang agus bhí an spóirt agus craic againn. The children made a tremendous effort on our 'Lá glas' to dress up in green!

Finally, it was great to end the term with a fantastic Easter egg wall and hamper raffle in class as part of our Amber Flag, Pieta fundraiser. A big thanks to parents for contributing and supporting this worthy cause. Well done to our well-being warriors also for sharing their creativity!!

I hope everyone has a lovely, relaxing Easter break

and returns energised for our final school term!

Mr O'Connor

Sixth Class

Big Congratulations to 6th Class on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thank you to all involved from the school and church community.

We have had many jam-packed active weeks. Students took part in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Competition in Caherslee. Our girls got to the final in the Volleyball Ireland Regional Championships in Killarney. Students from 5th and 6th competed in Castleisland District Mini 7's and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Ar scoil bhaineamar taitneamh as ag damhsa "Siege of Ennis" agus Dreoilín. Ag seinm "Kerry Polka" agus "Amhrán na bhFinn" ar an fhéadóg stáin.

Have a wonderful Easter break from all in 6th Class.

Ms Buckley



Green Schools

At O' Brennan School, fostering litter and waste global citizenship is not just a curriculum goal; it's a way of life. Central to this ethos is instilling in students a deep sense of responsibility towards the environment, including addressing issues of litter and waste management within the classrooms and whole school.

Our Green Schools Committee were extremely busy litter picking on the road near the school this week!



Student Council



Our Student Council were busy in the lead up to the School Open Days in February. The boys and girls took part in the open days, speaking clearly and articulately in showcasing the school to our new Junior Infant parents. Well done to all the committee members.

In our February meeting, it was suggested by some of the boys and girls that 'no ball Wednesday' be changed to having a no ball zone in the back yard. This is currently being trialed. Thanks to the Student Council for bringing this idea to fruition!

Finally, after Easter, our annual bake sale will take place. Keep an eye out for some details!!

Amber Flag

This is our first year taking part in the Amber Flag initiative. Our well-being journey involves learning the basics about positive mental health. Each class from 3rd to 6th elected two wellbeing warriors who are responsible for coordinating mental health goals, empowering other people to prioritise their mental health and to overcome challenges, and build resilience amongst everyone in the school.

One of our goals was to hold a fundraiser to support Pieta's work and increase awareness of Pieta's services. This year we decided to hold an Easter hamper and Easter Egg Wall Challenge. Each class built an Easter egg wall to encapsulate our motto "We are each unique and beautiful but together we are a masterpiece." It has been great to see the whole school community coming together in order to create a safe, positive and healthy attitude towards our general physical and mental health and well-being.

Sports

It's been a very busy time for our sports teams in recent weeks with our school football team, cross country team, basketball team and volleyball team competing in various competitions! Hurling and football coaching has also started with visits each week from our local coaches Colm and Lorcan!

Football

After the mid-term we held trials and started training for the mini-7's blitz in Castleisland. We had a girls and a boys team representing the school on the day. After previously being cancelled we thankfully got a fine day for the blitz on March 11th! Both teams did really well on the day with our boys team winning 2 of their 3 group matches to make the semi-finals - losing out to the eventual winners on the day. The girls team also did excellent in each of their 3 games narrowly missing out on a place in the semi-finals! This was a great achievement. Well done to everyone!

Cross Country

On 28th February the Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Competition took place in Caherslee. We were well represented with a boys and a girls team competing in both the 3rd / 4th class 1000m races and in the 5th / 6th class 2000m races. Fionn in 5th class finished in 5th place in the 5th / 6th class 2000m race earning a medal! Well done to everyone!

Basketball

This week, our basketball teams participated in the first Mercy Mounthawk blitz of the year. The boys and girls played Balloonagh, Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn and Kilflynn National School. We look forward to our next competitive blitz after Easter!

Volleyball

Our 6th class girls have been doing volleyball training at break times these past few months. On Monday 4th March they competed in the Volleyball Ireland Regional Championships in Killarney. We had two teams competing on the day with both teams doing extremely well. We played 10 games in total with one team reaching the final!! Well done to everyone and thank you to Mr Breen for coaching the teams

Creative Schools

As part of the Creative Schools Project, our school celebrated 'Creative February' in recent weeks. Each class partnered with another class to pick an artist to learn about and focus on! All this fabulous artwork was displayed on our notice boards around our school! Jackson Pollock, Wassily Kandinsky, Georges Seurat and Keith Haring were some of the artists explored!



We also had a piece of artwork on loan from the Glucksman Library in UCC. This artwork was by Irish artist, Fatti Burke, titled 'Equality' and was displayed inside the front door!



Dates / Upcoming Events

Easter Holidays 22nd March – school closes at 11.45am for Junior and Senior Infants, 12pm for all other children. School closed Monday 25th of March to Friday 5th of April inclusive. School shall re-open on Monday 8th of April at 9.00am.

