



# O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

Sept/Oct 2018

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.

## Junior Infants

The mid-term break is just upon us and I am delighted to say that all the children have settled really well into school. We have had a very busy few weeks and now the children are ready for a well-earned week off. . So how have we been so busy? In the past 8 weeks the children learned to:

- Line up in abc... order on the yard,
- Not to tell tales on each other,
- Be kind and helpful to everyone,
- Say / write the first 14 sounds in their phonics, the children are now reading some words all by themselves. Imagine that!!
- Sings lots of songs and learning lots of new vocabulary in Gaeilge. I've been told that some of the children are testing Moms and Dads on what they've learned!! ☺
- Make sets in maths,
- Set up / tidy up their Aistear groups, we have covered four themes in Aistear: Myself, Autumn, At Home and Halloween. The children have learned lots of new language and enjoy learned through play!

These are only some of the things we have done. It most certainly has been a busy few weeks!

Wishing you all a lovely midterm break and Happy Halloween!!

Ms O' Brien

## Senior Infants

In Senior Infants we have made percussion instruments and been playing them in class. We have also been busy in art making clay hedgehogs, painting autumn leaves, making patterns and we are now making our Halloween decorations - Bats and Spiders webs. We are starting Aistear on the theme of Halloween this coming week and are looking forward to the fancy dress on Thursday.

Ms. Sheehy

## First Class

Well a big hello to all you First Class parents from all your precious darlings in my care! We would like to give you a little sample of how we pass our days in class. Our first few weeks were very much a getting to know you period (and we have!)

Our return to school has been full of fun and learning here is just a few examples:

buddy reading, concrete maths, reciting poems, singing songs, dancing with Skully Skeleton and enjoying painting to Mozart playing in the background.

One of our big highlights was discussion around how to take care of our minds and our bodies.

We chatted about how eating fruit and vegetables and drinking more water can help us to feel better about ourselves. We also spoke about the importance of being active and daily exercise both at school and at home.

All in all I am the lucky one to have the pleasure of teaching your wonderful children every day- or are they teaching me? I look forward to meeting all of you at our parent teacher meetings next month.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ferriter

## Second Class

Our second class were delighted to move upstairs to a new bright classroom in September. They have been working very hard so they can get pasta points and fill the pasta jar to get rewards for the class. Just some of the fun learning activities they have been doing so far include designing and launching parachutes in science, relay obstacle courses in PE, maths trails around the school , writing our own stories in English, scavenger hunts in SPHE and learning how to beat box in music. Excitement is building now with a lots of spooktacular activities planned for Halloween Week!

Ms.Broderick

## Third Class

3<sup>rd</sup> class began the year by making a **Time Capsule** which was buried on the school grounds. The pupils really enjoyed playing 'An Crochadóir' (Hangman in Irish).

In English, we did **'Show and Ask'**. We also did a block of **Literacy Station Teaching** which the class responded very well to. There were 5 stations (Listening station, Conversation station- a highlight was **Conversation Jenga**, Reading station, Vocabulary station and an ICT station where pupils played games on the computers based on their weekly spelling lists).

Pupils learned to recite a lovely poem based on the counties of Ireland.

3<sup>rd</sup> class enjoyed playing **Bench Ball** in P.E lessons and we even began using **skipping elastics** while saying the rhyme **'England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Inside, Outside, Inside, Scales'**.

**SPHE**; We began the Weaving well-being programme.

**Maths Week**; We celebrated this by doing a maths trail in the school car park, making a human graph/pictogram based on 'Our favourite sport' and we explored tangram puzzles. Lots more to look forward to!!!

Ms. McCarthy

### Fourth/Fifth Class

What a busy first term we have had in our classroom. We are discovering and learning so much about ourselves each day, but what really stands out in this term was the pleasure of working with Tri-Heroes schools programme Ireland. Tri Heroes – involves children participating in activities of swimming, cycling and running to inspire, motivate and challenge the children. We in O Brennan with the help of our instructor Niamh worked and trained in a fun environment, in running and cycling. At the end of the course each student got a chance to take part in a mini duathlon. This gave the children such a sense of accomplishment and lifelong skills which they may take forward. Ms. Buckley

### Fifth/Sixth Class

Fifth and Sixth class have been very busy since September. Fifth class teamed up with Ms. Buckley's fifth class and took part in the Tri-Heroes triathlon. The boys involved took part in four sessions including a triathlon around the grounds of the school and had great fun and learned loads. Sixth class have begun to work on their J.E.P project for the year. There have been some fantastic ideas suggested already and this is sure to be a great initiative for the students this year. The boy's fifth and sixth class

football team took part in the Cumman na mBunscoil football competition. The boys played extremely well and were very unfortunate to lose to a very good Listowel Boys team. Well done all!

Mr. Sheehy

### Bake Sale

A Big Thank You to our parents association who ran a very successful Bake Sale in our school hall on Friday October 19<sup>th</sup>. A big thanks to all who supported and helped out.

### Positive Mental Health Week

This month we celebrated our second annual Positive Mental Health Week in school. Our theme for the week was "Be the Reason Someone Smiles Today". Each day of Positive Mental Health Week we marked one of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. A huge thank you to Catherine White, an Irish Sign Language interpreter and trainer, who visited every class on 'Connect Monday' to teach us some sign language. We put an extra special twist on our Daily Mile on "Be Active Tuesday" by "Walking a Mile with a Smile". Physical activity is an essential part of helping us feel good about ourselves and the world around us. It was great to see so many happy faces getting in some early morning exercise. On "Take Notice Wednesday" we recorded some of the things that made us smile that day and then displayed our pieces on our 'Gratitude Smile Wall'. For "Keep Learning Thursday" we gathered in the halla and practised relaxing with a mindful meditation. It was fun and very different lying down on our cushions and coats in the halla to relax. On our final day of celebrating we had a very comfy day in school wearing our pyjamas and dressing gowns to raise money for a very worthy charity. "Give Friday" saw us raise €340 during our Cheerios Childline Breakfast morning. Well done to everyone on a wonderfully positive week. Our mental health is just as important as our dental and physical health so always remember to use the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' to keep a happy, healthy mind.

### Daily Mile Challenge

We have had a great few weeks doing the Daily Mile. We are now 6 minutes faster than we were back in

September. The older children are enjoying being partnered with the junior children. We are going to change partners after Halloween, although many children have asked to stay with their current partner. The younger children get very excited to see their partners around school and it has created a lovely atmosphere here in O Brennan. Since September we have ran 28 miles which is a little more than a full marathon! What a fantastic achievement!!

### **Tír na nÓg Pre-School**

We are delighted to say that Tir nÓg Pre-School is now up and running, and very much part of the fabric of O'Brennan National School. The pre-school children are all very content and happy with their new surroundings!

### **After- Schools Club**

O'Brennan National school is constantly striving to serve our community in the best way possible. That is why we established our after school club in September this year. The children who are doing our after schools are very happy with the arrangement, and we fully intend to continue this service. For further information on After-School Club please contact the office.

### **Erasmus**

O'Brennan National School is thrilled to part of a pan-European shared learning project called Erasmus. This project will allow children and staff from O'Brennan to collaborate, share practices, and share resources with school communities from five other European countries while working on a project centred on entrepreneurship. Children and staff will also be afforded the opportunity to visit our partner countries for training events over the course of project. For more information on the Erasmus please see our website.

### **150 Year Commemoration**

There are very few institutions and organisations that have endured for 50 years, yet alone a century. However on November 16<sup>th</sup>, O'Brennan NS will be 150 years old, a remarkable feat for any rural primary school. Our Commemoration Committee are working tirelessly in school to organise events to mark the occasion both inside and outside of school. On Friday November 16<sup>th</sup> we are having a school open

morning from 9.30 – 11.30 so please come along to see our wonderful school! That evening we will celebrate in Ballygarry House Hotel with a drinks reception, BBQ, and music from 7pm. Please contact the office for more information.

### **Internet Safety Day**

Internet safety is an area of growing concern for children, parents and schools alike. That is why on Oct 25<sup>th</sup> we called on the expertise of Ger Brick to hold two workshops with our senior classes, as well as a follow up workshop with our parents that evening on some of the pressing issues and challenges that we all face in keeping children safe while engaging in online activities.

### **Parents Association**

Our Parents Association held their AGM in the school on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The officers this year are as follows: Chairman Donal O'Sullivan, Vice-Chair Jacqueline Brick, Treasurer Eimir Moriarty, and Secretary Olivia Kelliher. A big thank you to out-going Chairperson Helen Walsh for all her hard work.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish Miss Olga Sheehy the very best as leaves us for a short while going on maternity leave. I know that her senior infants' class will miss her very much!

For pictures and images of some of the wonderful activities happening in O'Brennan NS please check out our **school blog** and **gallery** on our school **website** and also our school **Facebook** page!

I hope everyone has a safe, happy and restful Halloween break. I look forward to seeing all the pupils, parents and staff back safe and sound on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Le gach dea-guí,  
Barry O'Leary  
October 25<sup>th</sup> 2018

