



O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

Jan/Feb 2019

Welcome to our Newsletter for January/February 2019. 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

We had a very busy few weeks in Junior Infants! We have only 6 sounds left to learn and we are very excited to finish them. Imagine we will have learned 42 sounds then! This month we started writing our news and have been working very hard on our writing learning about full stops and finger spacing.

We learned about visiting the Opticians and the Doctor surgery in Aistear. We studied about the lungs and the eye. We made our own set of lungs using balloons and a plastic bottle. We were very happy with our experiment. Zoe, Scott and Fionn presented our experiment during our open mornings and they did a really good job! All the other boys and girls helped out with the new juniors and were very kind and helpful! Well Done to all the boys and girls!!

We have been very busy since Christmas in PE. We are doing gymnastics and have learned how to do a pencil roll, an egg roll, a teddy bear roll, a tuck roll and a dish roll. We have also learned how to do a tumble. What an exciting few weeks!!

We have had some birthdays in the last few weeks, in January/ February we celebrated Aoibhinn, Daniel and Miah's birthdays.

Ms. O'Brien

Senior Infants

Senior Infants had an incredibly busy return to school where as part of our Aistear, The Toy Shop, the children designed and created their own toys from recyclable materials. Many thanks to all who sent in materials for our Junk Art; I hope the children enjoyed their toys. We have also been studying the weather as we move in to

Spring and the children used a rain gauge to measure rainfall over a week period and they made windsocks to test wind levels. The children really enjoyed having their Grandparents with us for the Grandparents mass and we prayed for those who are no longer with us. 'Buddy reading' is still continuing every Wednesday when students from Sixth Class come down to read with their buddy in Senior Infants: the children really enjoy discussing books with the older students. In Mathematics we have reached the number 8. In Aistear this week we are looking at the Dentist and the children are looking forward to showing our experiment about the effects of certain drinks on our teeth at our open days.

Mr. O'Neill

First Class

Since January First Class have been working very hard.

We were learning about sea turtles and the impact plastic pollution has on them. We know that there is too much single use plastic being used in our school and all around the world. We talked about how we can change this and came up with three simple things all school children can all do:

1. Reusable containers for our sandwiches, wraps and pasta
2. Reusable water bottles
3. Say NO to straws

First class also did lots of art. We looked at the artist Keith Haring and our class art was inspired by him. In maths we learned about measuring. We used weighing scales to measure objects from our classroom. We used measuring jugs to measure liquids.

Our handwriting has really improved and we are getting the hang of joining our letters. We wrote lots of news and stories in our copies and sent some of our work home before the midterm for our parents to look at.

Mrs. Murphy

Second Class

February has been another busy month for second class. We have been learning to use money, calculate change and even had fun working at our own shop in class.

We have also been learning about measurement and length in class. We enjoyed working in maths groups on the ipads and doing different activities like measuring our own height and the length and width of our class.

Our focus this month in science, SPHE and writing was on keeping our bodies and our teeth healthy. We learned all about the parts of the tooth and tooth decay. We know how important it is to keep our teeth and bodies healthy. It was a nice treat when we got to choose our favourite fruits like raspberries, strawberries, grapes and apples to make our own fruit kebabs in class. They are a healthy snack and also delicious!!

Mrs. Broderick

Third Class

Here's just a snippet of what we've been up to in Third Class over the last two months....

Geography- Pupils began Term 2 by making a rain gauge and recording rainfall over a two week period. They also collected local weather lore and made posters based on the sayings.

English- Pupils participated in a 5 week block of Literacy Station Teaching, targeting oral language, vocabulary, grammar, reading and an ICT station where pupils trialled a reading programme called '**Lexia**' on the iPads.

Gaeilge- Each week pupils are given a 'Frása na Seachtaine' (Phrase of the Week). They create fridge magnets to bring home. Hopefully they are using the phrases at home as well as in school! They are also looking at sentence structure and writing 'Abairtí Iontacha' with a new verb each week.

History- Pupils explored the Irish legend 'Deirdre of the Sorrows' and created dioramas of their favourite scenes from the myth.

P.E- Gymnastics lessons were participated in during the month of January.

SPHE- Pupils explored the topic of 'Strangers' as part of The Stay Safe Programme.

Other-

Pupils also thoroughly enjoyed 'Grandparents' Day'.

Ms. McCarthy

Fourth/Fifth Class

For the last couple of weeks we have collaborated with Mr. Sheehy's class on a Friday for Gymnastics. Here we completed the forward roll, teddy bear, egg tuck and pencil roll- moving onto balance of 1,2,3 limbs, group balance and mirroring each other, which was lots of fun. Finally we completed with the introduction of headstand, standing long jump and running long jump.

Sean Brosnan of Aldi rugby programme, Munster Rugby and Tralee RFC has attended the school for the last 6 Mondays for rugby skills. The children thoroughly enjoyed this. On the 19th of March our class will be partaking in a skills day in Tralee RFC.

Within the class the children have excelled in Gaeilge and English and have started the journey of writing their own narrative stories as Gaeilge and in English. Art History was a big focus in January studying 2 major influencers- Pablo Picasso and Antoni Gaudi.

Ms. Buckley

Fifth/Sixth Class

Fifth and Sixth class have been extremely busy since Christmas. The first of the Erasmus plus trips took place during the last week in January. Five of the sixth class boys visited a primary school in the Egaleo district of Athens. They met with students from Latvia, Croatia, Greece, Spain and Italy. The boys had many great experiences including a visit to the world famous Acropolis and Parthenon. The boys and girls are working very hard on their J.E.P project and the final decision will be made this Wednesday on which project the class will develop. In P.E. the boys and girls have had great fun learning gymnastics with Ms. Buckley's fourth and fifth class. No doubt there is a few future Olympians in our midst!!

Erasmus Trip to Greece

We are delighted to say to that O'Brennan's first ever Erasmus trip to Athens, Greece was a great success. It was a marvellous life experience for our five sixth class pupils who got the opportunity to sample Greek school life and culture during our five day visit. It was also a wonderful learning experience for the teachers that accompanied them as it afforded the opportunity to share practices and methodologies with teachers from five other European countries. Our next Erasmus trip is from March 31st- April 4th where five different sixth class pupils and two different teachers will get the opportunity to sample school life in Pula, Croatia. They will also meet for the first time teachers and children from the other partner schools in our project. For more on our trip to Greece please check out the Erasmus Corner on our school website.

Thanks and Best Wishes

On behalf of the Board of Management, staff, pupils and parents of O'Brennan NS I want to sincerely thank Kathleen Griffin for deputising for Caroline in the office over the past number of weeks. It was certainly not an easy role to take on but Kathleen has done a brilliant job and was an enormous help to us during that period of time.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Caroline well in her recovery and we look forward to having her back with us in the near future.

Barry O'Leary
February 2019