



# O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

Sept/Oct 2019

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 12 sounds in their phonics, the children are now reading some words all by themselves. Imagine that!!
- Sings lots of songs and learn lots of new vocabulary and sentences 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 and learn about 2D shapes.
- They welcomed our friends from Spain, Croatia, Italy, Latvia and Greece. These schools visited our country and school to see our culture. Some of the teachers visited our junior infant class and the children sang some songs and the teachers loved our room ☺
- 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!

That is only some of the things we have done. It most certainly has been a busy few weeks! We have had lots of birthdays since we started school, in September we celebrated Eve's birthday! We have also celebrated Emma and Sadbh O' Shea's birthday. Ollie our class bear has had a very busy few weeks also; he has been baking, fixing tractors, sneaking sweets and

even travelled to Dingle to the Food Fair!! What a busy bear!!

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

Ms O' Brien

## Senior Infants/ First Class

Senior Infants/First Class have settled in well and are busy getting to know each other. We had lots of fun with our Aistear theme of 'School' as we got to act in role as all the adults in the school. We really enjoyed our Erasmus visitors and learned some Latvian and Italian. We got to take part in the welcome ceremony in the hall. Senior infants have been busy revising all the sounds we have learned so far. In First class we wrote a recount on the book 'Don't Hog the Hedge' and we are currently writing an instructional piece on Halloween potions. Our focus in music is the keyboard and we are learning the different notes. 1st Class are using a green screen and the 'Green screen by Do Ink' application on the Ipad to create their own short movies.

Our current Aistear theme is Halloween and we made and painted clay spiders, learned all about the skeleton and even made our own skeleton. Our favourite part was learning the skeleton dance. We are looking forward to dressing up for our Halloween party on Friday.

Mr. O' Neill

## First Class / Second Class

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> class have got the year off to a great start! Respect and excellent behaviour are vital for a successful year ahead.

We began the Weaving Well-being programme and the key message from our first lesson was '**Do more of what makes you happy**'. We also looked at three signs of well-being.

- 1.) Feeling good in your body and mind.  
(Having energy and fun)
- 2.) Getting on well with others
- 3.) Being able to cope with the normal ups and downs in life.

Pupils engaged in a collaborative piece of art creating a 'Sea of Galilee' collage.

Congratulations to the 2<sup>nd</sup> class who had their

Enrolment ceremony for Communion on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Rang a dó will be making their First Holy Communion on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2020.

In anticipation of our Erasmus visit, the pupils learned some basic Italian phrases, created flags and learned about Italy in Geography lessons. It was a lovely week!

Pupils have been enjoying a drama scheme called 'Gerard the Giant'. Mrs. Corridan sometimes goes into role as 'Mayor Corridan'. We explored the legend of Gráinne Mhaol in History.

In Irish, we are enjoying the Bua na Cainte programme and learning some lovely dánta/amhráin such as 'Buail ar an doras', 'Hócaí Pócaí', & 'Duilleoga deasa deasa'.

We have been playing the 'Fly Swatter' game in Maths. Lastly, the children explored the Recount genre and wrote about their Summer Holidays. Well done 2<sup>nd</sup> class! Keep it going!

Mrs. Corridan

### Third Class

A special hello from all of us in Third Class. We have had a great start to the new school year with lots of learning and plenty of fun. We can't believe Halloween break is upon us already. Here's a little glimpse into life in Third Class since September. We have been singing songs and learning poems such as Sweet Kerry, Dilín O Deamhas, Ghosts and Damhán Alla. We have learned about melodic and rhythmic ostinatos in Music and used percussion instruments, including bongos, to create rhythmic ostinatos. We have been doing lots of problem solving in Maths and recently had great fun on a Maths Trail around the school for Maths Week 2019. The children have been 'spooktacularly' creative writing Revolting Recipes in English for procedural writing. There were crushed toenails, spiders' legs and even a dirty diaper in some of these revolting creations!! The Salmon of Knowledge was a big part of our learning in History, English and Art and we even had a very familiar looking seanchaí visit us from Feohanagh to tell us the story!!! Life has been action-packed the past eight weeks and we certainly have enjoyed our SPHE time when we take time to focus on our mental and emotional wellbeing by doing guided meditations and of

course starting our Weaving Wellbeing programme. To the parents of our Third Class children, each and every one of them is an absolute credit to you, I'm certainly looking forward to sharing many more wonderful learning moments with them throughout the year. Oíche Shamhna Shona daoibh go léir, Ms Brosnan.

### Fourth Class

Fourth have been very busy. We've been getting into good work routines and our standard of work has been very high. "In a world where you can be anything, be kind" is a quote we've fully embraced and we've created a lovely, welcoming and respectful classroom atmosphere.

In September we focused on a real global topic- the burning of the Amazon Rainforest. Through working and researching in groups and individually we learned so much about this disaster and how it impacts on us and on the wider world.

"A little nonsense now and then is cherished by the wisest men!" We in Fourth could not agree more with Mr. Roald Dahl. His special day was celebrated in our class. We brought in our favourite Dahl books and decorated some of his famous quotes.

Maths Week was a great success. Maths Trails, Daily Maths Challenges, tangram puzzles, tessellation art and maths games were enjoyed. Some children really loved sinking their teeth into a good maths problem. Ms. Reidy was very impressed with their problem solving skills. Erasmus Week was a week we'll always remember. We explored Greece-its physical features, culture, history and art. Not only that but we learned a few key phrases. Everyone agreed we should visit there sometime. We even tasted some Greek olives and feta. A required taste, most in fourth class would agree!!

In Science we learned about the functions and structure of the eye and really had fun looking at different optical illusions.

Fourth have begun using "Seesaw" so now all the grownups can be kept up to date with all our hard work done in school. Ms. Reidy

### Fourth / Fifth Class

What a busy 8 weeks and we are all looking forward to a well-deserved break.

Before writing this I asked the children what were their highlights so far in class. In English we focused on Report writing and Explanatory writing. But the highlights are station teaching where we have hour in total of reading, spellings, grammar, computers and oral language stations. The children insisted that fact stories in their core readers was really fun. In fourth they read about "Bears" and "Explorers through history" and in fifth was "Overcoming Disability" and "Stone Age".

Maths has been full on and the children have worked so hard- especially in long division and long multiplication. The children are working hard on their tables too (well done!)

Gaeilge: Bhí na paistí ag foghlaim Mé Féin, An Fomhair agus An Scoil- Scríobh said píosa agus usaideanna said na iPadanna le App Seasaw- Bhaint said an-sult as !Cuir ceist ar do leanaí faoi seo!

Other Subjects: We made blackberry jam so a massive thankyou to all who sent in berries. In P.E we have begun badminton and the children are getting very good.

Finally a huge thankyou to all the boys and girls in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> on their hard work that was put into our Erasmus visit.

Have a wonderful Midterm

Ms.Buckley

### Sixth Class

Greetings from the 6th class classroom. We've had a hectic start to the school year and are still on a high after the wonderful Erasmus visit from our new friends from Latvia, Italy, Croatia, Greece and Spain. Many of the children in the classroom hosted students from the different countries and no doubt there has been friendships forged for life. All of the students were heavily involved in the week with many taking part in the opening ceremony. The week itself was one full of excitement and fun and one which we will all look back fondly on. A number of the class also made their radio debuts as Gaelige and in English on radio Kerry too!! On the sporting field a number of the boys were on the school football team which unfortunately lost out in the county quarter final to a strong Ballyunion team. The attention will now switch to basketball and the upcoming Christmas blitz in Castleisland for both boys and girls.

### Bake Sale

A Big Thank You to our Parents Association who ran a very successful Bake Sale in our school hall on Friday October 18th .Thanks to all who supported and helped out.

### Green Schools

Green Schools is delighted to welcome some new members to our committee. We have been working hard since September reminding all the classes about looking after our environment. We also decided on some challenges to mark Climate Action Week – including Ban the Bottle, Zero Waste Lunchboxes and Zero Power Hour. Zero Power Hour was a great success with many classes participating for longer than an hour. Fourth and Fifth class have decided to do it every week!

Angela from Green Schools Ireland visited us to carry out a travel survey. As Travel is our next theme we were thrilled with her help. She will be visiting us a lot over the next few months. We also had a visit from the IT in Tralee, look out for some familiar faces in some upcoming events in the IT!

Ms. Slattery

### Choir

We are very lucky in O'Brennan to have our own school choir which is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year of existence. The choir started back in September, with many new members joining, as they prepared for the Erasmus Opening Ceremony. They performed a beautiful rendition of 'Sing a Song in Unison' for our guests. Well done to you all!

### After- Schools Club

O'Brennan National school is constantly striving to serve our community in the best way possible. That is why we are continuing with two after school services for this school year.

The Infant After Schools Service runs Monday – Friday between 1.40pm and 2.40pm.

We also run an After School Club between 3pm and 5.30 pm Monday to Thursday at present.

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

On behalf of the staff here in O'Brennan NS thank you to everyone who helped in making our Erasmus hosting week a huge success. Our friends from around Europe left with many wonderful memories of their week in our school and in our area. The week highlighted what a strong and vibrant school community we have here in O'Brennan.

### Parents Association

Our Parents Association held their AGM in the school on 02/10/19. The officers this year are as follows: Chairman Donall O'Sullivan, Vice-Chair Orla Broderick, and Treasurer Tara Sheehy. Thanks to the outgoing members of this committee for their hard work over the past number of years and we very much look forward to working with the new committee. This year it has been decided that proceeds from PA fundraisers will help the school to purchase a graded reading scheme for our pupils.

### Communion & Confirmation

Confirmation will take place on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 3.30pm in Clogher church. First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> in Ballymacelligott church. Time to be confirmed.

### Dates For Your Diary

Here are some important dates for your diary over the coming weeks and months:

- Our Parents Association have organised a Table Quiz on Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup> in the Halfway Bar. Time to be confirmed. Please support.
- Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on Tuesday November 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup> between 2.50 & 4.50 pm. Classes finish @ 2.30pm on both days.
- Our Christmas Movie Night will take place on Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm.
- Our Christmas Carol Service takes place in the school hall on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm.

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 4<sup>th</sup>.

Le gach dea-guí,  
Barry O'Leary  
October 24<sup>th</sup> 2019