



O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

Nov/Dec 2019

Welcome to our Newsletter for November/December 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

Dear Parents/Guardians, The Christmas break is upon us and at this special time of year, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas. It's been a fun-filled term which culminated in our fabulous Christmas Show. We have had a very busy few weeks and now the children are ready for a well-earned break. We have learned 24 of our Jolly Phonics sounds; we are now blending words and reading books all by ourselves! In Aistear we learned all about the Emergency Services, we had a visit from Garda O' Mahony and Mr Constable who is a Paramedic! They brought along an ambulance and a Garda car for us to see and answered all of our many questions. They were very impressed that we could make a 999 call if there was an emergency.

We were very lucky this year in Junior infants that **Twinkle** (one of Santa's Christmas fairies) wrote to us and told us all about life in the North Pole. She even had a peep in our Maths books and writing copies to see how everyone was getting on and she was very impressed with the work she saw. She attended our carol service and brought her fairy friend Lily to see our show. They wrote to us to tell us how great we were! We hope she will write once more before Christmas!

We have celebrated lots of birthdays too. In November, we celebrated Clodagh's, Ella May's and Isha's birthdays! December was also a busy month for birthdays we celebrated Sara's, Sadhbh Sheehy's and Jason's. Ollie our class bear has had a very busy few weeks also; He has

been to many birthday parties as well as ballet, the cinema and a sleepover with Nana. He has put up a lot of Christmas trees also. What a busy bear!!

Wishing you all a lovely break and best wishes for the New Year! I look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 7th January 2020!

Ms O' Brien

Senior Infants & First Class

Senior Infants & First Class have been busy over the last few weeks writing letters to the elves. The children wanted to thank the elves for all their hard work at this time of year. We have just finished our Aistear theme of the Post Office which culminated in a visit to the Post Office in Castleisland where we posted our letters to the elves. Senior Infants also had visits from the Ambulance service and the Guards over the last few weeks in preparation for our Aistear themes next year.

We really enjoyed our trip to the Ivy Leaf theatre in Castleisland where we saw 'Santa's Fairytale Christmas'. The show was fantastic! We also got to go to the playground after.

Our class bear 'Ted' has been busy visiting everyone and the children have wrote about their exciting adventures with Ted. As part of Science week we got to make hovercrafts with our student teacher.

Our current Aistear theme is 'Santa's Workshop' where we are busy making a wrapping toys for all the boys and girls. We are also preparing for our Christmas carol service where Senior Infants will be saying an Irish poem and singing 'Rocking around the Christmas tree'. First Class will be saying the poem 'T'was the night before Christmas' and singing 'The twelve days of Christmas'. We are really looking forward to it.

I hope everyone has a joyful Christmas break and I look forward to what 2020 has to bring. Happy Christmas!

Mr. O' Neill

First Class& Second Class

We have been singing our little hearts out over the last two months learning songs such as '**The Whistling Gypsy**' and songs for our Christmas Concert. Second Class performed '**Somewhere only we know**' and '**Sleigh Ride**' while 1st class joined forces to perform '**Twelve days of Christmas**' and they recited the poem '**'Twas the night before Christmas**'. We have also began learning how to play the tin whistle with tunes such as the 'Siren song' and 'Hot cross buns'.

Following on from a successful Erasmus Week, first and second class decided to send pen pal letters to Greek pupils. Hopefully we will learn about how Christmas is celebrated in Greece when we receive the replies!

Back in November, to celebrate Science Week pupils explored the sense of sight by looking at optical illusions and spot the difference pictures, some pupils brought in binoculars, we made thaumatropes, we completed investigations that involved completing tasks with eyes open versus with eyes closed. We explored sound by making straw whistles and bottle music. We learned that children (and dogs) can hear higher frequencies than adults by taking a sound quiz. We conducted tests to see how good our sense of smell was and finally we tested our sense of touch by placing a range of items in a pillowcase and placing a sock over our hand and trying to guess what was inside the pillowcase, we then tried the same experiment without wearing the sock on our hand. We learned a lot about dogs' senses of smell, sight and sound.

Pupils enjoyed the Scholastic Book Fair held in the halla.

In art, we have made clay pinch pots, created Salt-dough Christmas decorations (we linked this with the procedural writing genre in English), made penguins by means of potato printing and Styrofoam prints to make Christmas cards.

In Religion, we created our own Advent calendar using old, empty matchboxes.

Pupils enjoyed a hot chocolate party as a reward for filling the kindness jar.

Second class are currently reading and enjoying a novel called 'One Wish'.

Nollaig shona daoibh!

Mrs. Corridan

Third Class

As Christmas fast approaches it's nice to take stock and reflect on a wonderful two months of learning and fun. In Third Class we have been busy with many new learning experiences. We started learning multiplication for the first time, much to the children's excitement. With class games and card games, online table activities and activity booklets there was much fun in our learning. We began learning how to play the tin whistle and are nicely progressing through the notes using our larger than life tin whistle display as a guide in class. With their curious minds, learning the tin whistle generated many questions amongst the children- How is sound made? How does a tin whistle make different sounds covering different holes? How can pitch be affected by force? So with this in mind Science Week was all about exploring these questions and investigating vibrations with experiments such as Clucking Cups. Science class also saw us designing and making safety jackets for eggs....the real fun was putting these safety jackets to the test by dropping our 'egg friends' from a height. There were many creative inventions made but unfortunately not all eggs survived the process!! The highlight of our PE classes was when we played games using our school parachute. The Maori People were a big focus of our learning in History and Art. The children were greatly mesmerized learning about how the Maori People created their facial Moko tattoos!! The song 'Walking in the Air' provided the backdrop to our Christmas art of making snowmen. The children thoroughly enjoyed practising their Christmas Concert songs to perform for you all, you can be very proud of them indeed. Have a peaceful and happy Christmas and we hope you enjoy a wonderful New Year from all of us in Third Class.

Ms Brosnan

Fourth Class

This half term has flown but they do say time flies when you're having fun.

We really learned so much during Science Week. We did many different experiments, made slime, fizzy colours and even launched rockets. There are definitely a few budding scientists in 4th! We learned about Procedural Writing in

English so we were also able to write up our different experiments. Two birds one stone!! Our handwriting has improved so much since the beginning of the year with many of our class receiving their Pen Licences. Practice makes perfect!

Táimid ag déanamh an iarracht an Gaeilge a labhairt chomh minic agus is féidir sa rang and táimid ag baint an taitneamh as ár gceachtanna Gaeilge. Rinneamar píotsaí sláintiúla, bhí said an bhlasta ar fad.

Between our Daily Question, Maths Challenge and Multiplication Masters our Maths has really come on. The best thing is we really enjoy doing it!

With Christmas fast approaching Fourth have been busy practicing for our Christmas Concert. We're very excited to perform for everyone. Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir.

Ms Reidy

Fourth/ Fifth Class

It's the most wonderful time of the year and that's for sure in Ranga 4 agus 5!!



The children have had a busy November and December. For the month of November our focus was on Climate Change and how we are impacting the earth. All children monitored their household bins. Ensuring that the correct items were placed in each. The children monitored the water consumption and some timed their families showering.

Here are some proactive results

- Nick's family are not using tinfoil anymore, and bought solar panels sensor lights.
- Abbie and Ben got a brown bin
- Olivia Matras got a filtered water jug- so no more water bottles

- Ray got more efficient lightening system around the house
- Oisin's family cut showering times
- Aoife's family are hoping to buy a composite tumbler
- Most importantly families are now more aware of their impact on the environment.

In class we have also made vast improvements – We have turned down the heating control, we are using reusable water bottles as we have filtered taps in the school. We have cut down on photocopying and we ensure that all our bins are correct. Thursdays from 11 am -12 am we have power out initiative.

December has turned into a Christmas craft shop and all the children have made beautiful decorations for our class tree and displays. The tin whistles are being used each day and the children have improved so much for our Christmas show.

Finally I would like to wish all a healthy, happy and safe Christmas from all of us in Ranga 4 & 5 Ms. Buckley

Sixth Class

Nollag Shona Daoibh ó rang a sé! What a busy few weeks it's been since Halloween. The students have continued with their excellent progress since September across all aspects of their learning. In English, the students went back in time slightly and practiced their letter writing, a slightly lost art that hopefully they will bring back into fashion!! The students also covered World War one in their English text book and learned about the many Irish men and women who contributed to the war effort. Sa rang Gaeilge, D'foghlaím na daltaí mar gheall ar eadaí timpeall an domhain Comh maith leis sin, bhí feabhas mór ar gach dalta sa rang nuair a bíonn siad ag caint as gaeilge. Maths class has continued at a great pace and the students learned all about number theory and and got an introduction to algebra this month. The windows of the classroom became the students own Sistine chapel over the past few days as they painted different Christmas scenes on the window as decorations, no doubt there is a few future Michelangelo's in the room. In P.E the students have partaken in Rugby with great progress in the development of their skills. We have also been working very hard in rehearsals

for the upcoming Christmas concert which will be a great show. On the sporting field, the annual Christmas blitz in Castleisland is almost upon us, with the senior girls and boys in the A competition. The girls are playing on the 27th and 28th of December, while the boys are playing on the 26th and 29th. Good luck to all involved!!

Mr. Sheehy

[Christmas Mystery Movie Night](#)

On Thursday December 10th we held our annual Christmas Mystery Movie night here in O'Brennan which was well supported. The children arrived with their pyjamas and pillows and made themselves comfortable while watching a Christmas movie. A Christmas movie was also shown for the parents of the boys and girls attending and was very well supported. Thanks to all who did. Our parents council and school staff did great work in organising the event which helped to make it a very enjoyable night for all who attended. Well done everyone!

[Christmas Concerts](#)

We held our Christmas Carol Concert on December 18th and our matinee show on December 19th. Both were very well supported and those attendance were treated to some fantastic performances by all our boys and girls. Well done to all our budding stars of the stage and their teachers for having them so well turned out! Thanks to all who attended our shows!

[Santa's Visit](#)

Everybody at O'Brennan got a huge surprise on Thursday of last week when Santa Claus arrived to our school in to us for a pre-Christmas visit! He was given a huge welcome by all the pupils and staff in the school hall. Our Parent's Council got together very quickly and were on hand to help out with treats and pictures during Santa's visit. All the boys and girls got to have a photo with Santa, and most importantly remind him of what they wanted for Christmas!

[After-Schools Club](#)

Our Infant After School Club and After-School Club will continue in the new year. If you are interested in registering your child for our After-School Club please contact the office.

[Best Wishes](#)

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish Miss Miriam Reidy the very best as she leaves us to go on maternity leave. I know that the boys and girls whom she teaches will miss her very much! I would also like to welcome Ms. Catherine O'Connor to the staff of O'Brennan NS as she will cover Ms. Reidy's maternity leave beginning in the new year.

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 would sincerely like to wish everybody a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and every good wish for 2020.

Le gach dea-guí,
Barry O'Leary
December 2019