



# O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

August/Sept/Oct 2020

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 adjusting to school life, learning about COVID, learning to wash our hands properly and to stay in our pods. We are so proud all the boys and girls for doing so well!!!

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.
- 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 Rian's birthday! We have also celebrated Kate, Mia and Zoeya's birthday. Ollie our class bear has been

adjusting to wearing a mask in school and is very sad he can't spend the weekends with the boys and girls. Hopefully this nasty virus goes away soon and he can visit some houses for the weekends. Wishing you all a lovely midterm break and Happy Halloween!!

Ms O' Brien

## Senior Infants/ First Class

Senior Infants have settled in well to their pods 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. They also wrote a recount about their first day in Senior Infants. We have been busy revising all the sounds we have learned so far.

We recently celebrated Maths Week and we got to use our 'Maths eyes' to go on a Maths trail around the school. The children carried out various tasks and used I pads to take a picture once complete. They came back with some fantastic photos.

Our current Aistear theme is Halloween and we made our own cauldron, read 'The Witch with an itch' and dressed up in different costumes. Our favourite part was learning our new poem 'The Fat Old Witch' and saying it out loud in different voices. We are looking forward to dressing up for our Halloween dress up day on Friday. Well done to all the children in settling in so well and to parents for engaging with Seesaw. Keep it up!

E. O' Neill

## First Class / Second Class

First and Second Class have settled nicely into their 'bubble' and 'pods' and they've adapted so well to the many changes this school year has brought!

We have been putting a real emphasis on pupils' wellbeing with **Mindful Mondays**- we focus on positive affirmations, breathing techniques, meditation as well as our strengths and talents. Here is a glimpse of what we have been up to since returning to school!

In English, we have been working on the comprehension skills of Prediction and Making Connections with lots of fantastic picture books. Pupils are currently enjoying the hilarious graphic novel series 'The Bad Guys' by Aaron Blabey.

A highlight of Maths Week was our 'Maths Eyes' photo competition. The entries were fantastic! We have a 'Pod of the Week' competition and each pod tries to climb their vine as quickly as possible! Pupils receive 'pom poms' as points a.k.a 'raindrops' (Kudos to F.H for making this name suggestion) to make their peas and pods grow!

We have learned a catchy song called 'Epo I tai tai e', participated in a Human Scavenger Hunt outdoors and made one decade Rosary beads. Tá na páistí ag déanamh sár-iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt i rith an lae! Maith sibh!

We are set up on Seesaw and looking forward to a safe, healthy midterm break.  
Stay Safe everyone

Mrs. Corridan

### Second Class/ Third Class

A special hello from all of us in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class. We have had a great start to the new school year and are delighted to be back together, learning and having fun, after our very long time apart. Here is a little glimpse into life in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class since September. We had fun celebrating World Skyscraper Day and Engineers' Day in September by building tall towers with spaghetti and marshmallows and constructing strong buildings using paper. We have been learning all about melodic and rhythmic ostinatos in music and have enjoyed singing songs and learning poems such as Sweet Kerry, Dilín O Deamhas, Ghosts and A Smile. We have all really enjoyed going outdoors to do Drama and PE in the yard. We just love getting creative and dramatic playing games like Bippity-Bippity-Bop and some of our favourite PE games have been Octopus and Snake. We marked International Literacy Day by making mini books, designing book covers and having a relaxed reading session in the yard. The children are really enjoying listening to the book 'Jimeen' - it is very funny because Jimeen is always getting up to mischief and gives us a good laugh! A very big highlight of our return to

school was 3<sup>rd</sup> Class finally made their First Holy Communion after waiting so very long for their big day. Life has been action-packed the past two months and we certainly have enjoyed our Well-being Wednesdays when we take time to focus on our mental and emotional wellbeing. We marked Positive Mental Health Week with a lovely nature walk around our school taking notice of things in nature we didn't noticed before and every day a Secret Kindness Detective is chosen to identify wonderful acts of kindness in our class. We would like to say is a big thank you to Mr O'Leary for being our principal and wish him the best of luck in his new school.

To the parents of our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class children, it is an absolute pleasure teaching your child. I am 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 class have been enjoying being back at school and keeping the fun and learning alive with lots of activities. In science, we learned all about the Amazon rainforest and did some amazing paintings. We learned all about they eye and had fun studying some optical illusions. The Stone Age and the Celts were popular topics in history and the class recreated stone age cave paintings and some Celtic knots. For maths week we did some fun maths games like Group timed tables, Daily Ten and a favourite was the 'Estimation Station' competition. This week so far we have had fun painting Autumn forests, making papercraft pumpkins and writing 'Spooktacular Stories' which the children will read from our 'Author's Chair'. These are just a flavor of some of our activities so far with lots more to come.

Ms. Broderick

### Fifth Class

It's an understatement of how happy we all are in 5<sup>th</sup> to be back to school. Just to see our friends and playing outside was the main topic.

In 5<sup>th</sup> we are reading "The Witches" by Roald Dahl, the children are enjoying this immensely especially in drama class (some good Grand High Witches impersonations).

We have begun sewing and have mastered tacking and the running stitch we are making sock puppets this week by sewing on buttons and a mouth.

We have signed up to Children's Book Festival @ Kerry Library 2020- please check this out during the midterm

<http://www.kerrylibrary.ie/cbf-classroomresources.html>

Finally a big thank you to all the parents for being so patient with seesaw- the interaction is great.

Have a good Midterm

Ms. Buckley, Annmarie and all of 5<sup>th</sup> Class.

### Sixth Class

Greetings from the 5th and 6th class classroom. We've had a hectic return to the classroom after the long absence due to covid-19. Everyone has settled in well and has adapted to the new normal in the classroom with great enthusiasm and understanding. The past two weeks in particular have been very busy with everyone pitching in to decorate the classroom for halloween. Scary creatures have been created with paper mashe in art and everyone has put together a fantastic display board outside the room. Unfortunately there has been no sport in school this year. We would normally be in the midst of a cumman na bunscoil campaign and getting ready for the christmas basketball blitz, but alas not this year. Here's hoping we will next year!

Mr. Sheehy

### Green Schools

Can you include a line that this year's Green School Committee will be made up of Fifth Class. They are excited to build on the work completed by last year's committee on the theme of Travel. Many thanks to Angela from An Taisce who will help navigate through our theme.

Ms. Slattery

### 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 2.40pm and 5.30 pm Monday to Friday.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions our After-Schools is taking place in the school hall this year. The children are asked to sit with their bubble or with siblings. We are pleased to say that it is working well at the moment.

For further information on After-School Club please contact the office.

### Parents Association

Our Parents Association held their AGM remotely on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The officers this year are as follows: Chairperson: Orla Broderick Vice-Chair: Donall O'Sullivan and Treasurer Tara Sheehy.

Thanks to the members of this committee as ever for their hard work we look forward to working closely with our PA this school year.

### First Holy Communion

Our girls and boys celebrated their long awaited First Holy Communion in St. Brendan's Church Clogher on Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The ceremony for the girls took place at 10.30am and the ceremony for the boys took place at 12pm. We know that our girls and boys had a memorable day. Thanks to their teachers Ms. Corridon & Ms. Brosnan for preparing our communicants so well. Thanks also to Regina & Fr. Gearóid, and everyone who helped out on the day.

### School Re-Opening

August 26<sup>th</sup> seems like a long time ago now but as we reach the first significant milestone of our school year I am pleased to report that our school re-opening procedures continue to work well. I just want to acknowledge the significant effort being made by our entire school community to adhere to and uphold our

procedures on a daily basis. Please keep up the high level of compliance post midterm break. As we are all well aware, it seems that we will be operating in this manner for the foreseeable future.

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

I hope everyone has a safe, happy and restful Halloween break. This year above all other years it is very well earned.

On a personal note, I want to wish O'Brennan National School every good wish for the future. It is strange to think that I will not be returning post midterm break. It has been an honour to have been part of this fine school community for the past few years.

Le gach dea-guí,  
Barry O'Leary  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020