



O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

Nov/Dec 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of all the staff and pupils of O' Brennan NS I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we close the door on a strange and stressful year we look forward with optimism to 2021!

Our school has been Covid free since August and I would like to extend a special word of thanks to the staff for their compliance and support. All staff have created a positive and calming atmosphere in school despite these worrying times. All teachers/ SNA's/ SET's have adapted new routines in their classes all while maintaining a high level of professionalism.

I would like to also thank the parents for adhering to the social distancing guidelines and staggered home times.

Finally I would like to personally thank the children as they adapted so well to new challenges that even we as adults had difficulty with, in these unprecedented times – the children were rewarded yesterday with a hot chocolate as a thank you from the school.

Well done all.

Keep up the good work in 2021!

Unfortunately we were unable to have a Christmas concert this year however we did record some Christmas songs last week and we even sent a video of our Christmas Carols to the Palliative Care unit in Kerry University Hospital to spread some Christmas cheer!

We would like to thank the Parents Association for arranging with Santa to make a very special visit to our school on December 11th. Santa brought all the boys and girls some chocolate Santa's and it was a lovely treat for them to enjoy!

On Tuesday December 15th we held our annual Christmas Mystery Movie night here in O'Brennan

which was well supported. The 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!

The children have taken part in 5 Days of Wellness before Christmas, they have been very busy writing thank you letters, taking part in Christmas quizzes and a Daily Mile challenge. On Thursday Junior and senior infants watched the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" and on Friday 1st to 6th class watched "A Christmas Carol" finally we watched some Christmas adverts and had a discussion on which ones were our favourites.

Finally, I'd like to wish all members of our school community and their families a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy New Year. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that family is so important and being able to spend Christmas with them means more than all the gifts in the world.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Michelle O' Brien

Dates/ Upcoming School events

- School closes from 11.30 on Tuesday 22nd December for all pupils - staggered home time.
- School re-opens on Thursday 7th January, 2021 at 9.00am
- February Mid-Term Break 18th - 19th February inclusive– school closed on these days
- St. Patrick's Day 17th March – school closed

News from our Classrooms

Junior Infants

Junior Infants have had a very busy term. We have learned 24 of our Jolly Phonics sounds; we are now blending words and reading books all by ourselves! In maths we learned the number 1 and 2. In November we had Science Week where there was lots of wonder and awe in our experiments!

We had fun in Aistear learning all about the Emergency Services, Winter and Santa's Workshop. We even had our own Toy Show through our Seesaw App.

The junior Infants are very lucky to have one of Santa's Fairies (Twinkl) keeping a close eye on them. Twinkl has wrote to us and told us all about life in the North Pole. She even had a peep in our Maths books and Jolly Phonics Book to see how everyone was getting. Twinkl loves glitter and likes to leave a trail of glitter wherever she goes. The main man himself Santa visited us in the school yard. This was very exciting as Twinkl told us she had sent us a surprise.

We have celebrated lots of birthdays too. In November, we celebrated Zuzanna, Mason, Zoey and Oisín Leen! December was also a busy month for birthdays we celebrated Saoirse, Kalen and Jack.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

Ms Carroll

Senior Infants/ First Class

Senior Infants have been working hard over the last few weeks. We celebrated Science week and conducted some experiments. The children made ice-cream in a bag using custard and cream – it tasted delicious! The children also made their own Play-Doh from different household ingredients. Last month our Aistear theme was 'The Café'. We wrote some recipes for procedural writing this term. The children also followed a recipe to bake their own cookies.

This term our Aistear theme is the Post Office. The children were busy in the Post Office weighing parcels, selling stamps, sorting letters and transporting all the parcels! We also watched excerpts from the documentary Kilimanjaro Mama about the Tír na nÓg Orphanage in Tanzania. The children wrote and posted letters to the children of Tanzania to find out about what school life was like there.

On Thursday we will be watching our virtual Pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk. The children

can't wait to see it! In P.E. this term our focus has been on dance. The children learned and performed the folk dance – Tar Chugam. The children really enjoyed watching Santa Paws 2 for our movie night.

Our current Aistear theme is 'Santa's Workshop'. The children are busy making and wrapping toys for all the boys and girls and the children painted snowmen using Q-tips! We are also preparing to record our Christmas song where Senior Infants will be singing 'Rocking around the Christmas tree'. 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. Again well done to all the children and parents that have adapted to all the changes this year.

Happy Christmas!

Mr. O' Neill

First Class / Second Class

After midterm break, we focused on Procedural Writing. We wrote instructions for Marshmallow Hats, how to make homemade percussion instruments (a drum and a rain stick) and we completed our first S.T.E.M project of the year. Pupils designed and made magnetic fishing games.

For Science Week, we participated in a Virtual Workshop called 'That's Non-sense' with Ginny Smith and another called 'Build your own Rube Goldberg machine' with Mark the Science Guy.

In November, we created pinch-pots using clay. As advised by the Pastoral Centre, we began preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In P.E, we focused on the Dance strand by doing a Compass Dance, a Name Dance, Jerusalema Dance and Musical statues. We enjoy logging onto imoves too!

We have been continuing our mindfulness lessons. Please check out; <https://www.louiseshanagher.com/> Pupils enjoyed mindful listening activities, especially

with singing bowls and chimes. Pupils earned treat bags for The Late Late Toy Show!

In December, we enjoyed recording 'It's nearly Christmas' by Sinéad McNally for the local Palliative Care Unit. We also had our annual Movie Night. 2nd class participated in a Readers' Theatre with the script 'A Merry Messi Christmas Play'. We wrote sense poems, made paper ornaments and we still have lots of activities to look forward to with our 5 Days of Christmas Wellness! We will also participate in a Dabbledoo Music workshop- Quest for the Jingle!

Well done a pháistí! Term 1 críochnaithe!
Nollaig shona daoibh!
Wishing you all a better 2021! ☺
Mrs. Corridan

Second Class/ Third Class

The children have had a busy two months in school. We learned about the Maori people of New Zealand. The children were very interested to learn about their tattoos and our art was based on this.

In Science Week we learned about pitch and vibrations with our "Clucking Cups". We threaded string through a small hole in a paper cup and when we wet our fingers and pulled down on the string it made a sound like a chicken. We also made our own Thaumatrope – these were popular toys in the 1800s which created an optical illusion.

Our theme in PE was dance and the children enjoyed learning new dances from around the world such as Flamenco, Bollywood and Samba - They had great fun!

We were learning about weather and all about the Northern Lights. We used chalk dust to create some lovely magical pictures.

Berry McJingles, the Christmas Elf joined us again this year and it was hard work keeping up with all his movements around the room! He loves reading so we all wrote stories and made books for his very own library.

We also made some lovely snowmen from socks, while listening to "The Snowman" playing in the background. Speaking of Christmas songs, we chose "Frosty the Snowman" as our Christmas song - hope you enjoy our performance!

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.
Ms Brosnan

Fourth Class

Season's Greetings from all in 4th class. As we approach the Christmas break we reflect on all our achievements from the past couple of months. During Science Week, in November, we undertook many enjoyable experiments. We mixed liquids to make elephant toothpaste, we tested what would happen if we stood on a table with balloons under it and we **attempted** to build structures from spaghetti and marshmallows. We have enjoyed having our weekly rugby coach, Brian, visit to teach us some rugby skills. In addition to this we learnt the dances of the Siege of Ennis, An Dreoilín and the Cha-cha slide dance. In English the children have been learning about various genres of writing, and stories of the Titanic and the Famine have featured heavily in both English and History.

December has been an extremely busy month where we have truly gotten into the Christmas spirit. The children made Christmas cards with LED lights, creating their own circuits to power the lights. I was extremely impressed by the ingenuity of a few of the students who discovered another way to power the card if the circuits didn't quite work out as planned. We learnt about the Aurora Borealis and used chalk and paint to draw our own depiction of the Northern Lights, which were visually quite effective. Although we have not been able to do a school concert, the children have taken part in a Readers' Theatre of 'Goldilocks and the Christmas Elves', a humorous twist on a Christmas play. We have some budding thespians in our midst, no doubt we will see their names up in lights in the

future. The children are really gearing up for Christmas and have recorded their own bopping version of Shakin' Stevens 'Merry Christmas Everyone', where they showed off both their dancing and singing skills, we hope you enjoy!

Finally, we would like to wish you all a merry and peaceful Christmas from all in 4th Class and we look forward to the New Year!

Ms O' Carroll

Fifth Class

What a busy term we have had upstairs. The children and parents have put in a huge amount of effort, so an enormous Thank you! The children learned a vast amount in history this month. WW1 was the topic area and we also looked into the life of Anne Frank to give the children a clearer understanding of the TimeLine WW1 & WW2.

Art was great fun this term; the children learned how to make pom poms.

We returned to sewing and created some Christmas decorations using cookie cutters and felt material. We painted Starry Night by Van Gogh and got an understanding of his brush strokes they turned out really well. Finally we will finish off the term with candle making.

On a final note I would like to wish you all a healthy and safe Christmas from my super 5th Class Team

Ms. Buckley, Mr Coffey, Ms O' Shea, Ms Barry and Anne-Maire

Sixth Class

Fifth and sixth class have been very busy over the past couple of weeks preparing for Christmas. Each week has seen wonderful art pieces created, from homemade holly decorations to stain glass candles and everything in between. Along with art, the students have learned the Christmas classic, winter wonderland and produced a wonderful performance of said song. While this will not be a Christmas as we usually celebrate it

we hope that all of you have a safe and healthy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

The boys and girls have finished six weeks with games development officer Tom Joy. They played football each week, working on their skills and technique and improving with each session. I have no doubt we will be seeing a few pulling on the green and gold in a few years to come.

Mr Sheehy

Green Schools

Jingle walk – all classes participated in the walk. The Green committee encourages everyone to recycle the packaging from their Christmas gifts this year.

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.

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

