



O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

January/February/March 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We begin this terms newsletter with some fantastic news! We have been granted our 8th class teacher for September 2023, that means we will have straight classes going forward and no more splits! We are currently awaiting our modular classroom for our ASD class and the paperwork is well underway for our 2-classroom extension. It's all go here at the moment and we were thrilled to receive the news of our extra teacher. Next year we will have 14 teachers, 7 SNA's, 1 full time secretary and a part time caretaker.

We held our Open afternoon on the 14th and 15th of February and we had an extremely successful turn out and welcomed lots of new pupils to our school. They had a great time and are looking forward to visiting us again in June before their big day in September.

We would like to wish Tracey and Mrs Corridan all the very best as they begin their maternity leaves. We look forward to hearing the good news in the weeks to come!

Finally, I'd like to wish all pupils, staff and their families a very Happy Easter! Stay Safe and enjoy the break!

Looking forward to seeing you all again on April 17th 2023!

Le gach dea-ghuí
Michelle White

Arabella

We have been so busy in the Arabella room. The pupils have all been working so hard at using their words. Every day we are hearing new words

and this makes us very proud. The children have been working so well at their independent table and have really improved their fine motor skills. Some pupils have been working so hard everyday on their typing and maths skills. We learned all about Space in January. We loved listening to the planet song and playing with our planets display. We made lovely space cupcakes. We loved exploring outside in the snow. It was very cold so we had to wrap up in our hats and gloves. We started doing our walk outside and sitting on the bench.

February was a very busy month. We learned all about the farm animals. We really enjoyed listening to animal sounds and naming the farm animals. We also felt the love in February and really enjoyed making special Art pieces for our Mommies and Daddies. Some of our students took part in activities with the MTU students. They enjoyed playing with Junior Infants and Senior Infants. We enjoyed listening to interesting sounds during the Sound Bath. We got to meet beautiful dogs from the Husky Rescue. We also made yummy pancakes. We loved decorating them with chocolate. They were delicious!

In March, we said goodbye to Tracey and wished her luck. We welcomed Melinda into our classroom. We met Marcel the guide dog and we all loved giving Marcel treats. We learned all about shamrocks and leprechauns. We loved listening to songs about bunnies and chicks. All the children have been very good sitting in the hall for Assembly. They really enjoyed the class shows for Seachtaine na Gaeilge. Some of our students took part in Irish Dancing on Lá Glas. All the children received a special treat from Mrs. White for Seachtaine na Gaeilge and they were so happy! We had great fun making our Easter baskets using air dough, paint, feathers, chocolate eggs, bunnies and chicks. We loved going to the bake sale and buying some yummy treats. We had so much fun searching for eggs

on our egg hunt in school. We are so excited for the Easter Bunny to visit!

We are so proud of all our Arabella pupils.

Keep up the good work!

Wishing you and your families a wonderful Easter.

Enjoy the well deserved break!

Ms. O Sullivan, Aimee and Melinda

Junior Infants

Junior Infants have had a very EGG-CITING term in school.

During Seachtain na Gaeilge we made our own Tayto Sandwiches. In English we were focusing on procedural writing. The steps helped us to make our own Tayto Sandwich. We can now make our own sandwiches at home. How independent are we!

Junior Infants have now finished all their 42 Jolly Phonics Sounds and have begun revising. We have now started writing our own sentences using all the phonics we have learned. Our cursive writing is amazing we love all the loops and we think we can do it better than our Moms and Dads!

We know 20 of our tricky words. Although they are called Tricky Words, they can't Tricky us here in Junior Infants.

In maths we can now write and count the numbers 0 to 5.

In Aistear we took a trip to Africa after Christmas; the sunshine was much needed. We made some African crafts for our market. We also took part in the Vet we were very lucky to have a visit from the Irish Guide Dog Association and Serra Husky. They were very impressed with our work in Aistear. We also looked at Easter in Aistear. We created the Easter Bunny's home and we made our own Easter Nests they were delicious. Our notice board has our fabulous Art Work, Dogs, Shamrocks, Easter Bunny and Easter Chicks.

We have had a lot of Birthdays here in Junior Infants in January, Kayla, Siún and Cillian.

February Seán O B. March Jora, Grace and Jack.

Junior Infants are really looking forward to the Easter Bunny we even learned a song about the Easter Bunny "Hop Little Bunny Hop Hop Hop". Have an EGG-CITING Easter from Ms Carroll and all in Junior Infants.

Ms. Carroll

Senior Infants

Senior Infants Senior Infants have had a very busy few months welcoming the Spring Season, learning to spot the signs of Spring, discussing the weather in Irish and English and as part of Aistear creating our own Garden Centre. The garden centre was a hub of activity daily as plenty of buying and selling took place as well as planting salad leaves, peas, radishes and tomatoes. Our plants are thriving on the windowsill under the watchful eye of our gardeners. Many thanks to all who sent in some plants for our Garden Centre. Our current theme in Aistear is a great hit – The Zoo, where we have been learning all about exotic animals – including a large tiger that is in his enclosure at the back of the room. (Let's hope he stays there!) We also explored 'Under the Sea' where we really enjoyed learning about pufferfish in particular. We had student teacher Ms O'Brien in our room and she taught us lots of songs, rhymes and even how to milk a cow! We celebrated Valentine's day by making hearts in Art. We have completed our word boxes and are excited to be moving onto more challenging work in our Jolly Phonics, we have reached the number 10 in Maths as well as exploring weight, length and time. St. Patrick and St. Brigid also featured in our room recently. There were several leprechauns jumping around the room for St. Patrick's Day! We performed in the halla as part of the Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations. We were delighted to welcome a new classmate Daryna. We now have two Daryna's, two Sophie's and two Jack's!

Ласкаво просимо до старшокласниць Даринки. We wish everyone a lovely Easter

break and look forward to lots of fun in the Summer Term.

Ms Slattery

First Class

We have had a very busy term in first class. We started the year learning about the environment and biodiversity. We learned how to take care of plants and animals in the winter and the children really enjoyed making bird feeders and hanging them on the trees outside. We showed our artistic talents by creating drawings of the cow inspired by artist Eoin O'Connor and constructing 3D daffodils from recycled egg cartons. The green schools committee were busy planting flowers, vegetables and plants in our school grown boxes and in first class we planted our own lettuce in recycled milk cartons. The school is very proud to have been awarded our 4th green flag for Biodiversity in March. Lots of more fun learning activities were done including learning about Australia and doing aboriginal paintings as well as painting Kandinsky inspired trees, making pancakes, valentines cards and writing stories. Seachtain na Gaeilge was great fun and our first class took parts in Irish games, they learned to dance the siege of Ennis, 'An Dreoilín' dance and performed 'Beidh Aonach Amárach' at our school assembly. Everyone is looking forward to our Easter Break now. Cáisc Shona daoibh go léir.

Ms. Broderick

Second/Third Class

What an action packed term this was in second and third class. It is hard to believe we are at Easter term already as the academic year is going by so fast! January saw the boys and girls produce fabulous artwork to welcome grandparents to the halla for grandparent's day! St. Brigid's day was marked by creating and weaving lovely colourful card crosses. February also marked the beginning of our planting and

growing of our radish and peas in class. The children also showed great initiative in school to begin our litter picking around the school as part of our green school's programme.

Just before mid-term our communicants celebrated their first confession in the halla with Father Walsh and Father Roche. What a lovely, joyous occasion this was for all involved.

We greatly enjoyed taking part in the healthy heart walk outside of the school grounds as part of our active school initiative. Tom Joy (GAA coach) has also started his coaching sessions every second Thursday. Hopefully the weather will improve for these after the Easter break.

March marked the start of seachtain na gaeilge. In class we had 3 action packed weeks ag caint is ag cómhra, ag damhsa, ag canadh, ag seinm ceol agus ag úsaid gaeilge l rith an lae sa sheomra ranga. Bhí ceolchoirm beag sa halla freisin le gach rang agus bhí an spóirt agus craic again.

The children made a tremendous effort on our 'Lá glas' to dress up in green for St. Patrick's Day!

Finally, it was great to end the term with a gorgeous bake sale with loads of tempting goodies on offer. Well done to all the bakers!!

I hope everyone has a lovely, relaxing Easter break and returns energised for our final school term!

Mr. O Connor

Third/Fourth Class

Well, what a busy few month, which have flown by...is it actually Easter?

We have really enjoyed this term, here are some of our favourite topics we have learned.

In SESE we studied the poem "Counties of Ireland" which we will never forget. History we wrote all about the Ballyseedy Massacre, and found out that The Earl of Desmond would not swear allegiance to the queen. When the Earl was finally captured he was beheaded and his head was placed in a cage and hung from London bridge. We also learned about Stephen Fuller and how he escaped on that eventful night.

English we are working on presenting. Children have spoken about their favourite toys, books and movies. Maths we study a topic each week. We took up German with Mary Devane for 8 weeks, the children thoroughly enjoyed this and really learned so much. Look out for our video on Facebook where you will see us sing some songs in German.

This Easter we decided paint our own eggs. We punched a little hole at either ends of the egg, blew out contents and painted. This was so much fun.

Finally next month we have will begin STOP-MOTION which is super fun. We will take photos of scenes made of Lego and make a little movie- Checkout our webpage next month to see more.



Ms Buckley

Fifth Class

We had a jam-packed Term Two in 5th class!

During the month of January, we participated in the Scríobh Leabhar project, a volleyball tournament with Mercy Mounthawk students, debating, a Cyber Safe Kids Talk, weaving, Grandparents' Day and hurling coaching with Morgan Madden.

February saw the pupils enter the An Post handwriting competition, experience a lovely Sound Bath as part of the Creative Schools' Programme and pupils engaged in a S.T.E.A.M project whereby they explored electric circuits and designed and made their very own lighthouses! Pupils learned about The Burren and sashayed down the catwalk in a Seó Faisin!

Some of our experiences in March included Peil trí Ghaeilge le Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí agus Diarmuid O' Connor. We had four drama lessons with Mary Quirke. On March 10th- Pupils from 3rd to 6th classes attended a Science Show at

M.T.U. We are working through the Weaving Well-Being programme in S.P.H.E. In English our writing genre was Explanation. Pupils created viewfinders in art and drew the school before the new extension will be built. They also created clay coiled flower bowls. We conducted an experiment to test whether certain household items were acids/bases/neutral using red cabbage water. We also delved into the topic of Explorers in History. We had P.E lessons with students from M.T.U also.

Chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a ceiliúradh I mbliana, rinne rang a cúig na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas; Cluiche- Tomhais cé atá ann? Ealaín sráide, drámaíocht bunaithe ar scéal faoi Leipreachán. I ngrúpaí, rinne na páistí íomhánna reoite ó tús, lár agus deireadh an scéil. Peil trí Ghaeilge, Lá Glas, tionól sa halla- chan siad 'Ag bléan na bó', d'fhéach siad ar an scannán 'An Cailín Ciúin' le grán rósta. Ghlac na daltaí páirt i gComórtas An Cic Fada-bhuaigh Shane le 33 méadar. Maith thú! Seachtain iontach a bhí againn!!!!

As I begin my Maternity Leave, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the class for being so well-behaved, enthusiastic and hardworking and wish ye all the best in Term 3! Keep the momentum going!

Thanks also to the parents for your co-operation throughout the year.

Mrs. Corridan

Sixth Class

We're after an extremely busy term in 6th class since returning after Christmas! Time has flown by as the Class of 2023 enter into their final term in O'Brennan!

A highlight of the year so far has been the Junior Entrepreneur Project. We began working on business ideas in groups in January and on the 10th of February we pitched the ideas to Mrs White, Caroline and Ms Slattery! The Dragon's Den was a huge success and the winning project

idea was a Cool Caps! Since then we have completed a market research survey, researched lots of different products and prices and gathered orders. We're currently waiting on our deliver to arrive and caps and patches will be distributed after Easter! Thank you to everyone who has ordered a cap!

We have also been busy preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation which the boys and girls will receive on the 26th April. We've been learning about the Pentecost, the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit as well as completing a project on our saints' names and some artwork. We're all looking forward to this special day. Thank you to Fr Walsh for his assistance so far.

There's been lots of sport taking place too! In January we went to Mounthawk to participate in a primary schools volleyball blitz. In February we were back in Mounthawk again – this time for a basketball blitz. The boys team competed in the FAI 7 a side soccer tournament in Tralee while the girls are currently preparing for their competition after Easter. The school teams also participated in the mini sevens competition in Cordal a couple of weeks ago with the boys unlucky to lose out in the final. It's been all go with lots more sports to look forward to! Some other activities we've been enjoying this term have been activities for Seachtain na Gaeilge, German classes, drama with Mary from Qwerkreation as part of the Creative Schools Project, Sound Baths with Linsay and PE with students from MTU. The German lessons have been great fun every Tuesday morning while we've recently completed a video on Climate Change as part of our drama!

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents for their support with school work, homework and all the extra activities this term! Enjoy the Easter holidays before returning for our final term in O'Brennan NS!

Ms. Barry

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- ✚ Easter Holidays 31st March – school closes at 12pm for all children.
- ✚ School **closed** Monday 3rd of April to Friday 14th of April inclusive. School shall re-open on Monday 17th of April at 9.00am.
- ✚ Confirmation – Wednesday 26th April @3.30pm in Clogher Church
- ✚ First Holy Communion – Saturday 13th May in Clogher Church
- ✚ June Bank Holiday – school **closed** Friday 2nd June and Monday 5th June.



Active School Update

Well done to the boys and girls football teams who competed in the Mini 7's tournament and to our boys team who took part in the FAI 5-a-side tournament. The girls will be competing on the 20th of April. We are currently busy organising our Active School week which will take place from the 2nd to the 5th of May.



Green School Update

Our Green School Committee was very busy this term. We have been working on our 5th flag for biodiversity. We planted different flowers and vegetables in our grow boxes at the front of the school. Annette Dalton visited the green school

committee to give us a talk on biodiversity and investigate what trees and plants would be suitable to grow in our environment. All classes planted seeds in their classrooms. Green schools Ireland visited us last month and were very impressed and awarded us our **5th Green flag for biodiversity**. Thanks for all your hard work green school committee.



Student Council

A huge thank you and well done to all who supported, participated, bought, helped out and contributed to our bake sale. The Student Council organised a bake sale in aid of buying a Defibrillator for our school. They raised an astounding amount of money for a worthy cause - **over 1,300 euro**. I think it is fair to say we have a lot of talented bakers here in O Brennan NS. Check out some of our amazing cakes for yourself on our school Facebook page or website. Thanks to Ms Barry and Ms Carroll for organising a great day.

"Say Yes to Languages"

Pupils from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Class participated in the 8 week "Say Yes to Languages" Primary Sampler Module. The module ran from January to March. Pupils were introduced to the German language through songs, games and powerpoints. They practised their German via

roleplays, group and pairwork. A wide variety of worksheets were also used to enhance their German learning experience. Certificates were presented at the end of the module. The pupils were very enthusiastic and a credit to their parents and teachers. Well done all. Danke Lehrer Devane!



March 2023