



O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

April/May/June 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Holidays! What a year it has been here at O'Brennan National School.

We have achieved so much this year, achieving our 5th Green Flag, a merit for our JEP project and we were awarded Gold in the Curious Minds award just to name a few.

Congratulations to Mr. Pat O'Connor who has become a permanent member of our teaching staff.

We wish Mr O'Neill all the very best for the coming year as he heads off on Career break for the academic year 2022/2023. Mr Sheehy and Sarah will continue with their Career breaks for the coming year also. Congratulations to Mrs Corridan on the birth of Baby Éabha, Ms Geraghty on the birth of Baby Oisín and Tracy on the birth of Baby Cróia. Thanks to Ms O'Sullivan, Ms Curtin, Aimee, Anne and Melinda who are finishing up with us today. Wishing you all the best for the future.

In September 2023 we will have 8 mainstream classes with 4 S.E.T. (Special Education Teacher) teachers, a Special class teacher and an EAL Teacher and 8 SNA's allocated for the academic year.

These are as follows:

- o Junior Infants – Mrs Jennifer O'Donnell
- o Senior Infants – Ms Mary Slattery / Ms Aoife O'Sullivan (Covering my maternity leave)
- o 1st Class – Ms. Niamh O' Leary
- o 2nd Class – Ms Méabh Barry
- o 3rd Class – Ms Kelly Carroll
- o 4th Class – Ms. Brosnan/ Mrs Costello
- o 5th Class – Mr Pat O'Connor
- o 6th Class – Ms Nora Buckley
- o ASD class teacher - TBA
- o EAL teacher – Mr Aidan Breen
- o S.E.T – Ms Michelle Broderick
- o S.E.T – Mrs Breda Horgan

- o S.E.T – Mr Micheál Mangan
- o S.E.T – Ms Caoimhe Geraghty
- o SNA – Regina/ Mariola – Job share for the academic year 2023/2024
- o SNA – Eileen
- o SNA – Ann Marie
- o SNA – Margaret
- o SNA – TBA – covering Sarah's Career Break for the academic year 2023/2024
- o SNA – Tracey
- o SNA (part time) – Noel Crowley
- o SNA (part time) - TBA

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful secretary Caroline for doing such a fantastic job in the office.

On behalf of the BOM of O'Brennan National School, I wish to extend thanks and gratitude to our fantastic teaching staff. Each teacher consistently shows dedication, commitment and great interest in all our pupils and their families. They go above and beyond at all times and I wish each of them a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

On Tuesday we were very excited to see our Modulacc unit arriving. This will be our ASD classroom for the coming year. Thank you for your patience with the road closure on Tuesday and disruption around school at the moment.

We have also submitted our plans for our extension which will consist of 2 ASD classes with enclosed soft play areas, a central space and a sensory room for all children in the school, kitchen and more parking spaces. We will keep you posted on any updates.

Night at the Dogs - We had a fantastic celebration here on 16th June with our Night at the Dogs. It was a great evening of celebration. All proceeds will go towards our new extension, updating furniture in all classes and furnishing the classroom for our eighth mainstream classroom teacher – the first time we have had eight single classes in the history of the school! Thanks to everyone who supported and attended on the

night, we are most grateful for your continued support throughout the year and always! We are delighted to announce we raised €25,000.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish pupils, parents, staff and wider school community a pleasant and restful summer break! We look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday August 30th @9am.

Le gach dea-guí,
Michelle White

Arabella

We have had an incredible year with our pupils in the Arabella Room. They have made Ms. O Sullivan, Aimee, Tracey, Mariola and Melinda so proud of everything they have achieved. All the children have worked so hard this year. They have become good friends and have enjoyed playing together. They have made great progress in following their schedules and following the rules of the classroom. The children have been working so well at their independent tables and have really improved their fine motor skills. Some of our pupils have been integrating in to Ms. Carroll's Junior Infant room. All the children have improved their verbal language skills and are using words, phrases and sentences to communicate. Some of our pupils continued to improve their typing skills and their maths skills. We went on our school tour to Crag Cave. Even though it was dark, we really enjoyed exploring the cave. We loved playing in the play centre. We were able to do lots of climbing and go really fast down the slides. It was so much fun!

We really enjoyed Active Schools Week! It was so much fun taking part in activities like dance. Some of our pupils enjoyed taking part in dance for another couple of weeks.

We recently started Horse Riding with Clippity Clop Therapeutic Riding. Some of our pupils completed five lessons with our instructor Orla. We met the horses Jingles and Peter. We enjoyed playing with sand, water and toys alongside the horses. We got to brush and comb the horses. We also got to ride Jingles and Peter. It was scary at first but after a while it was so much fun! Garda

Trish was so kind and came to collect us in the Community bus for our last lesson. We went to Burger King for a special treat.

Some of our students joined Junior Infants for a visit from Garda Cathy and Rachel. We got to try on the Garda hat and hand cuffs. It was so cool! We also had a visit from the Paramedic Brenda White and she took us on a tour of her ambulance. Martin Schaerer came to visit and gave us a drumming workshop with the rest of the Junior Infants. It was so much fun!

In our classroom, we learned all about the Jungle animals and the Zoo. We learned about Summer and the beach. We read stories about 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'Dear Zoo' and 'The Little Red Hen'. We did painting, gluing with crepe paper and colouring. We learned all about our emotions when doing the zones of regulation and created paper plate faces for the green, blue, yellow and red zones.

We would like to say a big thank you to Ms Carroll for being so kind and always welcoming us into her Junior Infant classroom this year. We had so much fun!

Also, a big thank you to all our wonderful parents for your support this year and for working together to make this a very special year for your child.

We are so proud of all our students for settling in so well to O' Brennan National School!

Wishing you and your families a wonderful, happy and safe Summer!

Ms. O Sullivan, Aimee and Melinda

Junior Infants

Junior Infants had a very busy last term in school. We are so excited about going into Senior Infants!

In Aistear, we looked at the Emergency Services and were very lucky to have a visit from a Paramedic and a Guard.

With the sunny weather we got outside for lots of outdoor activities such as chalk, water play and bubbles.

The Juniors had great fun on their school tour in Sandy Feet Farm. We took part in lots of fun games and fed some farm animals. We even got to feed the alpacas!

We had lots of birthdays this term. Alina and Saoirse had their birthdays in May. Sophie H and Conor had their birthdays in June. We want to wish Dan and Daisy a very Happy Birthday for August.

When Junior Infants were asked what was the best thing about Junior Infants they said lego, learning new things, school tours, making new friends, Aistear, playing outside and painting. Have a lovely Summer everyone and all the best in Senior Infants!!!

Ms. Carroll

Senior Infants

As we know summer is a very busy time for the honey bee, however he isn't the only one! To say Senior Infants has been a hive of activity is an understatement. We learned about the honey bee for World Bee day and created some honeycombs in Art. In Aistear, we have had a very busy few months learning all about Sea Life, Birthday parties and Camping! We set up our tents in the back yard complete with sleeping bags, fire pit and bar-be-que. We toasted some marshmallows on the fire pit and made some delicious smores, they were a very tasty dessert to our barbequed sausages. A big Thank you to Scout leader Anne for all her help on the day. It was fantastic to have an expert in the field help us and answer all our questions. We headed off to Crag Caves in Castleisland for our school tour and had a great day both exploring the cave itself and playing in the indoor play area. The nice spell of sunny weather has meant plenty of outdoor picnics and ice cream treats galore! The Night at the Dogs in Tralee was very enjoyable, both staff and pupils enjoying a great atmosphere, bouncy castles, face painting and even racing on the track. Along with Junior Infants and the Arabella room we welcomed a

paramedic and a community guard, we learned all about the work they carry out in our local community. We had great fun attending a Lego Brixx club building planes and some very tall towers! We had a very energetic start on Wednesday mornings where we took part in a dance workshop with Aileen.

It has been a pleasure teaching Senior Infants this year. They are wonderful children and I am very proud of them and hope they are proud of themselves also. Many thanks to all the parents and guardians for all your support during the year. I wish you all a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing everyone in September.



Ms Slattery

First Class

It's that time of year where we have been learning about summer, the beach, travel and holidays. We learned all about sea creatures in science, read poems 'Sandy Beaches' and 'Summer Holidays' in English and listened to stories 'Grandad's Island' and 'How to catch a Mermaid'. The children have been learning lots of Irish words and phrases about 'Ar an Trá', 'An Linn Snámha' and 'Ar Saoire'. In geography we learned about native wild flowers and we went on a wild flower hunt in the beautiful sunshine. In science we learned all about sea creatures, the water cycle and finished off with an experiment on floating and sinking. First class did a super job in art by painting a beach scene and making crabs. They also made some impressive 3D hot air balloons from paper craft. Our class are lovely

singers and can be heard singing our songs 'Here Comes the Sun' and 'The Yellow Submarine'.

We have some very promising writers who have been busy writing letters, postcards and emails. Our favourite was writing a letter from Goldilocks to say 'sorry' to the three bears.

Staying healthy and learning about how we all grow and change was another learning topic. We learned about eating healthy, getting enough sleep and exercise and looking after our teeth. First class did an experiment to see what liquids would cause our teeth to decay. We investigated using eggshells, juice, cola, water and vinegar. Our experiment showed that the cola caused the eggshell to decay the most and water caused no decay at all.

The highlight of our last term was our school tour to Dingle. We took part in a butterfly workshop and got a tour of the aquarium where we learned about penguins, whales, crabs, otters and lots more. Our tour finished with a trip to the playground.

We have had a super fun filled and busy year. We hope everyone has a great break over the summer. Slán libh!

Ms. Broderick

Second/Third Class

What a quick run in to the end of the school year it has been. So much has happened in 2nd and 3rd this final term!!

After a relaxing Easter break we quickly resumed preparation for our first holy communion. The church looked fabulous on the day with the children's art and everyone enjoyed a bright, sunny Saturday on May 13th. The communicants also had a lovely morning mass for the May flower procession the following day.

May also brought lovely weather for active school's week which enabled us do a lot of our activities outside. We enjoyed GAA, Taekwondo, rugby and finished our week with a fun-filled day playing a blitz at the GAA field (followed by lovely ice-cream). We also began our dance sessions in June which was also a very enjoyable experience!

June also brought our school tours where our 2nd class enjoyed a great trip to Ballybunnion crazy golf and baking school. This was followed by a stop off visit at the historic Lartigue Monorail museum. A big thank you to Margaret for organising this lovely surprise on the day. 3rd class also had a super day out in Tralee with Mrs Buckley visiting the Aquadome, crazy golf and finished with a trip to the town park and playground.

Finally, I would like to wish the boys and girls a very enjoyable summer break and I look forward to seeing you all back refreshed for the new school year at the end of August.

Mr. O Connor

Third/Fourth Class



As our School Year comes an end, we in 3rd & 4th had a blast especially our last term. For our school tour we went to the Aqua dome. We really enjoyed the rapid river, the waves, the flume, crazy golf and especially our ice cream afterwards.

This term we focused on creating fun movies and we used Stop go Motion. We divided into groups and made an animation of the "Ballyseedy Massacre" short films. We created storyboards which taught us all about movement of characters, set pieces, camera angle and narration. The fun part was building the Lego sets and integrating sound effects and music.

We had so much sport and entertainment this term from dance, football, in school soccer

tournaments and active schools' weeks. If we had to pick one it was the night at the dog track! Well-done to all involved for all the fundraising efforts.

Have a safe and happy summer.

All the best Ranga 3 & 4.

Ms Buckley

Fifth Class

As another school year comes to a close, we look back on a Term 3 which was chock-a-block with sports related activities! Active Week was very enjoyable with Dance, Soccer, Football, Hurling, Basketball, Rugby and Taekwon-Do; many thanks to Aileen, Mr Mangan, Tom, Morgan, Ballymac Bobcats, Brian and Barry respectively for all their hard work and Mr O'Neill for coordinating such a fun week! In addition, we had our own 5th class basketball blitz which was super competitive and learnt about Water Safety coming up to the Summer Holidays.

We relished the opportunity to explore the Arts! We visited Presentation Secondary School to see a special performance of *Best of Broadway*, which we thoroughly enjoyed. I ngrúpaí, rinne na páistí drámaíocht bunaithe ar scéal faoi cheolchoirm. We explored the works of artist Chris Haughton and created our own paintings inspired by his artwork. We took part in a drumming workshop with Martin Schaerer of Percussion Workshop Dingle. We were lucky enough to have the talented Aileen Murphy for five weeks of Dance lessons during which we learned three full dances and were given the skills to make up our own dance in groups of six!

We did an in-depth study of India and presented our projects in class. We studied the geography of Kerry and explored the history of the Rose of Tralee Festival in local studies. We had a visit from the wonderful Gosia who showed us various types of rocks, minerals and fossils that can be found in our local area. We also made crystals out of epsom salts as a part of a fun science experiment!

As a part of looking towards the future, we were invited to visit Presentation Secondary School where we took part in art, home economics, graphics, coding and PE lessons. We also visited Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí where some of us took part in home economics, woodwork, science and PE lessons and some of us played in a primary school football blitz (peil trí Ghaeilge).

Another highlight of Term 3 was our school tour to Killarney Sports and Leisure Complex. We played dodgeball, basketball and soccer. We had a disco and obstacle course in bouncy castles, ate lots of ice-cream and went swimming too! Well done on all your hard work this year Fifth Class, you have been a pleasure to teach and we have had lots of fun times together! Wishing you all a wonderful summer break! Thanks also to your wonderful parents for their co-operation throughout the year.

Ms Curtin, Noel and Anne.

Sixth Class

What an incredible final term it has been in 6th class. It has been filled with trips, events, sport and lots of memories that the boys and girls will have for years to come. We've had lots of fun and these last two months have been a fitting end to life in O'Brennan!

After Easter, we started selling 'Cool Caps' as part of the Junior Entrepreneur Project. The class worked so hard - researching the caps and patches, marketing, selling, organising finances, glueing the patches and finalising orders. We have just been notified in the past few days that 'Cool Caps' was among the top 25% of projects JEP received and has been awarded Merits in each of the following categories: Marketing Gurus, Finance Wizards, Star Submission and Creative Pioneers. We would like to say a massive thank you to all who supported the project.

One of the highlights of this term (and the year) was the Sacrament of Confirmation which the boys and girls received on the 26th April. We

spent time learning about the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit as well as completing a project on each of our saints' names. Thank you to Fr Walsh for such a lovely ceremony!

There has been lots of sport this term too. The boys and girls teams competed in the Mounthawk basketball blitz in the A competition. Both teams performed very well with the girls reaching the semi-final and the boys making the final and losing by the smallest of margins. The girls also played 2 football games in the Cumman na mBunscol competition while Rory, Donnchadh, Patrick, Aoibhín, Alice and Hannah represented the school at the skills competitions! We also enjoyed Active Schools Week, the Tri Heros duathlon sessions with Niamh O'Connor and football with Tom Joy, In the past few weeks, we've been extremely lucky to have had two trips to Dublin! On the 30th May we were invited up to the Aviva Stadium to participate in the Aldi Tag Rugby Festival. Here the boys and girls got to meet Irish International Rugby players and former player Paul O'Connell, play tag rugby games in the Aviva, get a tour of the dressing rooms and see the Six Nation and Triple Crown trophies. It was an incredible experience that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

On the 8th June we travelled to Dublin again! We had an early start once more, leaving by train and arriving at Heuston Station. We got the Luas to Connolly Station and we walked up to Croke park for a tour of the stadium and the museum. We then visited the Wax Museum before heading back home on the train.

Other activities we enjoyed this term include a drumming workshop with Martin Schaerer, baking, a Transition to secondary school programme with the KDYS, paired reading with the Junior Infants and the Night at the Dogs. Finally, on Tuesday 20th we celebrated the end of the boys and girls 8 years in O'Brennan at the 6th Class Graduation Ceremony. Thank you to Fr Walsh for celebrating the occasion with us and to all the parents and family members who

joined on the day. It was a fabulous end to the boys and girls time in O'Brennan.

As we finish off the school year and head into the holidays, we say goodbye to 32 wonderful students in sixth class. I wish the class of 2023 all the best as they begin their secondary school adventure. A big thank you to all the parents for their support with school work, homework and all the extra events, trips and activities this term! Enjoy the summer holidays and the very best of luck in the future!

Ms. Barry

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- 🚩 School re-opens for all children (Senior Infants – 6th Class) on Wednesday 30th August at 9.00am.
- 🚩 Incoming Junior Infants shall commence school on Wednesday 30th August at 9.30am.
- 🚩 Our school calendar for 2022/2023 is now available on our school website www.obrennanns.ie

Night at the dogs fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who supported our 'Night at the dogs' fundraiser. A whopping €25000 was raised for our school.

Science Foundation Ireland



We are delighted to be awarded Gold in the Curious Minds Awards. All the pupils in the school were involved in earning this award. Well done!



Green School Update

The Green Schools committee were delighted to celebrate achieving our latest Green Flag for Biodiversity. Members of the committee travelled to Cork where they proudly accepted the flag for Biodiversity on behalf of our school. This is the culmination of two years work led by the Green Schools Committee, Ms Broderick, Ms Slattery and Ms Buckley. Well done to all! The flag will be displayed in front of the school in due course. We look forward to welcoming a new committee in September where the children and teachers will begin working on the next flag – Global citizenship Litter and Waste. Under this theme the committee will explore how Green- Schools has positively influenced our global community.



June 2023