



St. Brendans gone to the birds !

Mr Sam Rochford visited the school during October with his owls and birds of prey. The boys from SI / 1ST / 3RD AND 4TH got to see and rub an eagle owl , a barn owl and a tawny owl. He also had a Harris hawk and some ferrets in his pockets ! He chatted with the lads and they all learnt about these cool creatures. Thanks to Mick Hansbury and St Brendans game club for organising the visit.

School Poetry competition

Ms. Costigan has gone around to all classes 1st-6th doing some poetry lessons. We will have a poetry comp for each class in NOV with cool prizes , display on noticeboard , poems published in books and even in local paper! Genres—1st—sense poem, 2nd—Acrostic, 3rd—Rhyming couplet, 4th—Alliteration, 5th—Kennings, 6th—Haiki / Cinquins. Enjoy !!

Offaly schools Gaelic Football Champions : Congratulations to all the football panel under the management of Mr. Kennedy on the a great victory in winning

the schools football title. 2 in a row ! The team trained hard with a great team spirit and played with fairness ,honesty of effort and great skill in each game. They were unbeaten all year and defeated a good Dromakeenan team in the final by a score of 1-4 to 1-2 with Captain Sam Smith proudly lifting the cup.



Dates for your diary:

Casual day / no-uniform day FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER : Boys asked to bring € 2 each—This is to contribute to costs of planting trees in the school and for inscriptions at hurling wall. Mile buiochas :)

MID TERM School closes 2pm/3pm (as usual) Friday 23rd October
School reopens (as usual) Monday 2nd November

Halloween Disco organised by Parents Association
Wednesday 28th October 7-8.30pm : Marion Hall €5

School to organise a visit of a NUTRITIONAIST for boys / parents in November.— FREE

Irish Defence forces to deliver TRI-COLOUR to the school on Monday 16th November— More details to follow

Travelling theatre show-The Apprentice Sorcerer 1pm—cost €2

Parent Teacher meetings Wednesday 25th November 3-6pm
Thursday 26th November 3-6pm

Visit of BRILLIANT AUTHOR— Liam Farrell AKA “The big bad wolf” on Monday 14th December— FREE

Hullabaloo arts festival in Birr— Great events on for the boys during Halloween. Enjoy !

Pottery with Rachel O’Hara : We are delighted to have Rachel for pottery tuition with the boys from 2nd / 4th / 6th classes. He will do 5-6 weeks of brilliant hands on lessons with the boys where they get to create and take home some “Masterpieces” . Pottery will be on **Monday** . and we ask the boys to bring an old TSHIRT / SHIRT to wear so that our lovely uniforms don't get dirty.

Hurling Coaching : Coaching will continue in November with Colm for classes 1st—6th. Boys asked to bring gear on Wednesdays and we would LOVE to see the boys using the ball wall every day.

Fire safety at Halloween .3rd class got an information chat about bonfire and firework safety at Halloween. We ask all our boys to stay safe this HALLOWEEN

Maths Week 2015

We had a great week taking part with the national maths week 2015 campaign. Classes took a little more time to look at maths in a fun way. Mr. Cunningham also set the senior classes up for registration with the math online game programme MANGAHIGH. I hope your students enjoyed taking part in the Mangahigh Maths Week Challenge. The engagement generated has been exceptional, with over 22,000 students from 472 schools across Ireland answering over 7,500,000 maths questions!



The school came in 82nd place overall in Ireland. This was despite a lot of the computers in the computer room being slow / not working due to their age. The BOM / PA hope to target this area for support during this school year. Many thanks to Mr. Cunningham and the boys for the great effort and we hope you enjoyed the week. Prizes will be given out to the top 5 performers on Friday.

Green Schools Cycle safety: ALL boys to wear helmets (Jackets will be given out in November for dark mornings)

H.S.C.L Update: Hi all! It has been lovely settling back in and seeing faces old and new. I have enjoyed catching up with everyone and really look forward to visiting all our new Junior Infant parents over the next few weeks. Our 'Fantastic Fruit Mammies' are back in action. Every child in our school gets a piece of fruit everyday as part of our Healthy Eating endeavour! Our school lunches are also going down a treat and the feedback has been brilliant. Don't forget if you want to change your order just log onto carambola.ie. I will be looking for Volunteers for Science For Fun, Maths For Fun, Action Maths and Story Sacks after Midterm. Please try to get involved....It is an experience you will enjoy. Enjoy the break!! Richelle.

Shoebox Appeal: Thank you to all who are participating in the shoebox appeal. Our student council are fully embracing this project once again and ask that all completed shoeboxes are back in the school by the 3rd of November. We will be having a jersey day on the 6th of November to cover postage costs and any extra money will be used by Team hope to provide clean water for families of a selected country. **Rugby Coaching** ; We welcome Stephen Niland to the school and he has begun rugby coaching with 5th / 6th classes each Friday. This will hopefully extend to other classes as the year goes on. Boys are asked to bring in old runners / jumper etc as the pitch will get mucky after mid term.

October 2015 class activities

Junior Infants: In October Junior Infants explored the theme of Autumn. We printed very colourful trees and painted hedgehogs. We sang songs “Scarecrow Scarecrow” and “Big Red Combine Harvester”. Junior Infants also had their first outing to Birr Theatre which they really enjoyed

Senior Infants: Senior Infants have really enjoyed maths stations during the months of September & October. They loved moving to a new & different station every day. Their favourite part was playing maths games.

Rang 1: First Class were busy learning various facts about Autumn. We looked at the sycamore, oak and horse chestnut leaves. We listened to stories about squirrels and hedgehogs & we created owls for art. We were so lucky that we even had a visit from real owls, thanks to Sammy & Mick!

Rang 2: Second class have really enjoyed learning about and following the Rugby World Cup. We have looked at the different countries playing and we have a sweepstake running in our classroom so we're very excited to find out who is going to win the final! We had a lovely trip to the theatre for the Offline Festival to watch the hilarious Big Knights get up to many funny adventures. We all had different favourite stories and the trip was topped off by a visit to the school by Eibhin who helped us all make our own Big Knight character.

Rang 3: This term 3rd class studied the native trees of our school & of Camcor Park. They identified the leaves and fruit of trees such as Oak and Ash. They also discovered we have a very special tree in our school, a Walnut tree. As part of National Tree Week we planted an Alder tree along with Rowan, Oak, Maple/Sycamore trees with Paul Davy of Milltown Garden Centre, Shinrone. No study of native trees could be complete without a trip to Birr Castle to see some of the tallest trees in Europe and some unusual trees introduced to the class by Lord Ross. Biodiversity is the theme of the fifth green flag & St. Brendans & Birr is overflowing with it.

Rang 4: 4th class learned how to identify trees by their leaves & the fruit/seeds they produce. The class went to the castle and collected the leaves, seeds & carried out bark rubbings. The class learned how a plant makes its food and the function of chlorophyll during photosynthesis. The class explored the earth's role in relation to the sun in how a plant knows the different seasons in a calendar year.

Rang 5: During the month of October we learned about the events surrounding the Easter Rising in 1916 with Ms. Costigan. We explored this through Drama & Art. We also learned how to play “Mise Éire”, which was composed by Padraig Pearse, on the tin-whistle. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the tricolour to the school.

Rang 6: Ms. Grace: We learnt all about Europe & the European Union. We all completed a project on a different country in Europe & presented it to the class. We also completed a project on our favourite athlete for e.g. Joe Canning & designed a fitness regime & a healthy balanced food plan for our athletes.

Rang 6 ; Mr. Cunningham: We learnt about the ROCK CYCLE. This was where rocks come from and we found out about different types of rock like igneous and metamorphic rocks. This was cool science.

Ms. Kenny's Class have been learning Autumn songs and this week are getting into the spirit of Halloween making ghostly pancakes and painting pumpkin masks. **Hope you all have a happy and safe Halloween break.** Kind regards, Niall Crofton (Principal Teacher)