




St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

April 2016

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?		
Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.
If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6 th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 schooldays, and Student C will have read for 3.		
WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.		

Book Fair 2016

Thanks to all who came and looked at the book fair and bought books. The final total of books bought was € 809 . This meant that the school got 60% commission and so € 485 worth of books were got for the boys to read at school / class novel sets and to encourage some reluctant readers.

The picture above is a little reminder to all of us of the value of reading each day and of the overall benefits to their success in our education system.

Additional school closure day: There will be no school on Monday 16th May due to a staff planning day for the new Language Curriculum. This closure is under the direction of the Department of Education and Skills.

We had hoped to co - ordinate our closure with Mercy Primary School but this has not been possible due to the number of activities, tours etc. in both schools. There will be further closures next year and we will do our best to co - ordinate the dates.

Community games art and crafts

Thanks to all boys who took part. Birr GOLD medal winners were Luke Sheils , Darragh Tierney , Darragh McNamara, Alex Byrne . SILVER medal winners were Denis Konev, Brad McEvoy , Kealan Franks, Darragh Mooney, Joe Hutchinson, Ronan MacArthur, . BRONZE medal winners were Sam McAuley, James Carroll, Dinny Kelly, Reece Swanepoel, Ben O'Brien, Damien Delaney, Kristian Bodik. We were so proud to hear that 3 boys went on to win the OF-FALY championships in model making and go through to the ALL-IRELAND in August. Best luck to Luke Sheils, Darragh McNamara and Alex Byrne.

Assessment and reporting

Classes from 1st–6th are given the standardised English (MICRA-T) and standardised Math (SIGMA-T) tests during the month of May. These will be on either TUES/ WED / THURS so please get to bed early and to school on time in morning. Class end of year reports for all classes will be sent home with pupils during week Mon 13th June- Mon 20th June. Class teachers for academic year 16/17 and school calendar for the year will be included in the report. Just a date to note also for families planning their summer- Boys will return to school on WEDNESDAY 31st August 2016.

Dates for your diary;TERM 3

- Monday 2nd / Tuesday 3rd May—School closed (Calendar)
- Saturday 7th May -11am- First Holy Communion
- Monday 9th May- Student Council Toy / jumble sale
- Wednesday 18th May—New Junior Infants induction afternoon
- Saturday 21st May-11am—Confirmation
- County Photos—Thursday 26th May
- (2nd class to wear in their communion clothes as their photo will be taken at 9.30am and bring uniforms in bag to change into afterwards-parents can wait to assist if they wish)
- Monday 6th / Tuesday 7th June- School Closed (Calendar)
- Sports day— Friday 17th June
- Fred the magician—Tuesday 14th June—€ 2 pp
- Parents Association Cake Sale and draw- Thursday 23rd June
- End year mass- Thursday 23rd June @1pm-All classes go home at 2pm
- Last day term— Tuesday 28th June @ 12.30pm

Hurling

Hurling coaching with Eoin Pilkington is going very well and it is also great to see Junior Infants and Senior Infants playing on wednesdays . Lunchtime hurling for all boys continues each Tuesday.

Mr Kennedy has also set up a lunchtime hurling league for junior boys (1st—3rd) and is a great success on the top field.

The order for hurls and helmets under the Cumann na mBunscoil has been submitted. We will contact families who have placed orders in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to Mr.Kennedy and his hurlers on good championship displays so far this year. Team are playing with great skill and spirit with new players really coming to the fore. They have played challenge matches with Clareen and Ballacolla and championship wins over Carraig/Killeen and Dromakeenan with a narrow loss to Shinrone/ Clonlisk. Next match Thursday away to Banagher- Bus €5 please.

School Notices

- Staff car park is for STAFF ONLY . Please respect this.
- Please inform school of any changes to mobile numbers.
- Please check your sons hair for head lice as there have been recent few cases in the school.
- Please keep up the great effort with school uniforms and in "sunny weather" no jerseys allowed. Shorts are allowed when we get the summer heat-waves !
- Congratulations to Ms.Kenny on recent arrival of baby Rachel. All doing well !

Attendance Awards Each term as part of our efforts to get boys to attend school as much as possible we award certificates. For Term 2 of this school year (Xmas- Easter) a fantastic 34 boys had 100% attendance (16% of the school) and were presented their certificates at our assembly so well done to the boys and their families- They also got a homework pass ! Also 13 boys got attendance improvement certs for improvement shown this term.

Attendance teams are a school initiative written in our school attendance plan developed by our hardworking staff to encourage boys to attend school more regularly. The winning team for this term (Team 2) had average attendance of 53.1 days PRESENT out of 56 days. The boys earned the reward of a trip to TEARAWAYS and some nice lunch / snacks . Keep up the great work everyone.

Parents Association

We the parents association would like to thank all our models for doing such a brilliant job at our fashion show. It was a great night and a huge success, thank you all for your support.

Next month we are holding a clothing collection, special bags and leaflets listing the items that can be accepted will be given out next week.

We will also accept regular bin bags and feel free to donate as many bags as you like. Please spread the word as your friends, families and neighbours are welcome to use this service also. Extra bags will be available from the school.

Mr. Crofton has promised to issue homework passes to boys that bring in 2 full bags (on a one off basis).

You can drop off your bag of clothes to the school any day between Thursday May 26th to Wednesday June 1st.

We are also planning a sponsor walk/cycle for the boys at the end of May. Juniors to 2nd class will do a sponsored walk around Birr town and castle. 3rd to 6th class will do a sponsored cycle or walk in Lough Boora. Sponsorship cards will be going home next week and any boys that fills his cards and raises €20, will be entered into a draw to win **2 Tickets for All Ireland Hurling Final.**

All money raised from our fundraising events is going towards the boys computer room in the school. We would hope to have new computers installed over the summer holidays and ready for use in September. So please continue to support so this can happen.

Our next meeting is on May 11th at 8pm, new members always welcome.

Class activities in April 2016

Junior Infants: For the month of April we have been exploring the theme of food. We learned “The Food Song”. Sa ghaeilge bhíomar ag staidéar an teanna “Ag Siopadoireacht”. We also played kitchen & had fun cooking meals for teacher and other boys in the class.

Senior Infants: Senior infants have enjoyed learning about Spring after Easter. We learned that baby animals are born in Spring and that flowers begin to grow. We also enjoyed ‘Buddy Reading’ with 5th class on the last day of the Book Fair – We love reading!!

First Class: First class really enjoyed baking with Gráinne. They made some delicious cornflake cookies & pancakes. They also decorated some gingerbread men.

Second Class: Second class are very excited about their First Communion on the 7th May. The boys are working very hard on their songs and prayers it will be a lovely ceremony and day. We know our boys will do us proud.

Third Class: 3rd class enjoyed some science experiments in the garden in April. While there we discovered some frog spawn. The children were very excited to see this. The Green School Committee are now going to visually record its growth and development as part of our biodiversity plan.

Forth Class: The Student Council are running their Annual Jumble/Fair day on the 9th of May. It is a really fun day that all children in the school really enjoy. There will be lots of fun to be had whether playing games or buying toys, books, etc. If you have any old toys, books, etc. please send them into the school, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank You.

Fifth Class: This month we were treated to a visit from some of the Edmund Rice Presentation Brothers. We are looking forward to meeting up with some other Presentation Brothers schools in June. We also participated in the ‘Write a Book’ competition and we are eagerly awaiting the results!

Sixth Class- Mr. Cunningham: 6th class participated in a Health & Safety workshop organised by Junior Achievement Ireland. The boys really enjoyed the interactive presentations by ESB, Bus Éireann, Civil Defence, Fire Brigade, IFA, The Water Council & Offaly County Council. We all learnt important safety rules.

Sixth Class-Ms. Grace: This month in Science we learnt about the bones of the human body, what the inside of a bone is made up of & how a bone repairs itself when broken.

Mr. Carroll: Mr. Carroll’s boys continue to enjoy cooking each Thursday with Ms. Kirwan. The boys buy the ingredients, prepare and cook their food. We also made all different types of healthy fruit smoothies. The colours and flavours were amazing!

Ms. Egan: Ms. Egan’s class participated in their first whole school assembly and both boys received certificates. They had a lovely time picking some lovely books at the book fair.

Kind regards, Niall Crofton, Principal.