

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

Summer 2016



School tours

We hope all boys had opportunity to go and enjoy a school tour this year. Thank you to parents for supporting these excursions which are an important part of the school year. Pictured are some mucky boys from 6th in Lilliput.

6th Class Graduation

We say farewell to our 6th class this year and thank them for their hard work, great positive attitude to school, kindness, generosity and respect shown to all. We will have a graduation ceremony on FRIDAY in the school hall with families and friends attending as each boy presented his HERO PROJECT and speak to the crowd for 1 minute about his hero and how he has been inspired by them. Boys go home at 2pm this day for preparation. A great way to finish a great 8 years. Best wishes boys!

School end of year reports

Reports have been given to all boys to take home. Boys who are absent / holidays will be posted home. If for some reason, you did not get a report home, please contact the school to arrange for a copy to be sent. Also included in the report was the school calendar for next year and the class teachers for September 2016. School will reopen on Wednesday 31st August.

Important dates

School close for summer holidays—TUESDAY 28th June at 12.30pm
School reopens : Wednesday 31st August 2016 at 9.20am

Finally well done to 6th class on a great display of soccer skills to draw 2-2 with the staff team captained by Mr Niall Kelly. The 6th class team then had a lucky win on penalties! Many thanks to Tom Shalloe for coming in to referee the game for us again this year.

End of year awards and medals for competitions

The Brother Finian Cup for the 6th class long race was won by Darragh Morris

The McManus Cup (Special Achievement Award) was won by Kuba Nowicki

The Derek Maher Trophy (Student of the year) was won by Paul Heather

The Aidan Rosney Cup (Snr Hurler of the year) was won Lochlann Quinn

The Kenneth Fox cup (Winning Capt of Senior Hurling league) was won by Sam Smith.

The St.Brendans Cup (Winning Capt.Of Junior Hurling League) was won by Brad MCEvoy.

The Junior Hurler of the year went to Brad McEvoy.

The Johnny Cleary Cup(Most Improved Hurler) was won by Jack Mooney (6th).

Board of Management

The BOM wishes to express its thanks to the temp. staff we have had in school this year. We have been fortunate to have had Ms. Pilkington all year. We are delighted that she will be back with us again next year. Ms Egan was with us covering ASD maternity and she will be leaving this June to take up a position overseas. We thank her and wish her well. Thanks also to the many subs we have had with us during the year with special mention to Ms.O'Connor who has been covering since April.

The board would also like to thank Mr Eoin Pilkington for his contribution to the school during his 6 month co-op from college and Mr Shane Rigney for his recent weeks work experience. Both are past pupils who are passionate about the school, sport and Birr in general and we wish them well on the next step of their careers. Finally congratulations to Mr Kennedy on recent birth of baby daughter Lilly Rose.

School Completion Programme

It has been a busy year for the School Completion Programme. We are delighted to announce the arrival of our Project Worker Sam and her husband Declan's son Tommy. Big congratulations to them both.

Throughout the year both Sam and Mairead facilitated individual and group sessions with boys in St. Brendan's Boys' School. While some of programmes ran for eight weeks, junior infants enjoyed weekly socialisation sessions throughout the year.

These programmes included fun activities and games to encourage the development of good chatting, listening, turn taking and play skills.

As part of preparing sixth class boys transferring to secondary school, a get-together with the 6th class girls from Mercy Primary was organised in the Spot Youth Café.

The pupils enjoyed fun activities that encouraged team building.

The School Completion Programme joined up with Meadhbh from West Offaly Development Company to facilitate programmes to support the transition of the sixth class boys to secondary school. During the first term, six of the sixth class boys

were matched up with six transition year students from St. Brendan's Community School. They met each week for eight weeks in Birr Library. Together they carried out a project which was presented on the last session. Some of the projects included:

A film about Mrs Brown showing Buster how to use the Library, research on Man United and Pompeii, a model of a volcano and creation a computer game. In term

two, Ms Grace's class participated in the Copping on Programme; this is a crime prevention and awareness programme. All sixth class boys enjoyed a discussion with local garda Grace Heffernan on crime prevention, the justice system and social

behaviour. During the third term four sixth class boys joined us in the library for a gardening project. These boys are now looking forward to eating their own potatoes in August.

A weekly afterschool club for boys from 1st to 5th class was held each Thursday from 3.15 to 4.30 in Scurragh Community Centre. This fun activity group supported social and personal development of its participants from St. Brendan's and Mercy Primary school. Although not a homework club, children who wanted to do their

homework during this time were facilitated to do so. Any parent who is interested in enrolling their son in this club can contact Mairead on 0879871652.

We are now preparing for our Summer Programme. Participants from our after-school group will enjoy a visit to the castle, library and some swimming sessions.

The older children will be given an opportunity to have a fun day in Birr Outdoor Education Centre.

The School Completion Programme would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the staff in St. Brendan's boy's school for all their support throughout the year. Special thanks are extended to School Principal Mr Niall Crofton and HSCL Ms Richelle Treacy for all their encouragement and help. Also our gratitude to Meadhbh Gordan from West Offaly Development Company for co-facilitating

with us on our 6th class programmes.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe summer break,

Mairead Keevey (SCP Co-ordinator)

The Summer Reading Adventure is running in your local library this summer. Offaly County Library Service will run the *Summer Stars Reading Programme* for children in all library branches during the summer holidays from July to the end of August. The *Summer Stars* programme is a free programme and we would be delighted to welcome all children and their families to join in. We are very happy to work with teachers and families to encourage children to continue reading and writing and to participate in our range of storytelling and other fun activities during the summer months.

Each child who registers for *Summer Stars* at their local library joins in the fun of reading lots of exciting books during their summer holidays. They will receive their own *Summer Stars Reading Card* to record their progress along the way and a library reward stamp will be added to their reading card at the library after each book read. Children will be encouraged to continue reading throughout the programme. Fun rewards will be provided along the way. At the end of the challenge, all children who participate will be presented with an award certificate.

Children and families will also have access to fun reading activities on the *Summer Stars* webpages at www.librariesireland.ie/summer-stars/. The resource includes lots of fun activities, games, talking ebooks, stories, reading tips, book suggestions and funny interviews with children's authors and other celebrities. Events for children will also be held in libraries during the summer. Further information is available from www.offaly.ie/libraries or on www.librariesireland.ie.

Mile Buiochas

Sincere thanks to all who helped out in our school over the past year, especially to our Board of Management under Chairperson Mr Pat Teehan, our talented and enthusiastic teaching staff, our kind and wonderful SNA's, our Chaplin Fr.Reddin and our Parents Association under Mrs.Caroline Boyd.

Also thanks to Mairead and Sam from our School Completion Programme, the volunteers from Home-school who come in for fruit scheme and math/reading/ Science programmes. Thanks to our secretary Rachel Keogh, our Caretaker Mick Hansbury for all their work during the year and also to our cleaning staff, Ruth and Claire for keeping our school looking so well. Special word of thanks from all involved in St. Brendans PS to Ms.Richelle Treacy for all her work over the past year in her new role as Home-School-Community-Liaison teacher. For more information and photos check LATEST NEWS on our school website www.stbrendansps.ie

Finally a literacy CHALLENGE for you all.

" Dear Brendan" Write or Send us a Letter / postcard telling us about what you do this summer from Kerry to Disneyland-Athlone to Poland, Lough Boora to Lough Derg..Birr swimming pool, Hurling blitzes, soccer camps, sleepovers with friends .. the list goes on..Address : St. Brendans PS ,Moorpark st, Birr.
This is a summer HOLIDAY activity and must be completed and in our postbox before Wednesday 31st August. Would be great writing and reading activity and we will display in September.

Have a lovely summer and best wishes,