

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

April—May 2017



Car safety— The boys pictured in Junior Infants know that cars can be great fun. They also know that only staff cars / taxi are allowed in staff car park :) The boys travelled to Kilbeggan—Big town Little town for an Aistear experience and all had great fun!

Music Day 2017—The boys had a really cool and relaxed music day where all boys got the opportunity to sing / perform either on the own or with their classmates. The elements of enjoyment , listening and appreciation , and performance were to the fore especially on our cool stage. Well done to all !!

Dates for your diary:

Fri 26th May 1pm	New Junior Infant Induction
Sat 27th May 11am	Confirmation—
Wed 31st May	County Photos
Fri 9th June	CPR training for 6th class +their parents
Wed 14th June	National Lunchtime cycle—5th / 6th
Fri 16th June	Sports day
Fri 23rd June	End year Mass 1pm /PA cake sale/ Home 2pm
Tues 27th June	6th Graduation—Hero presentation
Wed 28th	Fred"The Magic man" Corvenio €2
Last day term—	Friday 30th June @ 12.30pm
3rd July	July Provision begins (ASD class)
Thursday 31 August	1st day of new school year (17/18)

Standardised Testing—Changes

During the month of May Standardised Testing in English and Maths will take place. This year we are using the Drumcondra testing procedures replacing the M.I.C.R.A. and S.I.G.M.A. tests. The Drumcondra tests will provide a more detailed analysis of the pupils abilities in Literacy and Numeracy. Research has shown that scores tend to stay the same or drop when changing testing procedures. Scores will be reported for 2nd, 4th and 6th classes in accordance with D.E.S. regulations.

Assessment and reporting

Classes from 1st—6th are given the standardised English and standardised Math tests during the month of May. Class end of year reports for all classes will be sent home with pupils during week beginning Mon 19th June. Class teachers for academic year 17/18 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 Thursday 31st August 2017.

PA Sponsored walk/ Cycle- 3 years going now and something the boys really loved taking part in. We took a crowd of 50 eager boys (4th-6th) and they split into bikers and walkers and took off for 2 hours of exploring and activity in the park. The bikers each covered an impressive 14 km. Thanks to Keith and Rose Harte for transport of bikes, bike hire at Lough Boora for very reasonable rate and for Andrew Walsh support with provision of bus. Our classes JI-3rd went to Birr Castle for their sponsored walk and each walked good distances with their teachers and PA representatives. All the boys who took part got crisps and drinks too. Thanks to the staff for ensuring all went well and to Birr Castle for allowing us great access. Special thanks to PA for organising the events which are such a vital fundraiser for school activities.

Green Schools: The Green School's Committee are proud to announce that our application for our Biodiversity Flag was successful. This is a great achievement and we are so grateful for all the work the staff and pupils have put in. A small group of us have been invited to attend the awards ceremony in Athlone on 24th May. We are really looking forward to it. Keep an eye out for photographs of us! We will also hold a flag raising ceremony in school to acknowledge the work and effort that went into applying for our flag. We have really enjoyed working on the theme of Biodiversity.

Parents Asso-

ciation: The parents association are running a clothing collection in conjunction with Bag 2 School Ireland. They will collect any unwanted good quality adult and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys. Bags will be sent home early next week with the boys, extra bags are available from the school or you can use any type of plastic bag. Feel free to let your friends and neighbours know. Mr. Crofton has promised to give 1 homework pass for every 2 full bags brought in by the boys. Please return the bags to the school before Wednesday June 7th. All monies raised are used to fund activities for the boys. Thank you for your support.

Green Schools update

National WOW day—walk / cycle Wednesday 17th May

We will have a SCOOTER / BIKE AREA set up at breaktime (Weather Permit)

School Notes

Music Generation hope to hold their 2nd summer camp at the school for primary school boys and girls- Dates are Mon 3rd—Fri 7th July. Booking forms will follow shortly from Ailbhe (Young Voices Choir in Birr)

Thank you to families for support of Celtic Book fair last week—The total spent was €677.90. This allowed commission of 60% to be spent by class teachers on novels and book sets for the classes—Mile Buiochas

Excellent cyber-bullying / internet safety talk took place last Wednesday night at the school. It was very well attended with boys and girls from 5th classes and their parents attending along with other parents. We would ask parents to embrace technology for their family but remind the boys of responsibilities that come with this.

PA have decided that Tina Claffey can take group photo of 6th confirmation boys on the altar. Anyone wishing to purchase this can go through Tina. Group will still be taken of JI /2nd / 6th by county photos in school. (See date below)

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Uibh Fháilí Skills Competition.

Over 120 of the best hurlers, camogie players and footballers from the different primary schools in Offaly turned out last week to take part in the annual Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Uibh Fháilí Skills Competition. The skills competition which is run by Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Uibh Fháilí is used assess and select children to represent Offaly at the INTO Allianz Cumann na mBunscol half time exhibition games which take place during half time interval at the All Ireland Semi Finals and All Ireland Final in Croke Park.

Ben Miller represented our school this year and came an amazing 2nd place in Offaly. Congratulations to Ben , Mr Kennedy , the hurling panel and the school community are very proud of his achievement.



Class activities in April / May 2017

Junior Infants: In the past few weeks Junior Infants have been doing great work with Ms.Daly. We have had two excursions – one on our castle walk and the other one to "Big Town Little Town" in Kilbeggan. The boys got to dress up, play in various play areas e.g. Pirate ship, castle, police station, rocket etc. We also got to go on the bus. It was a super day enjoyed by all.

Senior Infants: Senior Infants enjoyed all our Easter activities. We did Easter art, songs, stories and an Easter egg hunt in the secret garden. It was really fun! We also enjoyed browsing through the books at the book fair and reading them. We have super readers in our class.

First Class: 1st class were busy learning about animals and their young, animal habitats and the lifecycle of a butterfly. The boys enjoyed creating beautiful butterflies with a collage affect.

Second Class: Second class did the school and their parents' proud last Saturday at their First Communion. They sang beautifully with the fabulous accompaniment of Ms. Killeen. They all looked very smart and behaved impeccably. It was a fabulous occasion for all involved and a proud day for St. Brendan's. Well done boys!

Third Class: We are taking part in " Friends for Life " programme. This is an evidence-based anxiety prevention and resilience building programme delivered by NEPS psychologist in the class .The programme is designed to teach students the skills required to manage their thoughts, emotions and body responses to life stresses. The programme also seeks to develop self-esteem and teach coping skills in a simple and structured way. It is a positive, fun learning experience that does not require any clinical assessment or diagnosis and avoids labelling young people as anxious or different.

Fourth Class: Over the last few weeks the class have been very active between athletics, swimming, cycling and hurling. This has been balanced out with preforming for grandparents day, music day and Irish week.

Fifth Class: 5th class got to participate in an 8 week cycle safety training programme with the RSA which they really benefitted from and enjoyed. As part of engineers week they attended a talk by Sarah Delahunt from Offaly County Council in the library. They also constructed their own panpipes in preparation for Music Day. They learned about Blessed Edmund Rice.

Sixth Class: 6th class are busy preparing for the sacrament of confirmation. They attended a retreat in the Monastery in Roscrea to help them prepare also. Best of luck to all the boys on May 27th.

Mr. Carroll: Boys in MGLD have constructed their own plant pots and have sown lots of different herbs. The boys must look after their own window pots and are excited to see them grow little by little each day.

Ms. Kenny: This month the boys in Ms. Kenny's class are working on their social skills and road safety awareness. We visited lots of local amenities such as Birr Castle, the Camcor Park, the playground and a coffee shop.

Kind regards, Niall Crofton, Principal.