

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

April—May 2018



Winner in Laois / Offaly Heritage Project 2018

Four boys from 6th Class, Sam McAulay, Steven Dillon, Kealan Franks and Conor Lally represented our school by competing in the Living Heritage in Schools Project run by Laois Ed. Centre. The boys submitted a group essay. "Ireland 1918, A Snapshot in Time." They researched life in Birr and nationally in 1918 & this research earned them 3rd place out of 22 competitors. Also, the boys presented and talked about their project at a judging ceremony held in Portlaoise. For this they created a snapshot of their essay using plasticine. These models are on display in the hall for all to admire. In this category they won Best Cultural Heritage Project. Thanks to Ms Hogan for organising the project and assisting the boys in both essay and project where they displayed great literacy, research and presentation skills- Well done boys

TEXT A PARENT APP

We ask all parents who receive texts to look at downloading the app to their phones. Advantages are -

You will get the message / notification immediately which takes away any delay from mobile provider (3 hours on the last snow closure !!!)

Each message is cheaper by app to the school

You can also see school events and closures on the app calendar

Thanks for your support with this.

Assessment and reporting

Classes from 1st–6th are given the standardised English and standardised Math tests during the month of May. This year we are again using the Drumcondra testing procedures. Scores will be reported for 2nd, 4th and 6th classes in accordance with D.E.S. regulations.

Class end of year reports for all classes will be sent home with pupils during week beginning Mon 18th June. Class teachers for academic year 18/19 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 Friday 31st August 2018.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 15th May	6th Class confirmation retreat
Thursday 17th May	Music day 2018 (see facebook for details)
Fri 25th May 1pm	New Junior Infant Induction
Saturday 26th May 11am	First Holy Communion ceremony
Thurs 31st May	PA Cake sale day
School closed Fri 1st / Mon 4th / Tues 5th June	
Friday 8th June	Sports day (Weather permit)
Fri 15th June	CPR training for 6th class +their parents
Fri 22nd June	End year Mass 1pm /Home 2pm
Monday 25th June	6th Graduation—Hero presentation
Thursday 28th June	Last day of term @ 12.30pm
Fri 29th June	July Provision begins (ASD class)
Friday 31 August	1st day of new school year (18/19)

School Facebook page

We have launched a new school facebook page- **St Brendans PS**

This page will be used to communicate with our parent community and share information about pupil achievement and projects. It will not take the place of traditional communication system where parents can ring for an appointment with teacher / principal about any matter of concern. Also the fantastic parents Association Facebook page will continue to operate and give information on school fundraisers and special events relating to the school. The page is part of the newly updated AUP—Acceptable Use Policy—which is available to view on our school website along with other school policies. In this digital age we ask parents to support the page by liking / viewing it and that no pupils link with it (age restriction) Thank you for your support with this.

Hurling- We hope to write our newsletter—GAA in our DNA with an update from our championships and academy training in coming weeks—The team played well this year with one win and two losses but represented the school well. Thanks to Mr Kennedy for his time and dedication to the school team and Adam Fitzgerald (past pupil) who assisted this year. Coaching continues with Eoghan Cahill each Friday.

School Notes

Thank you to families for support of Celtic Book fair last week—The total spent was €614.25. This allowed commission of 60% to be spent by class teachers on novels and book sets for the classes—Mile Buiochas

PA decided that Tina Claffey could take group photo of 6th confirmation / first communion boys on the altar. Anyone wishing to purchase this can go through Tina and send monies into school.

Parents Association: The parents association are again ran a clothing collection in conjunction with Bag 2 School Ireland. They collected any unwanted good quality adult and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys. Bags were sent home with the boys, Thank you for the great re-sponse with lots of bags coming in (homework vouchers snapped up !) 479.5 kg in weight which translated to € 215 for the school! All monies raised are used to fund activities for the boys. Thank you for your support.

Sincere thanks to all involved for your support with the sponsored walk / cycle this year. Classes 2nd—6th went to Lough Boora for a walk or cycle and the boys all had a great day of exercise fun and adventure. Junior Classes JI-1st went to Birr Castle and got to play in the playground which was a great treat. Thanks from the school to PA officers and committee for organising and in particular to Keith and Rose Harte for their work with getting 50 + bikes out and back to Lough Boora

Bag-pack—All families are asked to please support the backpack with an hour of your time- please see the note which was sent home.



Class activities in April / May 2018

Kind regards, Niall Crofton, Principal.