

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

September / October 2018



New artwork for our fresh new hall

Over the summer we had our school hall repainted and fresh carpet laid down. With support from the parish we commissioned some artwork to bring a sense of soul and community to the fresh walls. In September we were delighted to unveil some new artwork especially created for our school hall by local artist and past pupil Mr Frankie Gallagher. Fr Tom Hogan attended for our start of year prayer service along with some of our retired (and fresh looking !) staff . The boys played lovely music for the ceremony and loved the new art works which depict boys learning at school / St Brendan our school saint and a painting of Jesus caring for all in the world - thank you Frankie and Fr Tom. Pictures are also some boys from senior classes in full uniform along with Fr Tom Hogan, Mr Frankie Gallagher (Artist) Mr Michael Donegan (Former Principal) Mr Niall Crofton (Current Principal).

Spanish boys

We also welcome 5 spanish pupils to our school for 12 weeks. The boys come as part of a homestay programme to Birr supported by the school BOM. This is a great opportunity for our pupils in the school to meet other pupils and ways of learning and perhaps pick up a bit of Spanish! They have settled well and we wish them (Ignatio / Ferran / Borja / Mateo and Jorge) and their Irish host families well for the coming weeks ahead. ***Great to see the boys engage with school life wholeheartedly and represent the school in both football and athletics this month already.***

ZEEKO- Tuesday 16th October 7-8pm

Boys from classes 2nd -6th will get a full programme of internet safety tips followed by staff training and then a parents hour that evening. All welcome to this important event at school

October Wellness at St Brendan's PS

Last 3 weeks in October 2018 (Before mid-term) Week beginning ---

Healthy Body	Mon 8th Oct
Healthy Mind	Mon 15th Oct
Healthy lifestyle/Diet	Mon 22nd Oct

Why have this month in our school?

Increased incidence of children presenting with lifestyle related issues
Increased incidence of children presenting with mental health issues such as anxiety, worry and stress with school/ home life.

Increased incidence of children presenting with child protection issues arising out of poor self esteem and lack of personal resilience development.

With the demands of society ever-growing on our young people- we owe it to them to equip them with all the skills and knowledge needed to live happy and healthy lives.

What do we hope to achieve for our pupils and our school overall?

Positive impact on lifestyle in both pupils and staff

Identify healthier, viable alternatives in terms of exercise, dealing with stress and choosing diet.

Improve resilience and coping skills

Great a sense of personal development and fun over the month

Offer new opportunities and open new pathways to our pupils

Dance with Lisa Hogan for 5 weeks for classes JI- 5th this year.

We hope to have a display of dance on Thursday --- with all parents welcome !

€3 contribution please- JI to 5th

The amazing FRED CORVENIO will bring his show back to the school this TUESDAY—all classes.

€ 2 contribution please- all classes

Agri aware talk - farm safety

HSLC pumpkin carving

Music and song matching quiz

There will be many other activities both in class and whole school level during these 3 weeks and we hope these weeks have a positive affect on the boys , their feelings and their performance at school.

Cross country athletics— school teams 2018 / 2019

Mr Cunningham took teams from 3rd -6th class over to Tullamore harriers for this school event. Trials for each class were held in school beforehand and 4 boys from each class went forward to represent the school. All ran well with medals coming home with —

Danny Dwyer—1st in 6th race

Kevin Parady- 7th in 6th Race

Sixth class team 2nd overall in Offaly

Dylan Carroll -5th in 4th class race

We wish Adam well after his race incident and good to see him bounce back so quickly.

Catch and kick football

8 teams of 80 boys from 3rd—6th took part in this fun league each lunchtime. We are down to semi final stage now with 4 teams remaining—great to see boys try football for the first time and enjoy it so much.



Football Championship

Mr Kennedy and his football panel are playing great stuff again this year. It is great to see so many boys interested in playing and getting involved especially boys from 6th class this year- You are doing yourselves and your families proud boys!

They have played two matches against Banagher and Dromakeenan and came away with two victories. They now play Gaelscoil Tullamore away this Thursday with a win to get us to the Offaly Finals—Best wishes boys!

School Garden

Mr Kennedys class have done a great clear out of the garden and especially the old orchard in preparation for their class project this year—watch this space!

Pictured are boys who received certs for 100% attendance last school year - 2017/2018 - Well done to the boys and their families.



These are some class activities that our boys have been working on in September Junior Infants :

Junior Infants: Junior Infants have settled very well into school. We have been focusing on the theme of "Myself". We have set up a doctor station in our Aistear Programme. We also had great fun learning about road safety and got our very own licence.

Senior Infants: The boys in senior infants are working hard and have been very busy learning all about Autumn. They went to the park on an Autumn walkabout learning all about trees and their leaves. Last Friday the boys got a class treat as they have been so good in class and at their work, they got to go to the playground where they had lots of fun. Keep up all the great work boys

First Class: First Class have settled very well into their new class. They were busy learning about growing and changing and boys brought in lovely photos, toys and clothes from when they were babies. First class also enjoyed taking prints of their fingerprints and investigated to see if they have cusps or loops in their fingerprints.

Second Class: We began the year by writing about all of the things we are looking forward to in second class. We learned about how to keep ourselves healthy so we can work hard during the year. We also created beautiful hot air balloons which are on display outside our classroom. When you are passing by, check them out

Third Class: Third class were busy studying dinosaurs. We learnt all about people who help us in our community and made beautiful artwork from felt of firemen, nurses and lots, lots more. We are learning all about life in the Stone Age and created our own cave paintings using chalk pastels. They look fab!

Fourth Class: Fourth class are working extremely well across all subjects. Wonderful constructions were created during Arts and Crafts and final touches were added last week. Boys are also delighted to be back dancing with Lisa.

Fifth Class: Fifth class have been learning about the Famine in September. We learned about the potato blight, the year "Black 47", The Great Sickness and that lots of people left Ireland on ships that later became known as coffin ships. Can you think why?

Sixth Class: In September 6th Class learned all about Europe and the European Union. We learned about the physical features and facts. We also spoke about Brexit and what it might mean for Ireland.

Mr. Kennedy's Class: The MGLD class have settled in very well. They have shown incredible knowledge in green keeping and have transformed the back of the garden in preparation for their chicken run.

Le gach deá ghúí,

Niall Crofton

Principal