

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

September / October 2019



Welcome to our school

September is so special for our new junior infants who take their first steps in "Big School". We have 26 boys starting at JI level this year with 4 of those being supported through special class placement and all have settled so well. We were delighted to formally open our 2nd ASD class during September named "Cairdeas" which means friends. This class and the proposed new class building will enable us to cater to the needs of all boys from the town of Birr into the future. Welcome to our Spanish boys (Miguel and David) here for term 1 as part of Homestay programme and great to see them immersed in- Irish culture of hurling and playing on the school Gaelic team !

Spanish boys

We again welcome 2 Spanish pupils to our school for term 1. 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 (Miguel and David) and their Irish host families well for the coming weeks ahead.

School Notes

Attendance -We are delighted to be signed up with TUSLA to support the every school day counts campaign for the month of November.

Safety near river- Some parents have reported boys climbing bridges on the way home in evenings. With heavy rainfall we ask parents to speak with their child about safety on the way home.

Text speed - Again we advise parents to download the FREE TEXT A PARENT app to their phone to receive the texts from school instantly.

BOM-The term is nearly up for our current BOM and we thank them sincerely for their service and dedication to the school over the past 4 years. The process to elect parent nominees (Previously Donna Loonam and Michael Loughnane) will begin next week with letters home. With new GDPR regulations we must get permission to put names on list for selection so we ask for your support and understanding with this.

October Wellness at St Brendan's PS

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 to a healthy you ! - October / November

Dance with Lisa Hogan for 5 weeks for classes JI- 5th again this year following on from the success of last year. We hope to have a display of dance in November - with all parents welcome ! €3 contribution please- JI to 5th (not to be collected yet)

Upcoming Events:

- HSCL pumpkin carving
- Tag rugby blitz for 5th and 6th classes in Birr
- FAI soccer coaching workshop for 5th / 6th classes—Show Racism the red card !
- Bubbly math workshop in Birr Theatre as part of Math week !
- Infant Halloween activity day with Home-school
- Car park safety will be a priority for October with the boys and families being encouraged to walk on footpath away from bus /cars.

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 , their safety on the road and their performance at school.

Cross country athletics—school teams 2019/ 2020

Mr Cunningham and Mr Crofton 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 the going tough on the day- Great experience for the boys especially the boys who got to wear the school jersey for the 1st time
#proud #findyourtalent (see facebook for photos)

School Garden

Mr Kennedys class have been busy in the school garden again this September and they have some new friends out there in 3 new hens. The hens have just started laying eggs in the past week which has led to great excitement.

Our school Polytunnel advisor Sultan has been busy all summer planting and nurturing some Syrian vegetables in our school Polytunnel. Sultan comes from Syria where his home town was renowned for growing fruit and vegetables before the war. This poly-tunnel project is supported by Offaly Local Dev and the boys from 4th got to go out this week and Sultan through translator was able to explain the seeds / plants and we hope to be eating and cooking in near future !

Catch and kick football

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

Gaelic Football

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 5th and 6th classes this year- You are doing yourselves and your families proud boys! They have played Gaelscoil Tullamore and play Dromakeenan later today so best wishes for the rest of the Championship !

The boys enjoyed an amazing day out playing football in The Colm Cooper Invitational Comp in Killarney Co Kerry in September- Great matches / great trip and memories for a lifetime of playing in front of the GOOCH ! Thanks to Mr Crofton / Mr Kennedy and Ms Grace for travelling— 7.30am—8.30pm !!



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

Junior Infants: Junior's have settled in very well and have been busy working on their Aistear stations with the focus on oral language and vocabulary this month.

Senior Infants: The boys have settled great into senior infants and have gotten off to a flying start. They are learning all about autumn and went on a nature walk. They collected lots of leaves, fruit and nuts and did lovely leaf rubbings. Keep up all the great work seniors!

First Class: In September, first class were learning all about the theme "Myself". We created self-portraits and measured our heights on a chart-let's see how much we grow by June.

Second Class: In Second Class we are learning lots of new things. This week we were learning about hot air balloons to tie in with the hot air balloon championship. We used a technique called pointillism to create colourful hot air balloons.

Third Class: During the month of September, 3rd class made a fantastic display of homes which were all unique and were made out of various materials. Ms. Wyre would like to thank all parents for their help. They have also learned interesting facts about the heart in Science and how to calculate their own pulse. Hurling is going well in 3rd class and it is great to see them all participating.

Fourth Class: Fourth Class boys are well settled back to school and doing great work. The boys have been to the school garden and are growing some vegetables in our greenhouse. The boys have also done some excellent Halloween Art with their teacher.

Fifth Class: 5th Class have settled well back into school after the summer. They are working very hard in class and are enjoying getting outside to play rugby and hurling each week. For the month of September we focused on friendship and what makes a good friend. We created posters of what a good friend looks like and we also drew portraits of each other.

Sixth Class: We have been learning all about the Rugby World Cup in Japan. Each boy has been given a team playing in the World Cup and completed a project on their chosen team. Projects were presented to their class and will be displayed in the school.

Mr. Kennedy's Class: Mr Kennedy's Class have settled in after the lovely summer break. Our new boys are enjoying the class and their weekly visit to Tesco where they are showing to be excellent shoppers. Our older boys have been busy in the garden our Hens have started to lay which are tasty in our buns.

Cairdeas 1: We have been very busy in our room. We are thinking and talking about Autumn. We have painted hedgehogs, cooked sausages, read stories and played I-Spy Autumn games. The boys enjoyed a trip to the library where they travelled by taxi and played with a wide variety of objects.

Cairdeas 2: Everyone has settled very well into Cairdeas 2. We really enjoy singing nursery rhymes and one of our favourites is Humpty Dumpty. We even painted our very own Humpty Dumpty picture and we also put Humpty Dumpty together again by making a jigsaw.

Green Schools: Our new committee are up and running towards our Global Citizenship Litter and Waste Flag. Note: Climate Action Week 14th-18th October. Our committee will run a "Bring and Buy Book Sale" to raise awareness. Details will be sent home next week.

Le gach deá ghúí, Niall Crofton Principal