

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

September / October 2020

On our return to school in September class teachers were asked to focus on wellness and wellbeing—something we place a huge emphasis on every year regardless of COVID19- Here are some of the ways our classes engaged:

Junior Infants: Junior Infants have settled in really well since coming to St. Brendan's. They love visits to the secret garden and playing with the toys during Aistear. We've been learning all about Autumn & Halloween and the boys loved wearing their costumes to school.

Senior Infants: Senior Infants were learning all about Autumn. They have been busy collecting leaves for our class toy hedgehog, helping him prepare for hibernation. We went on a lovely nature walk and looked for signs of Autumn. We did leaf and bark rubbings.

First Class: 1st class spent time in the school garden and did some cosmic yoga for wellbeing. The boys were working on their drawing skills in art too!

Second Class: In 2nd class we focused on the theme of kindness, we wrote about and drew pictures of ways to be kind to our classmates and to people we meet in school. We also have kindness Wednesdays at home where the boys try to do something extra kind for someone.

Third Class: 3rd Class have been working hard since the start of the academic year. They enjoyed learning about Egypt and made fantastic pyramids. In Geography they learned all about Ireland including the counties, rivers, mountains and lakes. In Science they made a model of a hand showing how tendons work. Third class are currently enjoying athletics. I want to wish everyone a very happy Halloween.

Fourth Class: 4th class have settled back to school well. We have spent the last four weeks designing, building and painting our Medieval castles as our history project. The boys have been outside active each day as part of our well being in school.

Fifth Class: 5th Class have settled really well back to school after a long break off. They have been learning lots of new maths concepts such as long division and measuring angles. 5th class entered a competition on News2day to win a book about Johnny Sexton. We had to email News2day and say why we would love to win the book and guess what... We won!! We are delighted. Have a lovely Halloween everyone and stay safe.

Sixth Class: 6th Class have been doing different activities to enhance our well being in September and October. We have started the Wearing Wellness Programme. This Irish mental health programme aims to enhance well-being in children, develop resilience skills, mindfulness strategies and our STAY SAFE programme. We have been enjoying getting out for PE and Athletics too. Exercise and fresh air always helps us to feel good.

Mr Kennedy's Class: This school term the boys settled back into school life and continued on their Journey of life skills enjoying construction, art projects, baking, shopping, development exercises and capping off with their well deserved relaxation on a Friday.

Cairdeas 1: In Cairdeas 1, we are talking about Autumn. We learnt all about oak trees, acorns and leaves. We made lots of Autumn art and enjoyed our trips to Tesco and cooking every Friday. Have a spooky Halloween.

Cairdeas 2: As part of our wellness month in Cairdeas 2 we went on nature walks listening to leaves crunching and spotting all the signs of Autumn around us. We enjoyed music and dance in our class to keep body and mind healthy.



September / October—" The New Normal " - Its great to be back and have 8 weeks of school completed. Looking at the pictures above—some things are the same and some things are different. The most important part is that learning , friends , developing talents and interests are still the same—while hand sanitizing , staggered breaks , social distancing , individual seating in older classes , bubble systems are different but SAFE !

And the smiles are still there through it all :)

Thanks to the staff, the parents and the boys in particular for the togetherness shown in the past 8 weeks. Whether we have positive cases in school going forwards is not the point but how we try our best to stay safe and deal with what happens in a calm and planned manner is.

I wish you all a happy and safe mid term break as we enter the level 5 lockdown- We hope and pray that school will reopen as PLANNED on Monday 2nd November and that we will continue with our school plans and individual targets for the following 8 weeks. I urge all families to ensure you have linked in with teacher via SEESAW in case we need remote teaching. School has developed a " Remote teaching and learning plan" which can be viewed on website. In the meantime its great to look back at the wonderful activity that has gone on in the school since September—
Enjoy , NC

Book competition win

5th class entered a competition to win a book about Johnny Sexton and the book is signed by the author, Paul O'Flynn. We had to email news2day and explain why we wanted to win the book and we won!

The boys are delighted! 😊 well done Ms Pilkington

and 5th class 🍀

Mid- term reading

All boys can take home 3-4 school library books for mid-term break (sanitized) so with lockdown they have some nice reading material. Books can be returned after mid term where we will safely store (COVID19) and re use.

ZOOM debating

Great school debate via ZOOM in the concern mid-lands comp organised by Laois Ed - mighty effort by our team Reece / Callum and led by captain Andre - the motion "internet should be banned at school" was narrowly defeated so dunkerrin NS go through to the next round - thanks to Mr Cunningham for his work pre-

paring and supporting the team 👍

Special thanks to our **COVID19 LWR**—Ms Yvonne Ryan and Ms Helen Kirwan for their time and effort in putting in place safety procedures regarding COVID19 which have kept pupils, staff and our families safe.

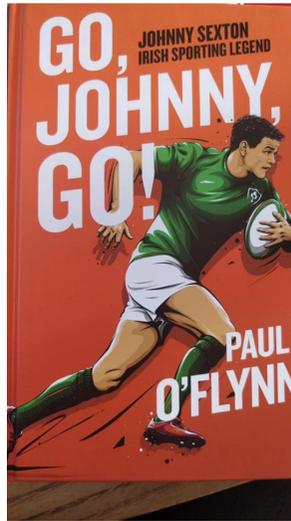
Happy Birthday St Brendans PS Birr - 142 years old ! - thanks to Brother Denis for joining Mr Crofton at school gate to acknowledge the proud heritage of Presentation Brothers who founded our lovely school back on Oct 2nd 1878 / covid safe celebrations to acknowledge the event and please God we can create a gathering in future years - lovely photos of some of our school community on our FB page.

PT meetings

We are awaiting DES minister guidelines to see how these meetings will proceed. We will update families as soon as we know.

Hurling skills

6 Week programme will resume with OLLIE WALSH after mid term- Not Junior infants yet. All boys will need their own helmet and hurl. We have new and second hand gear for sale in November. All boys take part in Hurling



School Completion Programme Transferring from Primary to Secondary School Programme

We are delighted that the Roscrea/Birr School Completion Programme in cooperation with Offaly Local Development Company are facilitating a 'Preparing to Transfer to Secondary School Programme' for sixth class pupils in St. Brendan's Primary School. This term each child will be offered 2 x 90 min sessions. These sessions will focus on the differences between primary and secondary school; feelings around starting secondary school and making new friends. Thanks to Dani and Rachel for running the sessions in small groups so that all 6th class boys can take part.



Parents Association—Lovely gift from our amazing Parents Association to our junior infant boys - their own St Brendans PS bobble hats to keep all those sharp brains warm this winter ! Mile buiochas to Karen Mooney (PA chairperson for organising) - Thanks to Kelly Richardson for presenting today on behalf of the PA with our school chairperson Pat Teehan 😊

