

School Completion Programme

It is hard to believe that we have another school year over; what an unusual one it has been.

SCP considered 'every obstacle as a spring board' and despite all the challenges we got there! Like everyone else, SCP found ways to work and adjust with COVID. With every difficulty comes learning; in this case a new way to think and do things.

Throughout lockdown SCP maintained contact with pupils by phone, delivery of activity packs and emails. We are very proud of the fact we have completed all our programmes. The sixth class pupils enjoyed transfer wellbeing day. Many thanks to our HSCL Ms Anne Hennelly, Racheal from OLDC, Garda Grace Hefferman, Anne Hoare and Ms Leana Grace for helping to make it a success. Other programmes facilitated by SCP were: junior infants class socialisation group, individual programmes and LifeSkills. The LifeSkills programme was introduced to fourth class. It covers many relevant issues such as smoking, self-esteem, assertiveness, communication, decision making and advertising. We are delighted with how well fourth class engaged with the programme and look forward to facilitating level two with them in fifth class.

Sadly we said goodbye to Dani last March. Dani sends her love to all and asked that we tell you that she has settled in well in to her new job. She greatly enjoyed her time working with the pupils and staff in St. Brendan's Boys' School and hopes to drop in to see everyone someday.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Nall Crofton, Ms Anne Hennelly and all of St. Brendan's Boys' School staff for their co-operation and support throughout the year. We also wish you, your family and everyone connected with the school a very happy and safe summer. Looking forward to the next school year.

Mairead

Mile Buiochas

Sincere thanks to all who helped out in our school over the past year, especially to our Board of Management under Chairperson Mr. Pat Teehan, our talented and enthusiastic teaching staff, our kind and wonderful SNA's, our Chaplin Fr. Anthony and our Parents Association under Mrs. Karen Mooney. Also thanks to Mairead from our School Completion Programme, and Ann from HSCL. Thanks to our amazing secretary Sara O'Meara, our wonderful Caretaker Mick Hansbury for all their work during the year and also to our cleaning staff, Ruth and Claire for keeping our school looking so well and so safe with extra COVID cleaning. .

For more information and photos check LATEST NEWS on our school website www.stbrendansps.ie

Niall Crofton Principal teacher

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

Summer 2021



Official launch took place this week of the limited print "The Real book of Birr" .

Special guest was our great friend , retired teacher Mary Longergan whose passion for reading runs strong to this day - Mary spoke passionately to the boys at the outside Launch (socially distant bubbles) about their amazing imagination and creativity with authors creations ranging from mobsters to Tyson Fury to space travel. The boys received their individual books that were ordered to a huge ovation and they each signed the authors wall ☐ Thanks to all the staff for encouraging the boys with 86 boys from 3rd to 6th submitting stories that are now in print - Thanks to Ms Mulqueen for org the launch abs to Ms Stack for co-ordinating the project - Limited print with no further orders so the books are even more special !!

End of year school mass

We held a lovely end of school year mass virtually this Wednesday. FR Anthony came to school to celebrate the mass with our 6th class. The theme of the mass was " Give thanks" and it was lovely to record via ZOOM for the boys in the rest of the school to take part and via FACEBOOK live for our parents and families at home. Thanks to Majella for lovely instrumental music to accompany.

Important dates

School close for summer holidays—Friday 25th June at 12.10/ 12.15 / 12.20 / 12.30pm

School reopens : Tuesday 31st August 2021 9.10am / 9.20am red)

End of year awards 2020/ 2021

End of year awards are always a special occasion at our school - hurling leagues / sports days / tech week and individual awards were presented - we have a number of awards cups and trophies for sporting and academic achievements

: Kenneth fox / Aidan Rosney / Derek Maher / Brian Mcmanus / Brother Finian / Johnny Cleary / Tommy K. These hold a special place in our hearts and we are always delighted to welcome members of these families to school to present these awards. Please God this will happen next year. This is COVID safety has not allowed us to run competitions such as hurling leagues and cumann na mbunscoil so some awards are held over till next year. We are delighted to have awarded the following—

Congrats to all this years winners 🍀

- The Brother Finian Cup for the 6th class long race was won by Dylan Carroll
- The McManus Cup (Special Achievement Award) was won by Dylan Carroll
- The Derek Maher Trophy (Student of the year) was won by Reece Swanepoel
- Tommy K Infant Achievement Award was won by Jacob McLoughlin
- Spelling Bee Champion—Reece Swanepoel

6th class graduation

This took place wednesday evening outside on school yard as the boys took part in the annual hero project / each boy spoke for 1 -2 minutes about his hero (famous) and how he was inspired by them - the organized and socially distant crowd heard a variety of inspirational speeches about heroes ranging from YOUTUBERS to Joe Canning , Kobe Bryant and Mick Hansbury!

Ms grace spoke and outlined how the boys had been an amazing group and of the value of friendship and hard work. Mr Crofton thanked all for their support in the journey over the past 8 years and encouraged each boy to always do his best and try to reach your dream. Mr Crofton also thanked the parents sincerely for placing their trust in the school and staff to provide the best holistic education for their boys. The evening concluded with the boys being presented Graduation hoodies (Class of 2021) by the PA .Thanks to Ms Grace , Ms Hogan and Mr Cunningham in preparing the boys and for the parents with supporting the safe outdoors ceremony.

HSCL

This has been an incredible year - it has been a year that brought us incredible challenges and a year that has taught us incredible lessons. One of the most important lessons to come from all of this is how everyone working together for the common good, will achieve amazing results. It is the collective effort of all of you that has reduced the effect of Covid-19 on our school. There is an Irish saying: "Ní neart go cur le chéile" - there is no strength without unity.

The support and goodwill we in the school have enjoyed has made a difficult year considerably easier through your understanding and efforts. While the challenges have been many, the silver lining must be the way that home and school became true education partners this year!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the 6th Class pupils all the best and every good wish as they transfer to their respective Secondary Schools. I hope everyone enjoys a very happy and healthy summer break. Bíodh samhradh taithneamhach agus sláintiúil, agus go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir as ucht chuile rud í mbliana.

Ann Hennelly HSCL

GAA cul camp

Offaly Coaching & Games are delighted to have available the return of our Cúl Camps for 2021, this is a fun action-packed week where children aged 6 – 13 play GAA games with qualified coaches. To register now please click on link below

gaa.ie/kelloggsculcamps

Soccer camp

Birr Town FC

Birr, County Offaly

June 28th – July 2nd

Fun day—as part of in-school tour programme 2021

Fabulous fun this week at our FUN DAY on top field as part of in school tour programme - some great activities for all classes to enjoy from archery / to connect 4 to milking a cow game ☺☺ 4th

class boys had an amazing face paint transformation thanks to Ms Makim-

fun day thanks to Ms Kirwan / Ms Ryan for organising and to our station support volunteers all day

