

## September Class activities

**Junior Infants** have been learning all about Autumn for the last few weeks and have created beautiful Autumn trees and scarecrows to take home. They went on a nature walk looking for signs of Autumn and they did pumpkin carving in the classroom with our HSC Anne Hennelly. They are looking forward to dressing up on Friday for Halloween and we can't wait to see how brilliant they will look!

**Senior Infants** have settled very well back into school. They have learned all about Autumn, went on a nature walk collected leaves and did some leaf rubbing. Senior Infants did some spooky art for Halloween and we are looking forward to seeing them dressed up on Friday.

**First Class** have settled in really well. We have been learning all about ourselves and the boys created lovely self-portraits. We were learning all about different types of homes and the boys experimented with different materials to make houses such as, Lego, lollipop sticks, magnets and blocks.

**Second class** have been working so hard. We enjoyed learning all about the season of Autumn and what happens to the animals and nature. We collected some leaves and made leaf prints. The boys also learned the difference between odd & even numbers. We all had great fun doing Futsal and we had some very competitive & enjoyable 2 versus 2 games! We also made some bats that are flying around the classroom.

**3<sup>rd</sup> class boys** settled well into third. They enjoyed planning their Dream House for Minecraft. Took part in various science experiments for the heart, tooth decay and moving cups using only elastic band and string. In history, they learned all about the Stone Age & Bronze Age. Currently the students are learning all about their own country, Ireland. The class love taking part in art, crafts and PE lessons. Hope you all have a fantastic Halloween break.

**4<sup>th</sup> class** have enjoyed their science experiments in the first month. We created our very own water fillers and also tasted the effect of salt on dehydrating our potatoes. 4<sup>th</sup> are enjoying our rugby and hurling coaching each week.

**5<sup>th</sup> class** have settled very well back into school. We have been working really hard learning new topics such as long division in maths and world climates in geography. We also completed a Microsoft Dreamspace webinar this month which was really interesting. We designed devices for the future to help achieve some of the global goals. We love technology in 5<sup>th</sup> class and we are working hard at developing our STEM skills. Watch this space!!!

**6<sup>th</sup> class** have had a busy couple of months. We each completed a project on a country of our choice and presented our projects to our class. We also have a debating team and have been preparing & proposing the motion that "Billionaires should not go to space". The debating team will take on Shinrone NS this week with the above topic.

**Cairdeas 1:** The boys have settled back to school. We have been talking about the signs of Autumn. We collected leaves and made rubbings and created a colourful Autumn display. We are all enjoying music every week with Ms Killeen, she is teaching us to play the boomwhackers. We have our Halloween decorations up and are looking forward to a scary Halloween!! Have a spooky break.

**Cairdeas 2** had a very busy month. We learned all about ourselves and our families. We enjoyed creating Autumn hedgehogs & Halloween art. We really enjoyed going on an Autumn Nature walk with 1<sup>st</sup> class and we had lots of fun.

**Mr Kennedys Class** have had a busy couple of weeks, they have been learning all about Autumn and the roles that the farmers have to play in harvesting the wheat to send to be milled into flour and used to make bread. From the role of the beef farmer to produce meat and the role of the dairy farmer to produce milk. While using the flour to make buns and and the carving of pumpkins for Halloween.

## St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

September / October 2021



## **Learning / Fun / friends/food/ Imagination : Safety**

September and October have been a great few months for our boys and staff to get back to school and our core work—developing the knowledge and talents of every boy at St Brendan's PS.

Our new junior infants have settled well and the good weather has allowed some fantastic learning opportunities in our community as you can see above.

New ICT programmes such as the Microsoft Minecraft project in our school computer room along with boys favourites like the primary planet magazine are great for stimulating minds young and old.

With our new kitchen in the school it has been amazing to have hot school meals each day for our boys with great support from the parents at over 90% orders each day. It is important for the boys that parents order what the boys will eat and the excellent lunch ladies then serve up the delicious and nutritious food. Huge thanks to all the staff for supporting this new system which is another support to boys to reach their full potential at our school.

**Finally as COVID numbers begin to rise we remind all in our school community to keep safe and keep vigilant and do not come to school if you display any COVID 19 symptoms.**

### School debating team

We have a talented and hardworking group of boys who are representing the school this year in the Midlands school debating competition. The competition is via zoom and Round 1 is against Shinrone with the title—Billionaires should not travel to space. We wish the team well in the debate.

Team—Shane Dillon / Charlie Hctor / Robert Landy / Leeland Delaney / Michael Kelly and Peter Spain. Thanks to Ms Grace and Mr Cunningham for their preparation with the team.

### 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 and coaching

It was great to have Adrian Clancy back again to get the coaching programme up and running again. Boys have been great to bring in their gear each Tuesday and plenty of boys using the ball wall too. We ask boys to bring in an old sliotar or tennis ball if they wish to go to the ball wall during break time as the school does not have balls to give out. Coaching will continue after mid term and Senior Infants will all need to look at getting hurls and helmets ( buy or borrow) over mid term. The school does not have any hurls or helmets for sale at this time- if the purchase scheme through Cumann na mbunscoil is announced we will inform parents and take orders later in the year.

### Christmas Shoebox appeal

Mr Kennedy's class over the last few years have organised the Christmas Shoebox Appeal in St. Brendans.

Like many things, Covid has impacted it again this year in school but we can still support online and from home.

Please see details online, please support if possible.

#TeamHope

#ChristmasShoebox

### Sacramental preparation

Congratulations to the 24 boys who received their first holy communion a few weeks - thanks to all the staff who prepared the boys for the ceremony especially Ms Teehan and Ms Hogan - for the amazing singing and music to Majella and Ms Pilkington and to Joan and our parish priests for their wonderful work- a special day in the lives of these boys ☺

Our past pupils also celebrated their confirmations September and thanks to Majella and Ms Pilkington for the music and singing and to Ms Grace and Mrs Kelly for their support on the weekend.

### Credit union art competition 2021

Congratulations to our school winners of art competition- Fionn / Cody / Harry / Yegor / paddy and Cayden. These boys go on to represent the school in the Birr credit union art competition- great talent as you can see from their pictures in the background- thanks to Ms Makim and Mrs Kelly for their support of visual arts in our school.

Some fantastic modern art projects ongoing at the moment around our school involving 5th class ! Thanks to Ms Jessica Fitzgerald and Ms Makim for the inspiration #loveart

### Board of Management- Notes from last meeting

The Board members reviewed the new summer programme with ASD / DEIS camp elements. The programme was a great success in terms of attendance / participation and enjoyment and Mr Crofton thanked all the staff involved. Chairperson led BOM through the annual child safeguarding review ( See below)All teachers will engage in CPD this year with sustained support from PDST in the area of Primary Language Curriculum. We are delighted to be accepted onto this highly sought after support programme and hope to have more updates during the year. **There will be a Full school closure ( staff training day ) on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November.**

Thanks to Cliona Molloy ( Community Officer with Epilepsy Ireland) for an excellent whole staff training session on understanding epilepsy along with safety and precaution measures. We remind all parents that the school has an "administration of medications" policy which must be completed if your son ever requires emergency medication. All medications and any changes in medical conditions must be updated regularly also.

