

Science week with Ms Doyle: Junior Infants loved doing experiments during Science Week. We made a M&M's rainbow wheel and watched as the colours got closer and closer to the centre of the plate. We investigated how soap chases away germs with food colouring and milk and loved watching the colours mixing and moving away from the soap.

During Science Week the boys in Senior Infants carried out some investigations and experiments. They investigated the properties of many materials, learning about what was water-proof and flexible. They also enjoyed doing some 'balloon boarding'.

As part of science week, first class were learning all about the solar system and planet earth. In art the boys made the planet earth out of paper mache. We also experimented making rain.

The shaving cream acted like a cloud while the food colouring becomes the rain. The "cloud" becomes so heavy with "rain" that eventually the rain passes through the cloud and falls to earth. We also experimented with cream to make butter and the boys enjoyed tasting their butter.

Second class had a very busy and enjoyable science week. Five boys from second class were able to stand three balloons without bursting them. Ms Doyle showed us how to grow jellies. We left some gummy bears in water overnight and couldn't believe how big they were the next day. Finally, we did a spot of cleaning. We used coke to clean our old coins and wow they are sparkling.

In November 3rd class boys made their own butter and it was delicious on crackers. We experimented with making colourful paper towels using various food colourings. They are loving building houses, space rovers and islands in minecraft. Third also created myth and legend board games in groups during November. Thanks to you at home for helping your child build the houses. They are all fantastic and very unique. Everyone is looking forward to the festive season. Hope everyone keeps safe, Ms Wyer.

Fourth class enjoyed all the activities with science week. We made butter, tested weight displacement on objects and learned all about our digestive system. We also tested the effect of salt when placed into potato halves. The boys were amazed at the amount of water that drained from the potatoe.

5th class really enjoyed science week and were fascinated by the fun science experiments Ms Doyle had for us every morning. We also had a zoom with Dr Dan the Scientist and we asked him lots of interesting questions ranging from science in space to what was the coolest substance he ever used was. We became scientists ourselves when we had to test the strength of pepper using square, triangular and circular columns. Our experiment showed that the circular paper columns were the strongest.

6th had an interesting science week from learning all about air to gummy bears. We also completed an experiment with a "magic" leakproof bag. We discovered that when you put sharp pencils through the plastic bag full of water, the bag does not leak (when done correctly of course!!!!) The plastic bag is made from polymer which has a flexible property that allows the bag to form a temporary seal around the pencil, allowing no leaks or water to come through. Cairdeas 1 we watched the Strong Women of Science show, thank you Offaly Library. We watched how to balance objects using their centre of gravity. Great fun...but we won't be trying it at home!!

Cairdeas 2 really enjoyed science week. We put a jelly bear in water and left him for a few days and we were amazed to find that the jelly bear got bigger. We also loved the science lessons in 1st class and where we got to make real butter and also created rain clouds using shaving foam.

Mr Kennedy's class were very busy during science week investigating materials where the experiment showed that water molecules are more active in warm water. The boys were busy designing and making buns/scones and decorating them. The class participated in a webinar organized by Teagasc where they explained and learned about the festival of farming and food.

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

November 2021



St Brendan's Day 2021

We were delighted to be able to celebrate St Brendan's day 29th November with our parish at 10am Mass – a group of 5 excellent boys from 6th class represented the school by travelling over and reading at mass and delivering their traditional “Ode to St Brendan “. Thanks to Fr Tom and Fr Anthony for their support and warm welcome as always. Please God next year we can celebrate by bringing the whole school over and fill the air with song / prayer and music.

Mask wearing at school

The Department of Education announced unexpectedly last week new requirements in relation to mask wearing indoors for pupils from 3rd to 6th class in primary schools. Our school has adopted a pragmatic approach where Pupils were free to start wearing masks in these classes and indeed most have done so. Some families of pupils with medical issues and complex needs have already contacted the school regarding individual exemptions which are required in the best interests of each child. And these have been supported.

Some points that I would feel important to note:

- This applies to boys in 3rd / 4th / 5th and 6th classes.
- The guidance notes and letters come directly from NPHET and DES.
- Pupils will only be required to wear masks INDOORS at school and on bus transport. They do not wear masks for PE or eating lunch.
- School will have an emergency supply of disposable masks but cannot guarantee supply each day.
- The DES envisage this as a short term measure which will be reviewed in February.

Thanks as always for your support and continued co-operation.

Together we will get through these challenging times.

Keep safe, Niall Crofton (Principal Teacher)

Dates for your diary:

- Thursday December 16th Junior Infants Nativity play— Shown on FACEBOOK live at 11.30.
- 6th Class carols- OUTDOORS at Sandymount day care— Thursday 16th Dec 1pm (Full uniforms)
- Friday 17th December—Christmas Jumper / Casual day in support of Cystic Fibrosis Ireland- The Board of Management have approved this event and ask pupils to support with €2 please
- PA Christmas Draw—Monday 20th December
- Christmas Holidays: Wednesday 22nd December from 12.10pm-12.30pm
- School reopens : Thursday 6th January 2022
- MOBILE NUMBERS- Please inform school if you change number for textparent

Christmas at school

Once again we bring this message to our families. As a catholic school, each year we have Christmas shows , advent assemblies , concerts and activities. It is a special time when we prepare for and celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. Our ethos is inclusive so we allow all to take part. If a child has other beliefs then we respect their right to those and do not impose on them. Likewise we must insist that all pupils respect the right of families and pupils to celebrate the magic and uniqueness of Christmas-Santa and all that this brings both in class and at play. We look forward to this special season!

Parents Association Christmas Draw-

We ask all families to please support our Christmas draw this year. Our school really needs to get this fundraising support in order to continue the wonderful school activities and to invest in ICT to support each pupils digital learning.



Winter Display by Cairdeas 1



Senior Infant science experiment

St. Brendan's PS

Last week we were honoured to welcome some members of the victorious Birr intermediate hurling team to the school. Traditionally there would be a big whole school welcome for a county win but COVID safety meant a small outdoor gathering with 5th and 6th class bubbles . captain Mick Mulrooney and coach Johnny Kelly along with players told the boys about the great win and the importance of working hard to achieve these days - there were many tough days and great sacrifice which led to this point so we hope the boys will get inspiration for this visit. It was heartening to hear how these men fondly remember starting their hurling at school and of the friends they still have from playing the game together - our boys were encouraged to make the most of the excellent school coaching now with Adrian Clancy- the boys got some lovely photos with the cup and some hurls signed and please God the next time Birr come back with a county title we will lift the roof off the hall with a welcome !

Hurling Coaching every Tuesday continues under Mr Adrian Clancy with boys movement and co-ordination skills improving each week.

