

March 2022 in the classes:

Junior Infants have been learning all about Spring and what the farmer is up to this time of year. We've been watching out for the signs of Spring and we really enjoyed getting to plant some flower seeds with the help of the Fifth Class boys. We are taking great care to water the plants in our classroom and keep them in the sun and we're so excited to see the shoots starting to peep up at us.

Senior Infants have been learning about the story of Easter. They enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in the Secret Garden.

First class went on a lovely spring walk in the park and looked out for signs of spring. The boys are busy creating lots of lovely Easter art and learning all about the Easter story. The boys really enjoyed dance with Lisa too.

Second class received the sacrament of reconciliation last month and they were fantastic on the night. We have started our preparation for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. We have been busy doing our best during Lent and are very much looking forward to some well-deserved Easter Eggs. Happy Easter everybody.

Third class have really enjoyed learning all about Italy this term and have produced some wonderful projects. I want to say a big thanks to the parents for all their help at home. Third class went to Birr Theatre to see Alice in Wonderland and we all really enjoyed it too. The Academy is running well with Adrian, Mr Crofton and other members of staff. Wishing you all a very happy and safe Easter Holidays.

4th Class enjoyed painting radish, lettuce and peas for spring in class. During the fine weather we took a break from class work to enjoy castle visits. We learnt all about the 1916 Rising for History.

5th Class have been working really hard over the last month. We have been busy preparing for robotics, completing our project on the famine, learning and researching about inspirational women of the world and much more. We have recently been writing stories "As Gaeilge" and narrative stories in English.

6th Class are busily practising our singing and choreography daily for the Peace Proms concert in UL concert hall in May. We also enjoyed Seachtain na Gaeilge in March and completed a Tráth na gCeist with Mrs Kelly. We started using our new school ipads and headsets to help us to learn Irish using the Duolingo app which boys can also download and use at home.

The boys in Cairdeas 1 & 2 enjoyed their trip to Tearaways where their rode the train, saw baby lambs and had great fun on their slides. We are talking about electricity and learning all about money too. We are looking forward to our Easter Egg treasure hunt and our Easter Eggs! Happy Easter everyone.

Cairdeas 2 enjoyed learning about Spring. They learned about the baby animals that are born in Spring time. They created some lovely Spring daffodils for Art. They listened to the story of One Rainy Day and they really enjoyed a trip to Tearaways and got to see new lambs which had been born that very day.

Mr Kennedys Class have been learning about Spring and how the tilt of the Earth going towards the Sun triggers growth. The boys have been visiting Birr Castle identifying the signs of Spring while exploring the beautiful grounds. The class have been learning how to make homemade chips and burgers while they also made their own beef stew which was very tasty

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

Easter 2022



A great day in school on Friday 25th March 'Rocking Our Socks', thanks to all the boys and staff for great effort. €270 raised for Offaly Down Syndrome & Down Syndrome Ireland. #OffalyDownSyndrome Association.

COVID-19 safety and awareness

Thank you to the staff, boys, parents and families who have all followed the safety guidelines and precautions at school and home to allow us to keep the school open safely for the past month. There have been many confirmed cases with pupils and staff but thankfully all have acted responsibly—informed the school and isolated themselves. Massive thanks to the staff who have covered colleagues who have been out with no sub cover due to the national sub shortage crisis and indeed our 5 supply scheme teachers (we are base school) have been busy each day in 32 local schools covering teachers. The DES have given schools banked teaching hours for days with no sub cover in term two so we have planned to use these in term 3 to support pupils who missed on teaching time. COVID 19 is unfortunately going to remain in the community for some time yet so we ask parents to stay vigilant and responsible with regard to testing.

The school can be contacted via the FB page or via email—principal@stbrendansps.ie at any time over Easter. Keep safe, Niall Crofton

Junior infants - September 2022

Parish schools held their enrolment week in January. We were delighted to have great interest in places with lots of boys registered again this year. Enrolment closing date is completed. Please pass on this message to friends / family to ensure that no local boy is left without a place. Enrolment forms can be collected from the office.

Dates for your diary

Friday 8th April

@12.20 (Infants)

@12.30pm (Classes 1st to 6th) Easter holidays (2 weeks)

Monday 25th April

School reopens

May Bank Holiday weekend Closed Monday 2nd May 2022

June Bank Holiday weekend Closed Friday 3rd June 2022

Closed Monday 6th June 2022

Closed Tuesday 7th June 2022

Summer Holidays Closing Tuesday 28th June 2022

First Holy Communion—Saturday 14th May at 11am

Confirmation ceremony Monday 30th May at 7.30pm

Text-a-parent system / email communication system

We would ask parents/guardians to keep school informed of any changes in mobile numbers as home-school communication is very important for us. With Green schools and environmental awareness notes are sent out via EMAIL.

School tours 2022

It's great for classes once again to be going on school tours. These days are fun excursions with a curricular link—PE / SPHE. Class teachers have been mindful of giving the boys a lovely experience with trying to watch costs which have all increased—buses / activities. Teachers have tried to keep costs as affordable as possible and we hope the boys enjoy the day.

Summer Programmes 2022 and reopening 22/23

As communicated to parents we hope to run summer programmes and Literacy / numeracy camp during August. To date there has been no confirmation from DES that this will be funded again. We will let parents know as soon as we hear anything. Also with regard to family holidays our school will reopen for the academic year on Tuesday August 30th 2022 and Summer Holidays 2023 on Wednesday 28th June 2023. We will have the full calendar of holidays with school reports which will be issued to all parents in mid June as per school assessment and reporting policy.

School literacy and numeracy standardized testing

The school will be administering these national tests to all boys from 1st to 6th classes in May. We ask parents to ensure your son does not worry about these, gets good sleep for the first few weeks in May and does their best at all times. Scores are reported on school reports for 2nd / 4th and 6th as per schools policy.

School Hurling

St Brendan's PS / Gaelscoil Na Laochra hurling team 2022 !

Boys played their first championship match earlier today v Rath NS - competitive game in tough conditions with Rath coming out on top - great to see a panel of 29 boys travelling out - boys need to kick on now and get the hours in with school / club and ball work at home



Dance with Lisa

2nd class - Unstoppable!!! Thanks to Gravity Dance Academy for our final dance session with Lisa - huge thanks to Offaly Arts for their support with this programme. This week we welcomed a little boy to 2nd class (dancing in video) who has fled the war in Ukraine - What a lovely way to welcome him to Ireland / Offaly /

Birr / St Brendan's PS - Let's dance not fight in our world



Amazing show yet again by PWC players " Alice in Wonderland " last Friday - boys from 3rd class / Mr Cunningham and Mr Kennedy got the great opportunity to see the show .. and loved it ! Special mention to our 6th class boys from Syria whose first experience it was seeing Panto ☺☺ Thanks to Anne Coughlan and all at Birrtheatre Offaly for their support of our school.