

September Class activities:

Junior Infants have settled fantastically into life at St. Brendan's, even singing at the first school assembly of the year. They have enjoyed trip to the Secret Garden and athletics with Andrea! They've been singing lots of songs and learning lots of poems. A great start to a big year!

Senior Infants have settled back into school very well. During September they have created some beautiful art work. They painted butterflies, designed hot air balloons and made hedgehogs from Autumn leaves.

Ms Kenny's class are exploring the theme of Autumn. We created lots of lovely art work including bubble wrap Autumn trees, pencil shaving hedgehogs and leaf owls. The boys enjoyed coding on the school IPAD's.

Ms Collin's class have settled in really well. We have been learning all about ourselves and our families. They also enjoyed learning all about Hot air balloons and even created their own 3D model of a Hot Air balloon.

Ms Teehan's class have been exploring their senses. We did an experiment to check if we could identify an item using only our sense of smell. We tested 6 different items. We noticed just how strong the smell of orange is.

The boys thankfully really settled into **Third Class** and it's nice to have some group activities back. The boys are enjoying Reading and Phonics on the I pads, where they also had the opportunity to create their very own Monsters. In Science we tried some challenges in pairs, who made the longest chain out of A4 Paper and then using only one Paper plate. We started Literacy Stations and they are going good. For History, Third enjoyed learning all about the Stone Age and Ice Age.

4th Class have settled back into school life and are participating in an 8 week life skills programme. The boys had good Gaelic Football sessions and a match against Roscrea.

5th Class have settled very well back to school. They have been working very hard in class. They had great fun experimenting with colour by identifying warm and cool colours and by mixing primary colours to make secondary and tertiary colours.

6th Class have had a great start to their school year. The boys learnt all about World War I in History. Each completed a WWI project of their choice and presented it to their class. Our 6th Class debating tea, have also been busy researching and preparing for our first debate against Dunkerrin NS next week. Wish us luck!

Cairdeas 1 enjoyed a back to school trip with our friends in Cairdeas 2, to Tearaways, where we rode the train, fed the rabbits and had fun in the ball pool. Our art work this month was based on the theme of Autumn and we painted watercolour trees, bat silhouette and made mosaic moons. We enjoyed learning about bats and read the story Stellanina. We are also learning to play the keyboard with Ms. Killeen. We can play Hot Cross Buns already.

Cairdeas 2 have got off to a flying start this year. They really enjoyed seeing the hot air balloons in the skies around Birr and also in our school yard. The boys even created their own Hot Air Balloons for Art. Cairdeas 2 also enjoyed a class trip to Tearaways and had great fun on the day.

Mr Cunningham's class have settled into their new room really well, they have some pet fish to keep them company! We visited Birr Library and all the boys are now members. We are enjoying reading our library books.

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

September 2022



September welcomes !

As always it is a great pleasure to welcome our new Junior Infants to the school and they are an amazing group. With reduced numbers of enrolments recorded nationally the infants of Ireland for 22/23 have a fantastic opportunity for development with greater teacher input. We are fortunate at our school to also have access to another mainstream teacher this school year to allow for split 1st / 2nd class grades. Lower PTR can achieve a lot but it is the work being done at home by the family and parents who are the primary educators which will have a huge impact. We encourage parents to do their best and make sure to contact their class teacher for support with work at home.

Parents evening—ways to wellbeing

We are delighted to announce an event to support parents wellness and wellbeing and provide you with ways to support your sons wellness. The school along with Mercy primary have arranged a guest speaker " Mr John Doran " to speak to parents in a fun and relaxed presentation. Tuesday 25th October 6.30pm to 7.30pm in our school hall.

Refreshments on arrival

Its been a long time since we could hope such an event and we promise a night that you will enjoy and take away positive thoughts and tips that will benefit you as a person and also your family.

This is an adults only event please.

So book the date in your planner and—invest in your happiness !!

School debating team

We again have a talented and hardworking group of boys from 6th class who are representing the school this year in the Midlands school debating competition. The competition is via zoom and Round 1 is against Dunkerrin with the title—

If we really care about climate change, we should all fly less

Plenty of food for thought and we wish the team well in the debate in coming weeks.

Team— Fionn / Hugh / Ben / Darragh / Daniel / Kamil / Jack

Thanks to Ms Grace and Ms McGrath for their preparation with the team.

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.

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 in school but this year we are making a big appeal to families to support in October.

Please see details online, please support if possible.

#TeamHope

#ChristmasShoebox

Hot air ballooning

Great treat to have a visit from Stephen and crew with their hot air balloon for the 50th Irish hot air ballooning championships in Birr castle.

Thanks to Ms Hogan for organizing the visit !

Gaelic Football

Great fun with school Gaelic as we had 47 boys on the school panel this season with challenge matches against Banagher and Roscrea to give all the boys game time and delighted to have the lads from Birr Gaelscoil again join the panel. Best wishes to the 25 boys on the blitz squad as they play faithful fields blitz with a chance to get to an Offaly final. Thanks to Mr Kennedy / Mr Carroll / Ms Teehan / Ms Pilkington / Mr Gorman and Mr Crofton who all support after school training.

Sacramental preparation 2023

Birr parish have once again planned an excellent sacramental programme for boys this year in 2nd and 6th who wish to receive sacraments. The school will prepare the boys through the Grow in Love programme and the families / boys must commit to attending the preparation masses (5 in total) . The parents meeting on Tuesday / Wednesday nights were well attended and full details and dates were given out then. 6th Class boys will again wear the Robes for confirmation ceremony with rental details to follow nearer the date.

The enrolment weekend in this weekend where families can attend ANY mass on 8th / 9th to register.

Thanks to our teachers and SNA's for support with Joan Hogan (Sacramental co-ordinator) and the priests of the parish.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| First Confession date— | Wed 8th March at 7.30pm |
| First Holy communion— | Saturday 6th May at 11am |
| Confirmation (Bishop Fintan) | Saturday 20th May at 11am |

Dates for your Diary

Monday 10th Oct—School closes 12.30pm
(Primary language Curriculum WEBINAR and staff training)

Wed 12th October at 8pm —Parents Association AGM

Tuesday 18th October—Visit of Fred the magician (€2)

Tuesday 25th October—Ways to wellness event for parents (6.30pm)

Friday 28th October 1.50pm / 3.00pm—Start mid term break

Friday 28th October—LOVE GAA day (€ 2) Birr mayoral campaign
(Fun event in support of Caroline Boyd Birr GAA mayoral Campaign) -
More details to follow and we wish all the candidates well in the coming weeks—Great cause and all proceeds to Birr GAA

Mon 31st October to Friday 4th November—school closed.