

Class activities in May 2023

First/Second Class Ms Teehan: The boys in First and Second class have been working really hard. We have been learning all about healthy foods. We are all trying to eat more foods that are good for us. The boys made some fabulous pieces with clay and painted them using lovely bright colours. We definitely have some artists in the making. Well done to all the boys who tried their very best in the athletics- you were fantastic.

First/Second Class Ms Kenny's class learnt all about famous Irish bridges. They used the iPads to research a bridge of their choice. Then the boys built bridges using different materials such as Lego, straws and magnets. In science the boys explored magnets and created boats and used magnets to move their boats along a river scene that they drew in art. The boys also learnt about water safety.

First/Second Ms Collins class have been busy this month. The boys have really enjoyed learning all about transport. We explored the different types of transport and transport in the pasts. We did some research on the different types of bridges in Ireland and got to build our own bridges using different materials. We also tested how strong they were; it was great fun! We saw the Ras Tailteann taking off in Birr, the bikes went by so fast! We were delighted to cheer on our school hurling team in the final and were excited when they won. The boys enjoyed some lovely art lessons, we were lucky to have an artist come in and teach us all about clay. Some of the boys are taking part in the Junior School Hurling League at lunchtime and they are having lots of fun.

Cairdeas 1: We celebrated the month of May by creating our May altar and listening to stories and songs about the life of Our Lady. We visited the church, attended Mass and one of our boys celebrated his Confirmation. In SESE, we are learning about the countries of Europe and can tell you lots of facts about the United Kingdom and France. Our friends from Cairdeas 2 have been joining us for our art class and we have created cool Minion and Super Mario pictures. We are also very busy practicing our keyboards. We recently took a trip to the playground too.

Cairdeas 2: We in Cairdeas 2 were busy learning all about the Water Cycle this month. We practiced saying really hard words like evaporation and condensation. We also started learning about the topic of food and sorted foods into their correct food groups. We joined Cairdeas 1 for our final trip to Tearaways and had a great time.

Third Class: Loved creating some clay designs and painted them. Thanks to Monica who came in and taught us how to use clay. The boys have learned some simple French phrases after taking part in French lessons with Madame Fatima Abidi. They especially loved tasting the French baguettes, brie cheese and croissants. They were delicious- a taste of France. Third class also learned how to use Microsoft Word and typed out their small facts on a dinosaur of their choice. Have a lovely bank holiday everyone and enjoy the sunshine. Up Offaly- lets hope the U20's do us proud!

Fourth Class have been part of a busy month with school hurling, school hurling leagues, swimming & testing. The class were working hard on their iPads preparing for their testing (IXL App). The class also learned about making decisions as part of their SPHE Programme.

Fifth Class have had a busy month of May. We were very lucky to have author Shane Hegarty travel all the way down from Dublin for three writing workshops. We wrote our stories and passed them on to Offaly Libraries who are going to compile them into a book...keep an eye out for it! We also have made the most of the good weather and enjoyed a trip to Birr Castle. Long may the sunshine last!

6th Class: May has been a busy month for sixth class. The boys were busy preparing for their Confirmation and were privileged to be confirmed by Bishop Fintan Monahan. The boys also learnt all about World War 11 and presented individual projects to their class on a range of topics from Anne Frank, to Blitzkrieg, to Operation Barbarossa to War in the Pacific.

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

May 2023



Cumann na mBunscoil Offaly champions 2023

Champions !St Brendan's PS Birr and Gaelscoil Na Laochra Biorra

Congratulations to the boys (All 29 of them) who played an amazing game to beat a strong and skilful St Rynaghs NS team in Offaly Cumann Na Mbunscoil Division A final - A lot of these boys had faced defeat against Banagher back in November in the offaly football final so were determined to make the most of this final opportunity. A tight first half saw our boys lead 1-4 to 0-4 at half time. Some great scores saw the boys lead well mid way during 2nd half but 3 goals from Rynaghs saw them pull back to a point and then Justin Touhey and Ryan Legace scored great points to win by 3 points at the final whistle 2-10 (14) to 3-5 (11) .

Joint captains Ryan Legace and Lorcan MacEoin raised the cup to great cheers ! ★ □ ★ □ Well done to Mr Kennedy (coach) and Mr Carroll / Mr Gorman / Ms Pilkington / Mr Crofton and all the staff who support and promote school hurling along with the school coach Aaron Whelahan.

Thanks to staff /Parents Association St. Brendan's Boys School, Birr, and all the younger boys for the amazing support at St Brendan's Park Birr on a gorgeous pitch by Birr Gaa- Thanks to for his excellent refereeing on the day and to Declan Ward and his fantastic committee of volunteers at Cumann Na Mbunscoil Offaly Biorra Abu !!

School end-of-year reports and holidays

Thursday 1st June - Staff CPD day

Friday 2nd /Monday 5th /Tuesday 6th—School closed

Wednesday 7th—School reopens

WEDNESDAY 28th June school closed for summer holidays (12.20pm / 12.30pm)

Class end of year reports for all classes will be sent home with pupils in sealed envelopes on **Tuesday 20th June**. Class teachers for academic year 23/24 and school calendar for the year will be included in the report. Parent support sheets will accompany reports for classes with standardized test score results.

Just a date to note also for families planning their summer- Boys will return to school on Thursday 31st August 2023.

End of year school mass

This year we are delighted to again invite the school community / parents to join us in celebrating our end of year school mass on Thursday 22nd June at 1pm. The mass will hopefully be outside (weather permit) and ALL boys will go home 2pm that day. Fr Anthony will celebrate for us.

Teaching resources 22/23

We were delighted to again secure extra teacher for the academic year ahead. This will maintain our school at 9 mainstream teachers for next year which will mean lower pupil teacher ratios in some classes (split class) and will give all the boys a fantastic opportunity for academic and holistic development next year. Parents will be updated about this in June.

Sacraments with Birr parish

Well done to all the boys who received Holy communion and confirmation over the month of May. Thanks to Joan Hogan and Fr Anthony / Fr Tom for their support this year. Special word of thanks to the teachers and SNA's involved in preparing the boys for the day and the staff who support the lovely music and artwork for the ceremonies.



Summer camps.

The school is delighted to run these programmes again this summer. The SP is now running for the 8th year and is a great support to the boys who are eligible. All places are now filled and the staff look forward to a fun and exciting programme.

Summer Programme- 3 weeks starting Tuesday 8th August

Lit / Num summer camp- 1 week starting Monday 21st August.

FYI—Lisa Hogan (Gravity Dance) is running kids summer camps out of our school this July—Please contact Lisa for details and Bookings.

Parents Association

Thanks to all for supporting the PA sponsored walk and cycle. The walk in Birr castle took place this week for Infant classes and we will run the other walk and lough boora cycle (3rd -6th) in June.

There will also be a Parents Association cake sale in the school on Tuesday 13th June. Please support !

All monies raised from PA fundraisers go to fund pupil activities at the school.

May Newsletter 2023

Junior Infants have had great fun in school since we came back after Easter. We've been learning all about life on the farm and transport. We've been growing plants and making use of the good weather going outside and drawing chalk pictures on the yard and taking trips to the playground and the library. The boys in Junior Infants have had a fantastic first year in school and now are looking forward to their first school tour and sports day. Some exciting weeks ahead.

Senior Infants: The boys in Senior Infants have been learning all about local history in class. Mrs Gorman kindly gave a presentation about famous historical sites around the town of Birr. The boys recently visited the playground making the most of the beautiful weather.

Mr Cunningham's Class are enjoying learning about their community and people who work in their local community. We had lovely visits to library, post office and even the local Mart! The boys were fascinated by the whole process of buying and selling cattle. The boys also enjoyed lovely walks in Birr Castle and our local park, enjoying the summer sunshine!

