

Class activities continued: 4th class have settled back into the new school year and have been learning about Number in Math's. (addition/subtraction) The class learned about the story of bread from farm to table. Currently we are learning about Self- Identity as part of their SPHE programme. The boys created a self portrait and used words to describe their personalities. In Irish the boys learned the poem Mo Bhreithlá.

Ms Collins 1st class have settled into their new class. We are really enjoying art and music with Ms Killeen. We've enjoyed joining Ms Kenny's class for PE, Maths stations and secret garden. The boys enjoyed celebrating St Brendans PS birthday and raising Amber flag. We especially loved the ice-cream.

Over the past few weeks **second class** have been exploring their community past and present with an emphasis on school buildings with their own school having its 145th birthday. They also learned about the 3 old secondary schools the college; (Sam's house) which was school for the boys, the convent (beside the playground) which was where the girls attended and then Birr also had a Technical school where we now have our outdoor education centre that both boys and girls attended. The boys learnt that the EU then gave a grant to build the new secondary school out the Banagher road where all attended, then and now. They will continue their exploring next week with an Autumn walk around our town which will bring to life all that they have learnt in the classroom.

6th Class enjoyed many different activities this term, most notable enjoying a morning spent coding with Microsoft Dreamspace. This is a nationwide collaboration with Microsoft to bring the basics of coding to the classroom. The children learned to write code for microbit.

The boys in **Cairdeas 2** are happy to be back in school and they have settled in well into their new room. September has been a lot of fun! The boys enjoyed a visit from Fred the magician recently. They have also enjoyed taking part in yoga, athletics and music with Ms Killeen.

Ms Kennys 1st class are enjoying daily literacy stations. They are engaging in reading and writing activities, along with literacy games for phonics & sightwords. Once a week the two first classes are coming together for maths stations and are participating in lots of hands on maths activities. In art the boys created some lovely 2D shape monsters.

Junior Infants have settled in very well to junior infants class. We learned all about autumn and went on an autumn walk to the park. We collected lots of signs of autumn. We painted autumn trees using a technique called pointillism and painted in leaf templates in our autumn colours. We also loved having the ice-cream van visit our school on the day we raised the Amber Flag. We love ice-cream!

Cairdeas 1 has had an exciting start back to school this September. We have spent this month developing our mindfulness tree. This is a shared piece of art we created to remind ourselves of all the ways we can stay happy, healthy and positive. The boys used leaf rubbing, paint mixing and mesh paper to create leaves for the tree and behind each leaf is a little thought to keep us mindful and helpful to others. **Welcome back everyone.** The boys in **3rd class** have all settled in and are enjoying being back together as a whole group. They enjoyed completing the Science challenge to see who can make the longest chain. We had an informative, learning all about dairy cattle and how milk is produced. They enjoyed Fred the magician and especially the lovely ice-creams to celebrate St Brendan's birthday and the raising of the Amber flag. We are all looking forward to the Halloween break.

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

September 2023



September welcomes !

As always it is a great pleasure to welcome our new Junior Infants to the school and they are a lovely group who have settled very well to school. It has been a very busy and exciting month where we have welcomed 21 new Junior Infants and some other pupils to older classes along with new staff this year Ms Ryan / Ms Ryan / Mr Cooke / Mr Kelly / Mr Killackey / Ms Dooley. Congratulations to Ms Teehan / Ms Stack and Ms Hynes on their recent arrivals and delighted that all are well.

With all the busy activities we unfortunately missed the deadline for the Midland Tribune Junior Infant photos so we will take a new photo soon (with all present) and make sure to get it in to the local papers.

We have also welcomed a new lunch app and we thank parents for their patience and support over the past month. In particular a word of thanks to our amazing lunch ladies Natasha / Lisa and Liz who made sure that even with orders flying around in a cloud- every child got a lunch and hot meal. Staff have reviewed the menu with SFC and we hope to have the popular choices spread out to support Student attendance after mid-term. We are very fortunate to have such an amazing company as lunch supplier.

PARENT CONTACT DETAILS

Please complete the student registration form that will come home as we need to ensure we have correct contact details for all families.

Birr Hurling / school coaching

Great excitement for Birr GAA and Offaly hurling supporters as the senior County final once again returns to Birr. We wish Rory Hannify and all the team involved well over the weekend and the school grounds will support for car-parking and warm-up. We await national update on GDO for hurling coaching at the school and hopefully we will get good news after mid term. Always great to see boys using the ball wall too each day. 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.

School Gaelic Football

Great fun with school Gaelic football again this year as we have almost 40 boys on the school panel this season from 6th/5th and 4th classes. The boys have played a catch and kick gaelic league with Mr Crofton every lunchtime with league nearing semi-final stages now. We have enjoyed challenge matches with Corville NS in Roscrea along with training every week (Monday / Friday) to give all the boys game time and delighted to have the lads from Birr Gaelscoil again join the panel. Team have had two good wins against Crinkle and Dromakeenan with Rynaghs to follow this week. Thanks to Mr Kennedy / Mr Carroll / Mr Kelly and Mr Crofton who all support after school training. We have made the offaly Cumann na Mbunscoil final next week too! (Thursday 19th October time 1pm) at St Brendan's Park Birr.



Sacramental preparation 2024

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 this Tuesday / Wednesday nights are to be attended and full details and dates will be 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 14th / 15th to register.

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

Dates for your Diary

Friday 27th October 1.50pm / 3.00pm—Start mid term break

Mon 30th October to Friday 3rd November—school closed.

Happy 145th birthday St Brendan's PS !

On this day 2nd October in 1878 the school was opened by the Presentation Brothers - We were delighted to welcome Brother Denis to share in the celebrations and as it was the school's birthday all boys got a night off homework that week which got a great cheer !! We look forward to another great year of continuing the work the brothers started in 1878

Some September Class activities

The boys in Mr. Cunningham's class have settled in really well. We are all getting to know each other and learning to respect each other. The boys enjoyed telling each other about their summer holidays and writing and drawing nice pictures about their holidays. We have cooked different items for breakfast throughout the month. The boys enjoyed exploring the theme of Autumn and learning about animals that prepare to hibernate. Our class learnt all about Diwali, the festival of light and compared it to some of our traditions in Ireland. The boys are looking forward to Halloween later this month. **Senior infants** have settled back to school very well. They are working very hard and have been learning all about autumn and animals that hibernate. **5th Class** have been working hard on learning all about the Great Famine. They really enjoyed reading Under the Hawthorn Tree and are starting now on Wildflower Girl. A class trip to the workhouse in Portumna next week is creating lots of interest and excitement.

