

## St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

Christmas 2023

**4th Class**— The boys did some fantastic Christmas art sessions with Mrs Kelly and Ms Corcoran. There were lots of materials and some music playing and it was a very mindful and relaxing time. Congratulations from the boys to Mr Kennedy on arrival of little baby boy. **5th Class** November & December—we have been very busy throughout November & December. Last week we had an online safety talk from Barnardos which we found very useful. It gave us lots of tips about how to stay safe online. We also had an assembly in the hall last Wednesday for Fr Anthony who is leaving to head back to India. We lit the Advent wreath as we progress towards Christmas. **5th Class** then led the prayers at the assembly and sang songs. Our school concert also took place last week. We performed our tin whistle tunes with **6th class** & also sang a couple of songs on stage which we really enjoyed. Cormac Egan also presented medals to our school football team afterwards. **Mr. Cunningham's class** have really enjoyed the advent season and preparing for Christmas. The boys explored different Christmas traditions and cultures from around the world. They really liked the idea in Holland of having 2 Christmas Days, I wonder why! The boys enjoyed completing Christmas word searches and colouring their favourite Christmas scenes and characters. Happy Christmas everyone! **Ms Grimes' class** have been very busy for November and December. The boys decorated our classroom and put up the Christmas tree, followed by a hot chocolate treat! The boys enjoyed going to Dooly's hotel for breakfast and a visit to the church, as well as a trip to Tearaways. Lots of fun was had baking also- the boys made delicious cupcakes which they decorated for Christmas. **6th Class** had a very busy term. The boys continued working with Microsoft Dreamspace learning about coding and the importance of coding. They also enjoyed a visit to the Christmas markets in Birr Community School. Continuing a very special school tradition the boys visited Sandymount Nursing Home and sang carols for the residents there. Dear Parents, Happy Christmas to you all. The elves were busy at home creating mischievous acts over the month of December. **Third Class** were busy the last couple of weeks making lovely projects, learning new lessons, completing science experiments and arts and crafts. They were brilliant for the Christmas concert. Have a fabulous Christmas and see you all in the New Year. Ms Wyrer This term the boys in **Cairdeas 1** have been busy preparing for Christmas. This term we really enjoyed practicing for our school show. We have also really enjoyed Christmas cooking and art. Our trip to the crib and to Tearaways both went down a treat!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. Thanks to all our pupils, families, staff and school community for the great spirit and togetherness shown over the past term. Thanks to our B.O.M. under Chair of Mr Pat Teehan, Fr. Anthony our Chaplin, our Parents' Association, our hardworking staff of teachers and S.N.As, Ita our secretary, Mick our caretaker and Lorraine and Marcella who always keep our school looking so well. Holidays begin on Friday 22nd December with infants finishing at 12.20pm and all other classes at 12.30pm. School reopens on Monday 8th January 2024—

Niall Crofton (Principal Teacher)



### Christmas concert 2023

Massive thanks to all involved in our concert this year :  
The amazing staff who give so much of their time, patience and energy in practicing and supporting behind the scenes. Great to see all classes involved and thanks to 4th who entertained in foyer ( They will be involved in Grandparents day in 2024) . Highlight was the infant “ Snowman at sunset” so well done to Ms Pilkington, Ms Ryder and Ms Moran for directing. Special thanks to Ms Fitzgerald for the lovely background on stage and the gorgeous costumes ( All made from recycled materials! ) Caretaker Mick for setting up the stage ( chairs from Martin ) and for having the school look so well with cleaning staff Lorraine and Marcella, Our parents association for supporting and fundraising, the wonderful Majella Killeen who encourages our boys to sing and perform the lovely musical and instrumental pieces - with support from Music Generation Offaly and of course our parents and families for packing out the hall for 2 concerts  
And the stars of the show - our boys ☆ for bringing the Christmas joy and spirit ♡🎄🎵

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir



Niall Crofton

## Board of Management notes

Our Additional ASD accommodation project is still ongoing and we hope to go to full tender in 2024— Exciting times ahead !

The teacher supply crisis which is a national issue is also having an effect on our school with subs very difficult to source. We hope to again interview in 2024. Classes are split when no sub cover or sub available.

Our new BOM 2023-2027 is now in place and we thank all the parents for their involvement in the election process. Thanks to our outgoing members for their valued contribution—Amanda Hogan / Damien Cunningham and Michael Loughnane

**Principal** Mr. Niall Crofton

**Parents Nominees** Mr. Rory Hannify

Ms. Joanne Rock

**Patrons Nominees** Mr. Pat Teehan (Chair)

Ms. Colette Mulrooney

**Community Nominees** Ms. Mary McIntyre

Mr Dominic Plunkett

**Teacher Nominee** Ms Sarah Pilkington

## School completion notes

It has been an active term for the Roscrea/Birr School Completion Programme. Throughout the term, we have facilitated five transfer sessions with Ms Doyle's 6<sup>th</sup> class. As part of our transfer programme, the boys joined up with 6<sup>th</sup> class from the Mercy Primary School and Oxmantown School to participate in the annual treasure hunt. This activity provided the pupils with an opportunity to meet up with boys and girls from the other schools that will be in their first year in St. Brendan's Community School. We look forward to working with the boys again for some more of our Transfer Programme, and our Ceilí in March.

Along with our transfer programme, we also met and provided support on an individual basis to some pupils from other classes. Our afterschool programme included the Let's Read Pal programme in conjunction with TY students from St. Brendan's Community School, golfing, swimming and tennis.

Next year, we look forward to continuing with our individual and afterschool programmes, along with facilitating our eight-week socialisation programme with Junior Infants and Life Skills with fourth class.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank your School Principal, Mr. Crofton, your HSCL, Ms. Anne Hennelly and all the staff in St. Brendan's Boys' School most sincerely for their support. Without this support, we could not do the work we do.

On behalf of the School Completion Programme team, Rachel Moloney, Dani Dunne, Margaret Blake, Dearbhla Hall and myself Mairead Keevey, we would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

*Mairead Keevey*



## Fantastic Santa visit this week !

He really arrived in style with Ernie Bailey 🎅 - Santa was in great form and sang with the boys before picking out the winning draw ticket - then he visited the classrooms giving the boys a yummy selection box each - Many thanks to Parents Association St. Brendan's Boys School, Birr for managing to call the North Pole and getting

Santa to visit on this busy week ❤️🎄

## Carol singing at Sandymount

Lovely for our 6th class boys to have their annual carol singing visit to the day care /residents of Sandymount centre - this is a lively tradition going strong for the past 22 years so we thank Leilagh and staff for the warm

welcome and we wish all at Sandymount a happy Xmas. A huge thank you to our amaz-

ing catering ladies - Natasha / Lisa and Liz ★★ who cook up the lovely hot meals each day for our boys from school food company The menu is working well with the soup very popular over the winter— Please re-order for 1st week in Janu-

ary and will roll over from there- Happy Christmas ladies 🌲 **December Notes**

**from our classes** **Junior Infants** have had a very fun and festive December. We were busy practising for our Christmas show and we did lots of Christmas art. We visited the crib in the Square and made a pit stop at the playground. Our favourite part was dancing to Christmas music in class and Santa's visit to school. **Senior Infants** worked very hard this month. They were busy preparing for their Christmas concert and they did a super job, we are so proud of them. They also did some beautiful art eg. puffy paint snowmen, advent wreaths and salt dough Christmas decorations. The boys also visited the crib in Emmet Square and the playground as a little treat. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and see you all in the New Year. **Ms Collins 1<sup>st</sup> Class** The boys have been very busy the past few weeks. We have been learning about 3D shapes and Place value in maths. We were busy practicing for our Christmas concert, we hope everyone enjoyed our songs and the headbands that we made! We also made salt dough decorations with Ms Kenny's class. And have created lots of lovely winter and Christmas art! We are learning all about advent and the Christmas story in religion. Happy Christmas everyone. **Ms Kennys 1<sup>st</sup> Class** enjoyed drawing characters and then used the ipads to turn their characters into animations. We also made some Christmas salt dough decorations, enjoyed a zoom story time with Birr library and both 1<sup>st</sup> classes enjoyed coming together to do some Christmas stations. The boys had lots of fun and we wish everyone a happy Christmas. **Second class** have very busy over the past few months. We are working very hard and our teachers are really proud of our progress! We are excited for Christmas and have been preparing for it by making some lovely Christmas Art including 3D gingerbread houses. In the Christmas show we played Jingle Bells on the Boomwhackers. We also listened to a lovely Christmas story on Zoom from Birr library. In Religion we learned all about the Advent wreath and we are all set to start our First Confession preparations in the New Year! We have also been taking part in the indoor hurling league during lunchtimes and really enjoy it. Happy Christmas and New Year to all our friends and families!

