

January 2024 some news from the classes

Junior infants, senior infants and 1st class enjoyed a visit from Birr Fire Station yesterday morning. The boys were very excited to see two firemen, Fergal and Colm, and the fire truck. They learned about the amazing work the firemen do and all of the tools and equipment they need to keep themselves safe and to rescue others. Thanks very much to our school caretaker Mick for helping to organise this visit.

The boys in **Senior Infants** have been learning all about winter, the weather and the farm this month. They enjoyed a winter walk to the park where they observed all the signs of winter. They are delighted hurling is back again and are really enjoying the gymnastic equipment in the hall.

Second class are well under way with our First Confession preparation, practising our songs and prayers daily and by going to mass. We learned the story of Zaccheus and really enjoy the Zaccheus song. In Maths we explored length and weight and had great fun measuring various items and spaces. In Art we made clay monsters and magnets and are looking forward to painting them this week. We are really enjoying gymnastics and hurling which have just started!

Mr Cooke's Cairdeas 1 class have been busy in January enjoying our weekly shopping trip to Gala! The boys have been practicing making orders at the deli counter and using a shopping list.

3rd Class designed some lovely projects on any sport of their choice and presented them to the class. They learned all about the history of the GAA and all around the Coast of Ireland. The boys created some lovely Acrostic Poems and are currently enjoying the art project with Monica. Have a lovely bank holiday break everyone.

4th class boys enjoyed a great history tour yesterday as they visited Bunratty Castle & Folk Park—A fantastic welcome and tour of the castle and park which brings Irish history out of the book and come to life ! They enjoyed some nice food on the way home too - Thanks to Mr Kennedy and Mr Carroll for taking the class

Ms Grimes Cairdeas 2 class have been very busy this month. We learned about the artist Kandinsky and made replicas of his art. We have been making delicious treats such as chocolate brownies and banoffee pie. We are enjoying playing the boomwhackers for music with Ms Killeen. Using the gymnastics equipment in the hall has also been great fun.

5th Class have had a very busy few weeks in fifth class. They had a trip to the local library for a presentation on wetlands which was extremely informative and everyone enjoyed. They have been partaking in gymnastics and hurling coaching the past couple of weeks in school. Well done to 5th class Ewan McGrath who was our 5th class winner in the Spelling Bee competition.

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

January- 2024

Catholic Schools week 2024

Delighted to be able to attend 10am as part of Catholic school weeks 2024 and celebrate with song and word .. what a pleasure also to have a past pupil in Fr Arnold Rosney celebrate as our new school chaplain.



Junior infants - September 2024

We are now accepting applications for enrolment September 2024 for junior infants - please contact the school 0579121033 or secretary@stbrendansps.ie for enrol forms. Forms and admission statement 2024/2025 regarding the number of places available can be viewed on school website also.

For any new families we can arrange a look at the school upon request as always. Looking forward to having another amazing group of boys starting their primary school journey at the school.

Parent contact details

We use mobile numbers for calls and texts but lots of information—goes via email so every family should have an email address so that we can communicate with you. Finally if you change mobile or address please let us know.

Dates for your diary

Mid term break—School closed Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February 2024.

School closed Monday 18th March (BH) 2024

Easter Break—Closing Friday 22nd March at 12.30pm—

Reopening Monday 8th April 2024.

Catholic schools week took place at end of January 2024.

During the week all classes attended 10am mass Details for boys in 2nd / 6th receiving sacraments this year.

1st Confessions for 2nd class boys—Wednesday 6th March @ 7.30pm

- Boys to wear full school uniforms

1st communion for 2nd class boys—Sat 18th May 11am

Confirmation for 6th class boys— Sat 13th April 3pm

Board of Management

The Board met this month where a range of items were discussed. The national teacher shortage is most certainly affecting all counties this term. The school were unable to fill a number of supply teacher roles before Christmas and these still remain unfilled. Teacher uncertified sick leave / EPV days and family illness days remain without substitute cover so the school tries our best to cover the classes and avoid sending classes home for the day. We thank you for your support and understanding with this matter.

BOM informed of STEM grant application success of €10,000 in December and Mr Cunningham thanked for his work in developing and submitting the application.

School had submitted entry to Cumann na mBunscoil school of the year. Unsuccessful on this occasion but the presentation entry in itself displays the great year we had with Gaelic Games in 2023.

BOM informed that school had communicated with all bus service operators over insuring bus safety guidelines that were issued from RSE in January are complied with.

BOM adopted the new Parental complaints procedures that were issued to all schools from 1st January. These are to be communicated to our school community and available on now on our website.

Summer Programme 2024 will run same as other years in August (subject to staff availability) - Further info to follow in this term.

School spelling BEE competition 2024

Spelling Bee 2024 is done and dusted - Thanks to all the boys from 5th and 6th classes who entered

5th class winners were Ewan / Fionn and Sam C

6th class winners Adam / Conall and Jack

Overall champion speller Adam Feighery Congratulations to the amazing speller Adam Feighery from 6th class who is out school champion from spelling Bee 2024 !!! - Adam narrowly defeated the 5th class champion Ewan to take the trophy - Adam will go forward to represent the school at the

Offaly spelling Bee later this term @easons



Athletics

Congratulations to our junior and senior athletics team who travelled today to Athlone IT to take part in the future stars diversity games 2023 - All boys performed great and wore the jersey with pride in their events - well done to the senior relay team who took 2nd place overall - John / Abdaal / Zi Han and Harry - thanks to Mr Cooke and Mr Butler who took the team today and to Offaly Sports Partnership for their great support.



SSE—Homework

As part of our SSE (School self evaluation) we are looking at the area of homework in our school this term. The current policy is old and we now need the views of parents / pupils and staff to look at the area of homework and try to modernise our approach and policy to match pupil and family life in 2024.

To this end we ask each parent / family to complete a survey monkey questionnaire in the next week. All staff will answer a survey and all pupils will complete a paper survey this week also. The results will be collated and shared and we hope our new policy will be inclusive of all the viewpoints.