

March 2024 in the classes:

Junior Infants had a very busy month of March. We learned all about Spring, animals and their babies. We enjoyed a spring walk and we planted our own seeds and watched them grow. We experimented with clay and made hearts for our wonderful Mammies for Mother's Day. We learned all about St Patrick and made self-portrait leprechauns and badges. We are now busy getting ready for Easter and we hope everyone has a lovely Easter break!

Senior Infants have been learning all about plants and how to keep plants healthy. They sowed sunflower seeds and are looking after them very well. The boys loved learning the song "Ireland's Call" and are still singing it since Ireland's big win. Happy Easter from everyone in Senior Infants.

1st Class Ms Kenny's class were learning all about Spring. We learnt about the Dawn Chorus and all about migration. We drew swallows, we learnt about bats and are working on report writing all about bats. We have also started exploring Maths Talk as part of our Maths Stations and enjoyed Maths and English stations with Ms Collins 1st Class.

Ms Collins 1st Class have had a busy few weeks. We have been learning all about the 3 R's Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, we started recycling and composting in our class. We have been doing lots of art with Ms Kenny's 1st Class, we explored colour and did lots of finger painting to create St Patrick's Day and Easter art. We are enjoying coming together with Ms Kenny's 1st Class for Maths and literacy stations. We have been learning about procedural writing, we wrote a recipe for brownies and made them – they were delicious

2nd class have had a busy time lately! We received the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the start of February in a lovely ceremony in the church. We also put on a drama for Seachtan na Gaeilge for the whole school in which we incorporated three things we love...sport, singing and Gaeilge! The whole school enjoyed it and we did ourselves proud. We have really enjoyed the Dance lessons and hurling lessons for PE also and we created some lovely pieces in Art including Spring Tractors and Funny Bunnies! Communion preparation is under way and we are excited for our big day in May!

3rd Class Over the last couple of weeks, third class really enjoyed the experience of working with clay during art lessons. They worked with an experienced artist, Monica. It was lovely to see their creations coming together and finished pieces displayed on the wall in St Brendan's PS. You are welcome to call in and view their great work. In Maths, third class were working hard on learning the analogue and digital clock, 3D shapes, Data, Length and Area. For SESE, they learned all about Italy, the history of chocolate and the Olympics- they enjoyed making chocolate lollipops. In English they started learning how to use the dictionary and completed activities based on the story of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Wishing everyone a very happy Easter break.

4th Class had a busy term completing the Teacher Artists Partnership Programme to complete their beautiful clay pieces. The boys also had Spanish, Life Skills Programme, Dance, Music and Hurling Coaching. Tráth na gcEist do Seachtan na Gaeilge.

5th Class have been extremely busy over the past few weeks. In February, we took part in a film making workshop, in which we planned, scripted and produced our own movies. This was really fun! We have also enjoyed partaking in dance, relaxation and hurling sessions.

6th Class had a very exciting term, the highlight being our participation in the All Ireland Vex Robotics Championship where the boys came third in Ireland. The boys have also been busy preparing for confirmation with their retreat in the Marian Hall.

St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

Easter 2024



Teacher artist programme success

Fantastic finale to our TAP (teacher - artist - programme) this week as artist Monica O Meara came to school to organise the display of the children's work - Here's a photo of the 'Sculpting Smiles - Clay-laborative Wellbeing' artwork collaboration under the TAP programme with support from Laois Education Centre - The boys in 3rd and 4th classes had an amazing time over the past number of weeks and great credit to class teachers Ms Wyer and Mr Kennedy for their work supporting this - It's a fantastic piece of art which all the boys can view each day and see their work and little initials engraved in the hands - We are proud that this pupil art creation is displayed proudly at our school and will hopefully inspire generations to follow— Thank you so much Monica O'Meara (Artist) and Laois Education centre.

Summer Programmes 2024 and reopening 23/24

We will communicate to parents in coming weeks as we hope to run summer programmes and Literacy / numeracy camp during August. These will be staffed and organised in term 3.

Dates for the 3 weeks(15 days) SP are Tues 6th —Monday 26th Aug

DEIS summer camp will be Monday 19th- Friday 23rd August

Also with regard to family holidays our school will reopen for the academic year on Thursday 29th August 2024. We will have the full calendar of holidays with school reports which will be issued to all parents in mid June as per school assessment and reporting policy.

Dates for your diary

Monday 8th April

School reopens

May Bank Holiday weekend
Closed Monday 6th May 2024
Closed Tuesday 7th May 2024

June Bank Holiday weekend
Closed Friday 31st May 2024
Closed Monday 3rd June 2024
Closed Tuesday 4th June, 2024

Summer Holidays (half Day) Closing Tuesday 27th June 2024

- First Holy Communion—Saturday 18th May at 11am
- Confirmation ceremony Saturday 13th April at 3pm—Robes

Grandparents day / Music day 2024

We hope to have an event on Thursday 30th May where we invite Grandparents of boys in 2nd and 4th classes to our school to share in some music and song fun. This will be part of a music day at our school where all pupils will get to perform and enjoy other musical performances. This is thanks to the support of class teachers and Ms Majella Killeen and Music Generation Offaly programme at our school.

Text-a-parent system / email communication system

We would ask parents/guardians to keep school informed of any changes in mobile numbers as home-school communication is very important for us. With Green schools and environmental awareness notes are sent out via EMAIL.

VEX Robotics 2024

An amazing performance at the Offaly championships in February saw the St Brendans team win the Offaly title for the 2nd year in a row! The 6th class boys then travelled to Cork in March for the All Ireland finals where they came 3rd overall out of 24 teams who were champions in their county. Massive credit to Mr Cunningham and Ms Makim who gave so much of their time to support the boys in teaching them programming and design of the robot and to the boys for a great performance on the day!



Dance with Lisa

Thanks to Gravity Dance Academy for our final dance session with Lisa Hogan—huge thanks to Offaly County Council Arts Department for their grant support with this programme. The theme of this year's programme was called "Dance boost" and was designed especially for our boys, we aimed to provide them with a unique opportunity to explore a different form of self-expression and physical activity.



PA Table quiz for Primary pupils

Fantastic turnout at our [Parents Association St. Brendan's Boys School, Birr](#) Primary school table quiz in March—25 teams took part in a packed hall and all enjoyed themselves greatly! It was great to have a mix of boys and girls from all the local schools present. Happy winners from all schools too and we hope to see lots of teams back next year!

Community and local responsibility

It has been brought to the principals attention that some pupils may have knocked on residents doors in Moorpark street before and after school. It is not school responsibility before 9am and after 3pm and so we ask parents to speak with their son about community respect when travelling to and from school.

March 2024 in the classes:

Mr. Cunningham's class enjoyed learning all about Spring and new life that tied in well with our RSE programme. The boys handwriting and presentation has greatly improved this term. We had a lovely Easter Egg hunt around our secret garden. Happy Easter everyone!

Mr Cooke's Class This March we have been busy working on our creating flowers and insects to help us fill out our Spring art display. We enjoyed a trip to the park and stopped for a hot chocolate on the way back to school!! We really enjoyed our sensory dance time with Lisa Hogan!

Ms Grimes' Class enjoyed a trip to Birr Castle where they looked for some signs of Spring. This was followed by a trip to Dooly's Hotel for some yummy treats. The boys have also really enjoyed hurling, dance and music.