

## Activities around the classes September 2024

Ms. Kennys **Senior Infants class** are busy settling into a new school year. The boys were learning all about lines in art and created their own caterpillars using lots of different lines. In maths we are exploring ordinal numbers and had great fun racing cars to see who came 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last. We are enjoying play time exploring our small world areas of dinosaurs, restaurant and our car mat.

In the month of September **5<sup>th</sup> Class** explored the theme of “**Our School.**” We examined photos of various places/features within our school. We drew sketches of St Brendan’s PS. We also carried out a maths trail around the school grounds. The boys had good fun doing this and each team eager to complete the trail in quickest time with the correct answers!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Class** have been busy preparing for their Communion enrolment Mass. They decorated beautiful name plates. Boys have made ‘Monsters’ using fork art getting ourselves in the Halloween spirit.

**4<sup>th</sup> Class** have settled back into school life and are enjoying their football sessions on Wednesday. They are also learning about the Life Skills Programme with Margaret from the School Completion Programme. **Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal-** we are participating in the team Hope Shoebox Appeal. The closing date for accepting the shoeboxes is 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Ms Hynes **Senior Infants** have settled very well into their new class. We were busy looking at the theme of ‘Myself’ in September. We drew self- portraits and told the class about our favourite food and games. We explored our five senses and went on a fun senses walk around the school.

**6<sup>th</sup> Class** led the school in our prayer service to mark the start of our school year. **Junior Infants** have settled very well into school life at St Brendan’s. We learned lots of new rhymes and one of our favourites is Humpty Dumpty. We also did lots of cutting, art and play. Our favourite thing to do is visit the secret garden when the weather is nice and dry! We are looking forward to the rest of the school year.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Class** have been studying the map and counties of Ireland. They have learned about the Offaly County Crest and have researched and drawn their own family crests.

**First Class** has settled in well, especially adjusting to the extra hour in school. Over the last couple of weeks, we have focused on the theme of Autumn and now we are preparing for Halloween.

The boys in **Cairdeas 2** have settled in well to the new school year. They are enjoying a range of activities such as, hurling coaching with Shane and visiting the Secret Garden. The boys recently went on a nature walk around the school to spot the various signs of Autumn. We are already looking forward to Halloween and decorating our classroom!

This September **Cairdeas 1** have had great fun working on Autumn art. We learned all about the changes in autumn. Our 6<sup>th</sup> class boys have really enjoyed the addition of the climbing wall on the yard. We are looking forward to a fun year ahead!

**Mr. Cunningham's class** have all settled in well this year, we were delighted to welcome 2 new boys this term. The boys are enjoying learning all about Autumn and completing Autumn Artwork. We are looking forward to the busy school year ahead!

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

September / October 2024



### Term 1 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 18 new Junior Infants and some other pupils to older classes along with new staff this year.

The lovely photo above was also part of the MIDLAND TRIBUNE supplement last weeks on new Junior Infants.

These past few weeks we have also welcomed a number of pupils from local IPAS centres in Birr. True to the ethos and culture of our school and community, these boys have been truly welcomed to our school and we have applied for and set up extra supports where necessary. These boys and their families share the same views as ourselves as to the importance of education and the role that is will play in our pupils future and happiness.

### PARENT CONTACT DETAILS

Please make sure that you inform the school if you change phone number or email address.

### Dates for your Diary

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 1.50pm / 3.00pm—Start mid term break

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November—school closed.

## School Gaelic Football

Another great season of Gaelic Football at the school. We started back in early September with lunchtime Gaelic every day for 6th and 5th Classes. The boys enthusiasm and energy every day was a thing to behold.

School panel was created with over 30 boys from 6th / 5th and some development boys from 4th class under the guidance of Mr Kennedy. We were delighted this year to have the support of Alan Owens ( Gaelscoil na Laochra) with Mr Crofton / Mr Carroll and Mr Cooke supporting along the way.

The boys were moved up to Offaly B division this year due to their success over past few years so we faced new adventures to Ferbane / Ballinamere / Durrow / Mucklagh and had a challenge match against Corville NS in Roscrea also. A great semi final win away to Durrow took us to County Final in O Connor park Tullamore.

Hard luck to all the boys and congratulations to an excellent Mucklagh team who won out the county final by 4 points - our schools can be so proud of the way the boys played the game - honesty of effort and great respect for the opposition and referee-Great experience to step up to that stage from south Offaly and an experience to remember - Mighty support from our supporters busload too !!

Thanks to Declan Ward and his team from Cumann na Mbunscoil for all their work and organization- Thanks also to Mr Kennedy / Alan Owens and Mr Crofton for their work supporting the team this campaign.



## Sacramental preparation 2025

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 meetings have been completed along with enrolment mass—and full details of ceremonies 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.

First confessions : Wednesday 26th March 7.30pm

Confirmation ( Bishop ) Saturday 15th March 11am

First communion : Saturday 17th May 11am

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

## Road safety on Moorpark Street

Our school always stresses the importance of safety of the boys coming to school and travelling home. We were delighted to link in with local Councillor Audrey Hennessy Kennedy over some safety changes to Moorpark Street. Audrey has conveyed these to the Council Engineer and we hope that safety measures are put in place to slow down passing traffic on the street. In the meantime we ask parents to keep slow and be vigilant on the road.

## ROOTS OF EMPATHY—School Completion Programme

Amazing sight from 2nd class room this week as our 2nd class ( Ms Dooley ) have been taking part in The Roots of Empathy program , an initiative ran by Barnardo's Ireland- supported by School completion programme ,

this week they were delighted to have a visit from their "Tiny Teacher" 2 month old Rhea and her mammy Mary Kate. The boys were spellbound !!!

They look forward to the many visits where Rhea will teach them about feelings and emotions and they are excited to track her progress.

