

## CILLIAN McDAID



**Gaelic Club:** Monivea GAA  
**Hurling Club:** Craughwell GAA  
**Inter-County:** Galway GAA  
**Awards:** 2022 All-Star winner with Galway GAA and All-Ireland Minor Hurling medal.

### Did you enjoy playing sports in school, why?

"I did enjoy playing sports in school at it was a great way to meet with friends and have fun."

### What inspired you to start playing GAA and who were your biggest influences growing up?

"I started playing GAA because it was the main thing to do where I was from and my biggest influences growing up was definitely my Mom and Dad."

### What was your favourite subject in school and why?

"My favourite subject in school was business class it gave me a sense of the real world and I use it today as I work in a bank."

### What was your toughest moment in your career as a footballer?

"My toughest moment in my career as a footballer was when Galway lost the final last year".

### Who was your favourite teammate to play with?

"My favourite teammate to play with was Dylan McHugh I played with him sense we were both 15 and he I just one of my best friends".

### Do you have any pre-game rituals?

"Yes I do, I normally listen to music while kicking around on the pitch and have some food containing chicken, rice and ketchup" *By Oran and James*

## GRANDPARENTS DAY 2025

On the 22nd January, our school hosted a Grandparents' Day celebration, bringing students and their grandparents together for a day filled with stories and shared memories. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to connect with their grandparents and learn about the experiences that shaped their lives.

Grandparents visited classrooms, where they had the chance to swap stories of their school days with the students. The children were captivated by the tales their grandparents shared, offering a unique perspective on what school was like in the past. As part of the celebration, some students brought in treats to share with their grandparents.

A special moment of the day was when we showed pictures of grandparents living in other countries, allowing students to share the experiences of their extended families. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the diversity of our school community and honour the many places our grandparents call home.

The day also included a prayer for grandparents who have passed away, offering a moment of reflection and gratitude for the love and wisdom they left behind. It was a heartfelt reminder of the important role grandparents play in our lives, both in person and in memory. We are deeply grateful to all the grandparents who joined us for this special event. Your presence and the stories you shared made the day unforgettable for our students, and we look forward to continuing this tradition at Brierhill.

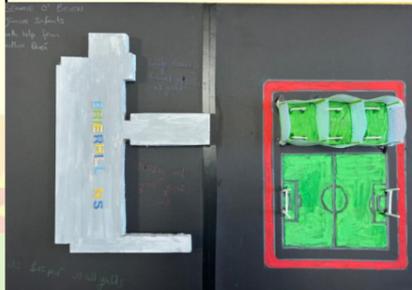
## DREAM YARD COMPETITION

Our school recently hosted an exciting *Dream Yard Competition*, inviting students to design their ideal outdoor spaces using models, drawings, and even Minecraft. This event was part of the school's ongoing efforts to upgrade the school yards, and the goal was to gather input and ideas directly from the students, who are the ones who use the space every day.

The children's designs were nothing short of impressive. From state of the art sporting facilities, to tranquil well-being areas, their creativity knew no bounds. Some students incorporated eco-friendly features like polytunnels, reflecting their awareness of sustainability. Minecraft designs, featuring virtual play areas, stood out for their innovative and interactive ideas.

The staff were blown away by the passion and thoughtfulness behind each submission. Whether through intricate 3D models, Lego models or vibrant drawings, students demonstrated their imagination brilliantly. Prizes for the competition were generously supplied by the Parents Association. This event was not only a fun opportunity for students but also a crucial part of the school's plans to make our school yards a better place for everyone.

Seamie O' Brien- Junior Yard



Oskar Skiba- Middle Yard



Sadhbh Healy- Senior Yard



# THE BRIERHILL BUZZ

EASTER 2025



A Chairde,

I'm thrilled to bring you the Easter edition of our school newsletter, **The Brierhill Buzz**. Packed with exciting updates and news from our busy school, Brierhill school has truly been a hive of activity this term.

In this edition, we'll highlight some of the many achievements and events that have made this term so special. Thanks to Mr. Watsons 6th class, who have researched and contributed some articles for this edition.

As we approach the Easter holidays, we want to take a moment to wish all our families a safe, restful, and enjoyable break. We hope you have time to relax, recharge, and enjoy some quality time with your loved ones.

Warm Regards,  
Ms. Flaherty

### Dates for the Diary:

14th April- Easter Closure  
18th April- Good Friday  
20th April- Easter Sunday  
1st May- Sacrament of Confirmation @ 3pm  
6th May- Half-Day Closure  
24th May- First Holy Communion @ 11am

## CHAMPION DEBATERS: MASTERS OF PERSUASION

4th Class competed in the Concern Primary Debates competition this term. First, everybody in the class learned how to debate. We learned how to research and back up our points. Three people went on to represent 4th Class and three others were chosen as subs to help them improve their debating skills and to debate against the team and help them research the topic. The topics were very challenging. We had to learn what each one was about as a class. Then we had to answer challenging questions for homework to make us think further about the topic.

Here are the details of each debate leading towards the final:

Round One: We proposed the motion "Every person in Ireland should be given a bike".

Round Two: We proposed the motion "We should only buy fair trade products".

Round Three: We opposed the motion "The Arts are key to achieving the sustainable development goals".

We felt very nervous and scared before the final. It was held in the Galway Education Centre. All the parents of the debaters came to see it and the whole class were there to support us.

We were against 6th Class Annagh-Hill and we opposed the motion "Cities are essential to tackling climate change" and we won! We won the county final! We could hardly believe it! Ruby was the captain, Ciaran was speaker 2, and Swithin was speaker 3. The three subs were Keira, Billy and Kaja. We felt honoured, happy and proud when we won the final. It was a great experience and it improved our public speaking skills. Debating is a very good skill to have for your life.

*By Ruby, Swithin, Ciaran*



## PAWS FOR A CAUSE

A few weeks before Christmas a group of girls in 3rd Class, Brierhill had the idea of raising funds for **Madra Dog Rescue and Adoption Charity**. Naofa made bandanas on her sewing machine, while Ellie, Zoey, Ruth, Roisin and Nollaig- 2nd Class made wrist bands.

They sold their produce to pupils and staff in the school. The girls were delighted with the overwhelming support they received.

On Tuesday 4th March, Louise from Madra came to Brierhill school to give a presentation on the work of the charity and to accept a cheque for the astounding amount of €816.60 raised by the students.

Thank you sincerely to all who supported this very worthy cause!



## LITTER BUGS

On the 7th March, some of 6th Class were busy litter picking in and around our school. When we went outside we were not expecting to see so much litter out there! We also went litter picking out on the pitch.

When we were out in the car park Ivan made a remarkable find, he found a drone with a camera in the hedge. We couldn't believe it! We also found bottles, cigarette butts, yogurt containers, cans, bags, plastics and much more.

We hope people stop littering because it is extremely bad for the environment. As you probably know, plastic could take well over a couple of hundred years to decompose. Litter can also make animals sick as they think some plastics are food or prey which causes them to eat things that are bad for them and can cause different illnesses. We hope that people stop littering and if you have rubbish, put it in the bin. If there is none provided then bring it home and dispose of it in your own bin.

By Alan



## TERM 2 SPORTS ROUND UP

**Volleyball:** On the 13th of February, 3 girls teams, 3 boys teams and 2 mixed teams travelled to the University of Limerick where Mixed 1, Girls 1 and Boys 1 all progressed to the All-Irelands. The other five teams were unlucky to miss out. On the 7th of March, our three teams took part in the All-Irelands. Two teams came out victorious as All-Ireland Champions, Boys 1 and Mixed 1, while Girls 1 were unlucky to lose out in the quarter finals. Thank you to Ms. Leneghan for coaching these teams.



**Soccer:** Two boys teams and a girls team recently participated in an FAI organised tournament. The girls team had an excellent tournament and finished 3rd in their group. The two boys teams played very well with one team reaching the quarter finals and the other performed brilliantly and came 3rd in their group. Thank you to Mr. Crowe, Mary Cummins and Ms. Flaherty for managing the teams.



**GAA:** Mr. Watson and Ms. O'Reilly have taken the hurlers and camogie players from 4th, 5th and 6th for training after school, while Mr. Flood has taken the Gaelic footballers also from 4th to 6th after school. In school Jack, Oisín and Aaliyah are coaching hurling and football. Thank you for coaching us.

**Basketball:** A lot of students have been playing basketball on the senior yard since Christmas. They have been having fun and showcasing their skills brilliantly. Well done to them.

By Páidí and Mattie

## WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

On the 6th March, our school celebrated World Book Day with the theme "Read My Way." Organised by Ms. McCann, students came dressed as their favourite book characters, showcasing their creativity and love for reading.

In addition, older students paired up with younger ones for reading buddies, where they read stories together. This special activity allowed students to connect across age groups and enjoy the magic of reading together.

Our generous Parents Association donated a €10 Easons Gift Voucher for one lucky child in each class.

World Book Day was a wonderful celebration of reading in all its forms, reminding us that everyone has their own way to enjoy books. Thank you to everyone who participated and made the day memorable!



## Junior Infants

Junior Infants have been learning all about the Dentist for the month of February. We had great fun at the Science Fair looking at all the experiments. We are looking forward to some football and hurling training over the next few weeks as the brighter spring days approach. For the month of March we are learning all about the Vet, we hope to make a trip to Brierhill Veterinary Clinic very soon. We have been busy planting some cress seeds and sunflowers.

## Senior Infants

We have had a very enjoyable time in Senior Infants since Christmas. January began with us learning all about "The Sports Shop". We were busy managing our Sports Shop, helping customers, organising our sports equipment and had great fun seeing if we liked surfing, golfing and snorkelling. We enjoyed reading numerous Fairy Tales and this helped us study our new genre of Narrative Writing.

In Science we learned about magnets and experimented with different materials to see which types of materials were attracted to magnets. Our new topic for spring is the "Garden Centre". We are busy being horticulturists, customers, managers and sales assistants. We are eagerly awaiting our sunflowers to sprout and look forward to bringing them home. We wish you all a very Happy Easter!

## Mr. Flood's Class

This term we have been learning all about our spring animals, we went on a walk and saw lots of farm animals and got to feed some donkeys. We made some lovely valentines day cookies in February and have been having great fun swimming every Tuesday. We've also planted sunflowers and are looking forward to seeing these grow.

## 1st Class

First Class started off this term by having an ice-cream party to celebrate reaching 1000 class dojo points. We loved taking part in the Science Fair and looking at all the other experiments. First Class enjoyed buddying up with 5th class for reading on World Book Day and practised our Gaeilge during Seachtain na Gaeilge. Recently we have been learning all about the signs of spring and recycling.

## 2nd Class

In Second Class, we received our Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 12th. We had a lovely ceremony in the school hall with Fr. Noel. We are really busy preparing for our First Holy Communion on May 24th. We really enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day. We did shared reading with 6th Class. Bhain muid an-taitneamh as Seachtain na Gaeilge!

## 3rd Class

3rd Class loved teaming up with Junior Infants for buddy reading and Seachtain na Gaeilge. We also worked with 1st Class to teach them how to use "ChatterPix" on the iPads.

3rd Class have enjoyed exploring coding on Scratch Junior. We have created some amazing projects already.

Our ANFA show from 2nd Class will air on Cúla 4 (TG4) at 5pm on 14/5/'25. We look forward to seeing ourselves on TV!

## Ms. McCann's Class

We have been learning about the life cycle of frogs this term and we have watched as the frogspawn we got in February has turned into tadpoles. We are excited to see the next stage, Froglet! We started a class novel, The Twits by Roald Dahl. It is very funny. We have all improved at swimming and typing this term. We are looking forward to the Easter Holidays!

## 4th Class

Our ANFA show from 3rd Class will air on Cúla 4 (TG4) at 5pm on 14/5/'25. We look forward to seeing ourselves on TV!

## 5th Class

5th Class have had a very busy term. We paired up with 1st class to do Buddy Reading. They selected a book and we read it to them and discussed it with them. It was a really enjoyable experience. We also started maths stations this term. This is a new, interesting and fun way to engage with maths. In history we met some inspirational women from history. We did research and compiled digital projects on these inspirational women. During Seachtain na Gaeilge, we made great efforts to use our "cúpla focail" outside the Irish lesson. Though Seachtain na Gaeilge is over, we are still using our Gaeilge more.

## 6th Class– Mr. Watson

In February our class were invited to Fidelity Galway, where we took part in some STEM activities, had a tour of their building and learned about the roles of Fidelity employees. Fidelity supplied us with lunch and we have a very enjoyable day.

## 6th Class– Ms. Flaherty

This term, we enjoyed learning about WW2 and the 1916 Rising in history. We are reading a novel called "The Guns of Easter". We learned the song "N17" by the SawDoctors and learned an Irish dance called The Siege of Ennis. We are also very busy preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.