

THE BRIERHILL BUZZ

SUMMER 2025



Dates for the Diary:

- 27th June- Summer Closure
- 27th August- School re-opens
- 27th October- 31st October- October mid-term

Current PA Members

Chairperson:

Catherine Kehoe (O'Doherty)

Vice-Chairperson:

Christine McWalter (Crosby)

Teacher Liaisons:

Lisa Flaherty
Andrew O'Sullivan

Dorothy Coyne

Tilda Egan

Brendan Cunniffe

Helena Burke

Claire Silke

Jade Madden

Ciara Connolly

Donna Walsh

With thanks to former members:

Breda McCormack
Siobhán Casserly



Scoil Mhuire, Brierhill Parents Association

SCOIL MHUIRE, BRIERHILL PARENTS ASSOCIATION 24/25

The Parents' Association plays a vital role in fostering a strong school community. The PA are a group of dedicated parents and guardians who work together to:

Strengthen the partnership between parents and educators

Organize events that enrich school life

Raise funds for essential school resources, activities, and improvements.

Key Annual Events

- Junior Infants
- Parents Information Evening
- Communion Celebration
- Confirmation Celebration
- Graduation Celebration

A huge thank you to everyone who supported fundraising efforts throughout the year. Your generosity and involvement helped raise vital funds to support school activities, resources, and improvements. Below is a summary of the events held between 2023- 2025.

- Christmas Raffle 2023
- Christmas Disco 2023
- Christmas Disco 2024
- Family Quiz
- Easter Raffle

Fundraising efforts have totalled to over **€20,000!**

Thank you once again to all parents, students, and staff for your incredible support. Every event and contribution has made a real difference in enriching school life.

The PA warmly welcome new members, fresh ideas, and support from parents. Reach out to any of the members listed or contact the school for more information.

6th CLASS 24/25

As the school year draws to a close, we take a moment to celebrate and say farewell to our wonderful 6th Class students. We thank them for their contributions to school life and for the friendships they've built along the way. We thank them for the time they have given to the Student Council and Yard Buddy Team and we hope they have benefited from these roles as much as Brierhill has benefited from their leadership and care. We also extend our gratitude to their teachers and families, who have supported them every step of their time spent in Scoil Mhuire, Brierhill. We will miss you, but we know you'll continue to make an impact wherever you go.



Best of luck in secondary school and beyond!

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POETRY CORNER

One Day We Were Strangers

One day we were strangers,
The next, we're forever friends;
From the start to end,
And through every little bend.

The ups and the downs,
The smiles and the frowns,
Brierhill has always managed
To turn our mood around.

By Luke Moorehouse, 6th Class

Coming to an End

Our time in 6th Class is coming to an end,
And it's time to say goodbye to our friends.
All the great memories that we've shared,
We've laughed, learned, played, and cared.
Primary school has been a blast,
I just wish it didn't go so fast.

By Neha Vegi, 6th Class

A Chairde,

Welcome to the final edition of *The Brierhill Buzz* for this school year! As we wrap up another fantastic year at Scoil Mhuire Brierhill, it's wonderful to reflect on all the progress and exciting changes happening around our school.

You may have noticed the fresh new paint brightening up the front of the school- this is part of our ongoing work to maintain and improve the school building and grounds, making it an inviting and safe place for our children to play and learn.

We're thrilled to celebrate the continued success of our hot school lunches, which have become a favourite among students. It's great to see so many enjoying nutritious meals that fuel their day. Thanks to *hotschoolmeals.ie* for their reliable and efficient service.

Thank you to everyone- students, teachers, parents, and staff- for another successful year in Scoil Mhuire Brierhill. Enjoy the summer break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back refreshed and ready for another exciting year!

Warm Wishes,

Lisa Flaherty

CONNECT WITH RESPECT

In April, our 6th class pupils were visited by Community Guard Alma Maughan for a very informative and engaging talk on internet safety.

Garda Maughan spoke to the children about the importance of staying safe online, with a special focus on topics such as social media, online gaming, cyber bullying, and protecting personal information. She reminded the class that "what goes online, stays online" and encouraged everyone to always think before they post or share anything.

The talk was part of our ongoing efforts to support pupils in becoming responsible digital citizens. It was both timely and valuable, and we thank Garda Maughan for her continued support and for helping our students make safer choices online.

Parents looking for more information on supporting their children online can visit www.webwise.ie, which offers excellent advice, resources, and tips on internet safety for families or simply scan the QR Code below.

webwise.ie



DRUMROLL, PLEASE!

All classes across the school enjoyed a Drumadore drumming workshop. The workshop was fun, exciting and high-energy. Children rocked out to familiar tunes and at times it felt more like a PE lesson than a music lesson!



MR. O' SULLIBIN

As part of a *Re-Turn* initiative, students were invited to take part in a competition to name the new bottle recycling bin. We are pleased to announce that the winner of the competition is **Carley Caslin in 1st Class**. The bin will now officially be called **Mr. O' Sulli-bin!** Thank you to everyone who took part. Students are reminded to continue using the bin to recycle their bottles and support our school's commitment to sustainability.



TIME FOR AN UPGRADE

We are thrilled to announce that the Infant Yard will be getting a fantastic new playground this summer! The upgraded play area, designed and supplied by **Murphy's Playgrounds**, will provide a fun, safe, and stimulating environment for our youngest pupils to enjoy from September onwards.

The total cost of the new playground is **€26,000**, and we are incredibly grateful to our **Parents' Association, pupils, and staff**, whose tireless fundraising efforts have raised **€20,000** towards the project. The **Board of Management** has generously agreed to contribute the remaining **€6,000**, funded through income generated by the rental of school facilities.

Work on the playground will take place during the summer holidays, ensuring everything is ready for our Infants to enjoy when they return in September.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making this project possible- your support really makes a difference!



TERM 3 SPORTS ROUND UP

Badminton: We are incredibly proud of Anish, who is making outstanding strides in the world of badminton. He is currently ranked Number 1 in Ireland for U13 Boys' Singles and Boys' Doubles, and holds the Number 2 ranking in Mixed Doubles- a phenomenal accomplishment! Anish has also been selected for the U13 National Team, made up of just four boys and four girls from across the country. This talented group will go on to represent Ireland at the Swedish Youth Games this November. We wish Anish the very best in his training and upcoming competitions.



Basketball: Well done to our amazing Girls' Basketball Team, who recently took part in a basketball blitz organised by Cregmore National School. The girls were delighted to win the Shield Final, a fantastic achievement for Scoil Mhuire, Brierhill! A big thank you to Ms. Hayes for all her support and encouragement on the day- it was greatly appreciated by both the team and the school.

Cycling: 6th class recently took part in the Cycle Right program, where they learned cycling and road safety skills. The training took place in the school yard and classroom, focusing on bike checks, hand signals, and how to stay safe while cycling. Well done to all the pupils for their great effort!

GAA: We have all had great fun with our GAA this year. Ms. O' Reilly, Mr. Flood and Mr. Watson have been so dedicated to training us though rain, hail or snow. We are so thankful! Their hard work does not go unnoticed. The hurling, camogie and boys Gaelic made it to the final Cumann na mBunscol, but were unlucky not to win. In the Fr. Reilly Cup Competition, Brierhill, Castlegar and Menlo all played against each other in a 5-a-side competition in both hurling and Gaelic. We performed well and came home with a trophy for hurling! **By Ella, Fiona, Luke, Jean + Molly.**

Athletics: Brierhill's athletes have once again made us proud with an outstanding performance at this year's City Sports meet. Our talented team brought home a remarkable collection of medals and top placings across a wide range of events, demonstrating a high level of skill and determination throughout the day. A selection of athletes from Castlegar AC will compete in the All-Ireland Athletics Championships in Tullamore during the holidays. We wish them the best of luck!

INTERVIEW A TEACHER: DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MS. HAYES

If you had a time machine, which year would you go back to and why? If I had a time machine, I would go back to the year 1922. An important year in Irish history, it was when Ireland became an independent country. I'd love to see how people felt and what life was like back then. It would be amazing to experience that time and understand more about the foundations of what to me is the best place on Earth. Plus, I'd probably bring back some good old stories to share in class!

Fantastic memory from Brierhill? From exciting school tours and lively sports days, to fun discos and the craic the staff shared in the staffroom. It's really too hard to pick just one favourite memory; that would be like trying to choose a favourite student- impossible!

Favourite subject? I like teaching Gaeilge because it's a special language full of history, culture, stories, and songs and is very personal to me as my Mum was an Irish speaker before she spoke English. When we learn Gaeilge, we're connecting with the people who spoke it long ago. The students especially love saying the words feic, feiceann and focal!! I think we can guess why! It is great to see students enjoy speaking in a language that is unique to Ireland.

If you wrote a book about your teacher years, what would be the title?
Don't Make Me Use My Teacher Voice!

WATER SAFETY WARNING

With summer here, it's important to remember that water can be dangerous. Never swim alone, and always make sure an adult is nearby. Be careful near rivers, lakes, and the sea- even shallow water can be risky. Always wear a life jacket when on a boat, and never jump into unknown water. Stay safe and think before you go near water! Scan the QR code for more advice on water safety this summer.



Junior Infants

For the month of May we have been learning all about the campsite during play-time. We enjoyed a Teddy Bears Picnic during the sunny weather and we were treated to some lovely ice-cream. We loved our school tour to Turoe Pet Farm. We also can't wait for our first Sports Day!

Senior Infants

This term, Senior Infants have been busy learning through the fun and exciting theme of **The Zoo!** We explored different animals, their habitats, and what it's like to care for them. We also enjoyed our school tour to Treasure Island and the playground.

1st Class

During the nice weather we had a picnic in the playground and we were joined by teddies we brought from home. We had some ice lollies in the playground to celebrate earning lots of Dojo points as a class. We enjoyed hearing all about the names of our soft toys and learning about what made them special. This term we have been enjoying hurling and we have also started swimming this term.

2nd Class

Our First Holy Communion took place on Saturday, 24th May. It was a wonderful day. We all had jobs to do. We would like to thank the school choir for making the celebration even more special. We have really enjoyed hurling and swimming this term.

Mr. Flood's Class

This term for reaching 500 Class Dojo points we went on a trip to KFC with Ms McCann's class and enjoyed a lovely meal. We've also enjoyed listening to lots of myths like The Children of Lir and the Salmon of Knowledge. We are really looking forward to our summer camp in July.

3rd Class

We are thoroughly enjoying the hurling and football coaching we are lucky enough to get. We are very excited about our upcoming school tour to Lets Go. We know we will have a super day. Some children from 3rd Class took part in City Sports and represented the school with pride. Ruth Heneghan will be running in an All-Ireland Track and Field competition in Tullamore in 2 weeks time. We wish her all the best.

4th Class

We designed and built a robot that was able to compete in this year's Vex IQ Challenge competition in A.T.U. There, we met schools from all over Co. Mayo and Co. Galway and a great day was had by all. Because we were crowned regional winners of the Concern Primary Debates Programme, the class will have a special interactive workshop in June focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals and how Concern is working in various countries around the world to make a real impact. 4th Class have been learning volleyball since September and have really progressed. We all loved our tour in Baysports, on June 9th especially the slides. We are currently each presenting our Google slides projects on Space and Inspirational Women and will teach each other about the area we choose to write about. We also enjoyed a creative Art Week.

5th Class

Recently, we had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Medtronic facility as part of our STEM education. The visit gave us a behind-the-scenes look at real-world applications of science and technology. We were amazed to learn about the medical devices designed and produced right here in our local area. We also completed our standardised tests this term using a digital version for the first time. Many of us found this approach much less stressful and easier to manage compared to the traditional paper format. We finished our trial of the bespoke spelling programme Spellings for Me. We enjoyed using this personalised approach to spelling and found the strategies it taught us really useful. All in all, it's been a term full of learning, discovery, and growth!

Ms. McCann's Class

We have been learning about fairy tales this term, the Billy Goats Gruff was our favourite. In maths we have been learning how to read the time and all of us have got really good at typing. We had lovely trip to KFC with Mr Flood's class as a reward for all our Dojo Points! We are looking forward to our July summer camp and the summer holidays!

6th Class Ms. Flaherty/ Mr. Watson

This term, our 6th Class students marked two very special milestones- their Confirmation and Graduation! Thanks to the choir who helped make our Confirmation day so much more special. We enjoyed our school tour in Westport Adventure and the class also took part in the Cycle Right course, where they learned important cycling skills and road safety awareness.