

The Brierhill Buzz

Summer 2024

BRIERHILL TERMLY NEWSLETTER

Introducing our brand new termly newsletter **The Brierhill Buzz**. Our termly newsletter is buzzing with updates, insights and articles written by our clever 6th Class students. At the end of every term, dive into the latest happenings, achievements, and upcoming events in Brierhill NS. We wish all families a safe and enjoyable summer and we look forward to welcoming you back on the 28th August. Best of luck to our 6th Class students leaving us to start their secondary school adventures. We will miss you very much! Lisa Flaherty

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL BOOK SCHEME

Since September 2023, parents of children in primary school do not have to pay for school books, workbooks and copybooks. The free primary school book scheme in primary schools will remove the cost from families of funding school books for children and young people in primary school, including the cost of any workbooks and copies. The school provides the free books on loan. You must return the books at the end of the year, or if the child leaves the school. The school is provided the funding to provide these items. Minister of Education Norma Foley brought the new free book scheme in to primary schools, she announced this in 2022 and started it September 2023.

By Marilyn Sweeney, 6th Class.

SAD TO SEE YOU GO

As Mr. O' Tuathail, Deirdre Tummon and Roberta bid farewell to our school, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their unwavering dedication, passion, and commitment to nurturing all the children who have passed through their care. Their impact on students and colleagues alike will be cherished and remembered fondly. Wishing you all the best of luck as you embark on your next chapter.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

In December 2023, Ms. Broderick was the driving force in the donation of 87 boxes from our school to Burkina Faso, with 176,615 boxes donated in 2023 from all over Ireland. Team Hope created this wonderful organisation to help children across the globe. Team Hope is an Irish organisation and since 2010 they have delivered over 2.5 million shoeboxes. They work in 14 countries across Eastern Europe and Africa. The Christmas Shoe Box Appeal starts in September and ends in November every year and thousands of people tune in to donate thoughtful gifts to people who need them. Shoe boxes were collected from these three places in Ireland: The shoeboxes from Galway City went to Burkina Faso and Romania, shoeboxes from Dublin South went to Burundi, Malawi, Romania, and Transnistria, and shoeboxes from Limerick City went to Albania, and Eswatini. Thanks to all who donated and thanks to Ms. Broderick too! By Spoorthi & Nicole, 6th Class.

STUDENT COUNCIL 23/24

This year our student council have worked to improve our school even more by hosting events such as a bake sale, a Halloween disco and a Pyjama and Odd Socks Day. There will still be many more events coming up that the student council are working on. The bake sale was one of the fundraisers our student council organised, we raised an amazing amount with half of the money going towards charity and the other half to be used for much needed yard equipment. Our student council were responsible for giving feedback on the companies vying for a contract to offer hot lunches for the whole school, an initiative by the government to ensure every child receives a hot meal. We were careful to consider the quality, sustainability and taste of each option. In our meetings, we discuss how to make the school a better place, such as what yard equipment should be added and what charities to choose for the money earned by the fundraisers. We give a voice to students and help makes decisions that affect the school.

By Emili Sehic, 6th Class and Student Council Secretary 23/24.

2024 SUMMER OLYMPICS

The ancient Olympic Games started in 776 B.C.E, with only one event, a 192 metre footrace. They lasted until they were outlawed by Emperor Theodosius I because of the festival's pagan association. The games were postponed until 1896 in Athens by Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin. **THE OLYMPIC TORCH:** The first time the symbolic flame appeared was during the 1928 summer Olympics in Amsterdam, to signalise the event taking place. Every four years, the torch is carried from Athens to the place where the Olympics are being held. The **2024 Summer Olympics** will be held in Paris, marking the city's third time hosting the Olympic Games, with the event set to run from July 26 to August 11. The Games will feature new sports, including breaking (breakdancing), which will debut as an Olympic event. By Piotr Gumulak, 6th Class.

JUNIOR NEWS

Junior Infants: Ms. Bogan's Junior Infants visited the vets and had an exciting time learning about how to care for their pets.

Senior Infants: Mr. O'Tuathail's Senior Infants had great fun on their school tour to Loughwell Farm. They enjoyed learning all about the farm animals. They also went on a shape hunt throughout the school.

1st class: Ms. O'Brien's First Class were invited to the Galway Race Course to take part in the 100 Million Trees Project & Uniphar Group to create their very own mini-forest on the ground of the 150 acre site. They planted lots of trees and had a great day.

2nd class: Ms. Maloney's 2nd class made their First Holy Communion. Dressed beautifully for the special occasion, the day was filled with joy and celebration as families gathered to support the young communicants on this important milestone. By Daria and Caoimhe, 6th Class.

SENIOR NEWS

3rd class: Ms. O'Donovan's 3rd Class went to help film an Irish TV show called Anfa in the Blackbox. They loved dressing up in lots of colourful clothes and they even met Múinteoir John! They had a super day out and really enjoyed it. Also, a few 3rd class children represented the school in cross country. Ruby, Danny, Matthew and Ciarán even got into the Connaughts!

4th class: Ms. Nugent and Ms. O'Reilly's 4th Class did something very exciting. On April 24th they walked down to the racecourse and got to meet a famous jockey called Amy Jo Hayes. They got to go behind the scenes at the County Galway racecourse and meet Athenry-based trainer Paul Gilligan and his racehorses Zeeband and Kings Hill. They also got 2 tickets to the summer races, each!

5th class: Ms Lenaghan's 5th Class got to go to the RDS Science Fair. It allowed each student to test their engineering abilities when they were challenged to build a catapult with only a few materials! It was a great team effort and the judges were very pleased with them!

5th class: Neasa Flaherty's 5th Class WON the Galway Debating Championship. The team consisted of Páidí, Darragh and Mattie. Lots of hard work was put in by Neasa and the class. They also went to Boston Scientific and Dunnes at Christmas with 6th Class to do carol singing and raise a bit of money. It was quite fun and the children enjoyed having the day out of school.

6th Class: Lisa Flaherty's 6th Class visited the Dexter cows down in Ballyloughane headland. They had so much fun learning about the Dexter cows and how they support wildflowers, pollinators and biodiversity. They learned lots of fun facts like, DID YOU KNOW Dexter Cows' hooves don't cause the ground to get all mucky because their hooves are quite light! They really enjoyed the day out and even more so coming back to yummy goodies at the bake sale!
By Sarah and Aoibhinn, 6th Class.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Brierhill National School stands as a beacon of diversity and inclusion, welcoming children from every corner of the globe into its classrooms. With a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions woven into its very fabric, Brierhill echoes the harmonious symphony of a global village within its walls. Many children in our school are of different nationalities and cultures, in each newsletter we will endeavour to find out more about one of these countries. This edition looks at **Romania**.

Romania is a beautiful country in Eastern Europe. It's known for its stunning landscapes and mountains, from the Carpathian mountains to the picturesque villages of Transylvania. The capital city Bucharest is a mix of history and modernity. With beautiful structures such as the massive Casa Poporului, România has a rich cultural heritage, with influences from many civilizations- the two most influential the Dacians and Romans. There's also a lot of tourist attractions, the most well known being Bran Castle, less formally known as Dracula's castle, though many myths have connected Vlad The Impaler (Dracula) to the Bran Castle, historians agree that he never stepped foot into the castle. Romania also has a history in football with the most well known players being Hagi and Ilie Dumitrescu who led Romania to the 1994 World Cup quarter finals, beating Maradona's Argentina 3-2. With 1 goal from Hagi and 2 from Ilie Dumitrescu they went on to lose to Sweden on penalties in the quarter finals. By Stefan Guiu, 6th Class.

ADVICE FOR 6TH CLASS 24/25

You may think 6th class is scary but it most certainly is not! 6th class is indeed your last year in primary school but a busy one all the same. I'm going to help you by giving you some tips so you feel less frightened and more excited!

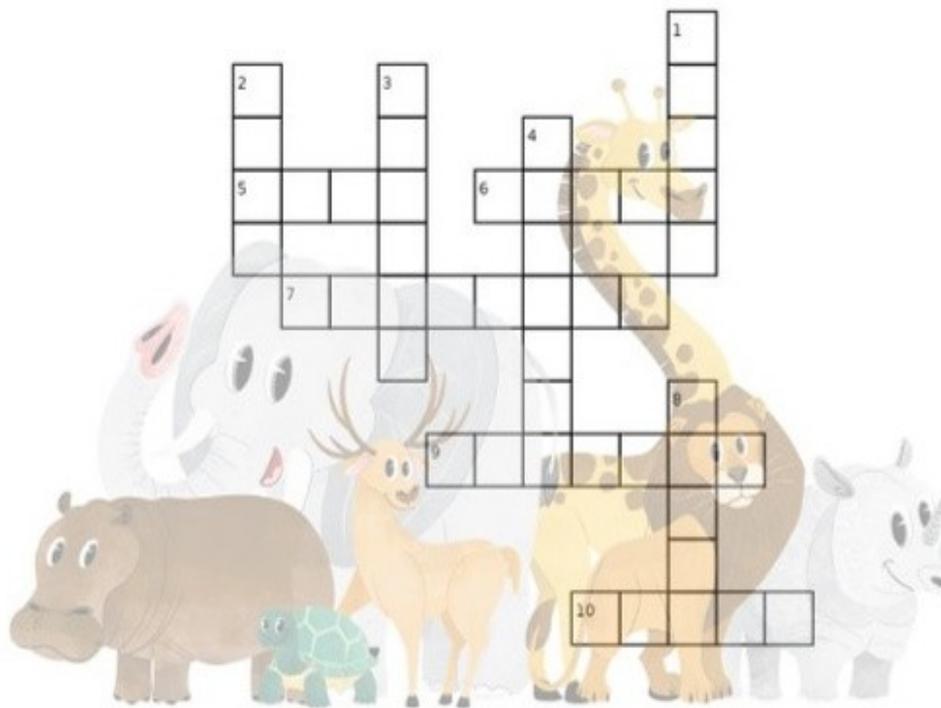
1. Be organised! Make sure you have everything you need for the year.
2. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand a topic. This is exclusively for if you don't understand and not if you weren't listening! If you don't understand you can always ask the teacher and they will gladly help you.
3. Make sure you have everything you need in your bag before home time. This may not seem as "important" to you, but it is actually extremely important. You will be going into secondary school soon and the teachers won't be as polite if you forget to bring books to your classes. You need to stay organised!
4. Have fun! You get to do loads of fun activities and special jobs around the school, you don't get these because of favouritism but because you're trusted so you should take these jobs seriously. By Emily Melkis, 6th Class.

Why shouldn't you give Elsa (from "Frozen") a balloon? Because she'll "Let It Go". Propser Ojuronbe, 6th Class

Name: _____

CROSSWORD TIME!

Class: _____



DOWN:

1. They use their black and white stripes to confuse predators.
2. An animal that howls at the moon.
3. They love to swing in trees and eat bananas.
4. It uses it's neck to gather food.
8. This animal is black and white and loves bamboo.

ACROSS:

5. It's the king of the jungle.
6. A big cat with black and orange stripes.
7. A large animal with a trunk.
9. The fastest land animal in the world.
10. A sleepy creature which likes to hang out of trees.

Return your completed crossword to Ms. Flaherty's 6th Class and you'll be entered into a draw for a chance to win a prize!

By Maya Krstinic, 6th Class

CRAZY ANIMAL FACTS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW!

Brilliant Brains: Did you know that an ostrich's eyes are bigger than its brain? They take up so much space in the skull that the brain is actually smaller. They are about the size of a pool ball. Starfish also have no brain and no blood. They aren't even fish! Maybe that's why they are sometimes called sea stars? **Fantastic Frogs:** Did you know that there is a type of frog called a tomato frog? It gets its name from its bright red colour, and its skin is covered with a poisonous mucus to protect itself from predators. Did you know that the biggest type of frog species is the goliath frog? It can grow up to an incredible 32cm, which is about the same size as a pet cat. They can also jump 3 metres! **Breath-Taking Birds:** Did you know that there is only one type of bird that can fly backwards? It's the hummingbird! They can also beat their wings up to 200 times per second! They also are extremely small and the smallest species, (the bee hummingbird), grows to only about 6.1cm! Did you know that a group of ravens is called an unkindness or a conspiracy? A group of crows is also called a murder! By Holly Pettersson Gallen, 6th Class.

RECIPE: SUMMER MERINGUE ROLL

Ingredients: Egg whites, sugar, corn flour or cornstarch, vinegar, vanilla essence, icing sugar, blueberries (or berries of your choice).

Steps:

1. Pre-heat oven to 160°C. Using a paper towel, oil a baking tray, then line with baking paper and smooth it out to the edges.
2. Using a mixer, whip egg whites on medium until you have soft foam. Slowly pour in the sugar, then beat on high for 8-10 minutes until glossy and smooth. The sugar should be dissolved at this point.
3. Add corn flour/ cornstarch, vinegar and vanilla essence and fold through on low until mixed through.
4. Spread meringue mixture out on the lined baking tray, leaving a gap around all sides. Bake until you see it begin to brown. Meanwhile, prepare another piece of baking paper the same size as the tray and powder with 1 tsp of sugar.
5. Remove the roll from the oven and flip out onto the powdered baking paper. Carefully peel and remove the original baking paper and allow the roll to cool completely. Meanwhile, whip the thickened cream and 2 tbsp of icing sugar on high until thick and fluffy. Reserve around a half cup of whipped cream for the topping.
6. Slather the remaining whipped cream onto the base of the meringue. Top with half the berries. Using the paper, begin to fold the roll up and away from you. You can roll the long edge for a longer roll, or roll the short edge for a taller but shorter roll. Once rolled, with the edge on the bottom, use the baking paper to cover the roll, then wrap in a tea towel and place in the fridge to set for a minimum of 2-3 hours.
7. Once ready to serve, unwrap from the paper and place on a serving plate. Top with the reserved whipped cream and berries. By Alexey Boriskin, 6th Class.

TIPS TO STAY SAFE ON THE INTERNET

1. Use a strong password for online accounts.
2. Avoid clicking on suspicious links.
3. Don't share personal information.
4. Be careful with who you're chatting to online.
5. Don't add back people you don't know.
6. Don't meet up with people you don't know.
7. Balance your online activities with offline activities.
8. Know the signs of cyber bullying and tell an adult if you feel unsafe. By Larisa Ionita, 6th Class

23/24 SPORTS ROUND UP

Volleyball: There was great excitement at the UL Sports Arena as Ms. Leneghan and Coach Lee were successful in leading the mixed volleyball team to an All- Ireland title. The boy's volleyball team got to the semi- finals. Teams from 5th and 6th Class trained really hard all year and the hard work definitely paid off. Well done to all!

Gaelic Football: Our boys and girls Gaelic teams were busy this year taking part in the Mini- 7s, Cumann na mBunscol and the Con Ó Donovan blitz. Ella O' Shaughnessy from 5th Class represented Brierhill at half time in Pearse Stadium during Galway v Mayo. We made links with local clubs St. James' and Éire Óg, who came to coach Gaelic football over a number of weeks to the children.

Soccer: Children from 5th and 6th Class participated in the FAI Primary 5s Competition held in Mervue.

Chess: Mr. O' Tuathail led children from 3rd- 6th Class to the All- Ireland Chess Finals! Mixed teams finished 3rd in the final and 6th in the shield. Girls teams finished 2nd and 5th. What an unbelievable achievement!

Hurling/ Camogie: Our boys and girls hurling and camogie teams participated in the Mini-7s and Cumann na mBunscol, with Ms. O' Reilly leading the boys team to reach the finals of the Cumann na mBunscol. An amazing achievement! We also made links with Castlegar GAA club and had weekly hurling training for most of the year.

Tag Rugby: Children from 3rd and 4th Class participated in a tag rugby blitz in Corinthians RFC.

Athletics: Children from 2nd-6th Class competed in City Sports Athletics, with all children giving it 100% in every race. Aoibheann Connolly, Rebecca McCormack, Ruth Heneghan and Maddie McDonagh won silver in the U9 relay and Aoibheann Connolly won gold in u9 sprints. The next Irish women's relay team? Watch this space!

GET TO KNOW: AILISH O' REILLY

Ailish O'Reilly is a prominent Galway camogie player.

She has been a key player for the Galway senior camogie team, helping them secure multiple All-Ireland titles and winning multiple All-Star awards. Off the field, she is better known as Ms. O' Reilly, 4th Class teacher in Brierhill NS.

Interview by Izabella and David, 6th Class.

How long have you been playing for Galway?

Senior since 2013.

What age did you start to like camogie? About 5 or 6.

What's it like playing for Galway? It's an honour and something I wanted to do as a child.

How long do you think you'll keep at camogie?

As long as my body can keep going.

What's your favourite thing about being a teacher in Brierhill? The kids and the staff.

MACK HANSEN

Mack Hansen, born on March 27, 1998, in Canberra, Australia, is a professional Rugby Union player who represents Ireland internationally. Interview by Scott Ryan, 6th Class.

Who inspired you to play rugby?

My dad got me into rugby and took me down when I was young and he told me stories of his playing/coaching career and that really got me untested in rugby.

Did you always play winger?

I used to play 10 (out half) growing up and only moved to wing when I was about 22 funny enough.

How did you keep the nerves when it came to big matches?

When it comes to staying cool I just try and remember why I got into rugby which was fun so if I can remember that's what it's all about, which helps.

If you could pick any superhero who would it be?

And I've got to choose superman. He has just got it all.

FAREWELL JURGEN KLOPP

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp is leaving at the end of the season. He claims to be tired and getting older. He is currently 56 years old, turning 57 in June. As a farewell and to honour Klopp, all the players at Liverpool gave it their all towards the end of this season, to hopefully win some silverware. Liverpool have already won the Caraboa Cup this season but got knocked out of the FA Cup due to Diallos late minute winner. By Jack Curran, 6th Class.

MY PEARSE STADIUM EXPERIENCE

Sunday, the 28th of April 2024 was one of the most memorable days of my life. Galway were playing Kilkenny in the Leinster Hurling Championship. I was thrilled to get selected to play the half time Cumann na mBunscol game, in front of a crowd of over 9000 spectators. First, we gathered in the dressing room and I met other boys from clubs all over the county. There was great excitement amongst the players. We were presented with Galway GAA gear, which included a jersey, shorts and socks. We were also given some pre-match treats such as Mars bars and Fanta, to fuel us up before the game.

Next, we sat in the stand and we watched the senior match together. It was an intense and electrifying game. When the half time whistle blew, we ran out on to the pitch with great energy and enthusiasm. I was happy to play in a different position. I played in the full back line for the first time. We played against a very strong Kilkenny team but we managed to outscore them by two points. I think that the reason we won the game is because we had good skill, fitness and team work. Following that, we watched the rest of the senior match, which resulted in a draw.

When the final whistle blew we all ran on to the pitch, hoping to meet some well-known players. I was thrilled to meet TJ Reid and he signed my hurl for me. Following that, I got my hurl signed by the former Kilkenny legend and current Galway manager Henry Shefflin. I also got to meet Conor Whelan for the third time in my life. To finish off a fantastic day, we stopped off for a feed of Supermacs on the way home. By Charlie Boland, 6th Class.

Seanfhocal: Ní neart go cur le chéile"- *There is no strength like co-operation*