



# O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The end of another term is upon us and at this special time of year, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas. It's been a fun-filled term and we were delighted to perform our fabulous 'Christmas Show' on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Congratulations to all the pupils and staff for an outstanding performance. Everyone worked very hard to learn their lines and songs and we hope you enjoyed listening to them. It was lovely to see everyone on the night and have a full house for our ever-popular Christmas show!

We had a very special visitor on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. Santa got to spend time with all the classes and the children were delighted to receive a chocolate Santa from him. We would like to extend our thanks to our wonderful Parents Association for helping to organise the event and also preparing our Toy Show Goody bags.

On Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December we welcomed the parents to the Arabella class to watch the children's Christmas show. What a delightful afternoon it was! Congratulations to all the pupils and to Ms O'Sullivan, Tracey and Aimee for all their hard work. A special word of thanks also to Mr O'Neill for putting the video together.

The children have taken part in 5 Days of Wellness before Christmas, they have been very busy writing letters, designing Christmas cards, taking part in Christmas quizzes and a Daily Mile challenge. We also watched some Christmas adverts and had a discussion on which ones were our favourites.

We would like to wish Ms Geraghty all the best on her maternity leave. Ms Geraghty finishes with us today and we have really enjoyed having her in the school. She will be missed! Mr Mangan will

take over in January and we look forward to working with him.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all for your well wishes and cards for my wedding in October. It was much appreciated; we had an amazing day! On behalf of all the staff and pupils at O' Brennan NS I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of our school community and their families a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2023!

Le gach dea-ghuí  
Michelle White

## Arabella

We have had a very busy few months in our new class. We welcomed our four new students Córa, Fionn, Salahudeen and Oliver into our classroom 'The Arabella Room'. We also welcomed Liam in to our room in the afternoons. The children have all settled in really well and have been making us so proud with all the hard work they are doing and the progress that they are making. We have been getting to know each other, building relationships, making friends and learning all about the classroom and school rules in O'Brennan National School. We have loved story time. Some of our favourite stories have been 'Goldilocks and the three bears', 'Room on the Broom' and 'We're going on a bear hunt'. We have loved music time and enjoy playing with the percussion instruments along with songs. We celebrated two birthdays in our classroom. Córa turned five in September. Salahudeen turned five in October. Happy Birthday Córa and Salahudeen.

The children were very excited to dress up for Halloween. They did great practice for our Halloween Hike and were so happy when the day finally arrived to take part in the Halloween Hike with the whole school. They all walked so well.

Thank you to Ms. Greaney who helped us to practice for this.

We have made some yummy treats in our classroom. One of our favourite treats we have made is chocolate rice krispie buns. We loved eating the chocolate from the end of the bowl when we were finished.

We had great fun playing with the parachute in the hall with Mr. O Neill and some 5th Class students. Thank you to Mr. O Neill and the students from 5th Class who were so friendly and helpful to us.

We have loved going for walks around the school. We have made great progress at sitting and working at our independent table.

Santa came to visit and he gave us a lovely chocolate treat when we visited his Grotto. He even let Oliver ring his bell. We had a lovely day celebrating our Christmas party where we all could wear our Christmas jumpers. Mrs. White got a really special treat for us. We had McDonalds and ice-creams. They were delicious. Thank you Mrs. White. All our parents were invited in to see a video of all our amazing work since we started school. Thank you to Mr. O Neill for putting this video together for us. A special thank you to Mariola who comes to visit us each day at lunch time and Ms. Greaney who also comes to visit us during music time.

We are so proud of everything you have achieved Córa, Fionn, Salahudeen, Oliver and Liam.

Keep up the good work!

Wishing you and your families a wonderful Christmas.

Ms. O Sullivan, Tracey and Aimee

### Junior Infants

It's been a fun-filled term here in Junior Infants. We have had a very busy few weeks and now the children are ready for a well-earned break. We have learned 24 of our Jolly Phonics sounds! In maths we can have learned the numeral 1 and 2.

The children know a lot of words as Gaeilge and are having great fun at home catching their Moms and Dads out! In Aistear we learned all about the Emergency Services and had lots of fun in the role play, pretending to be doctors and nurses. Ms Carroll's Classroom was then transformed into Santa's Workshop. The children learned how the toys are made by the elves in the North Pole and now know how to wrap presents.

Great excitement was had in preparing and performing our Christmas Carols Santa's Lost His Hat. Not only did Santa lose his hat he also got sick at the last minute and another Santa had to come to the rescue. Nanabeas meeting Mrs. Claus was a huge success. The children all loved chatting to Mrs Claus she already knew lots about our class. We enjoyed some hot chocolate and cookies. Mrs. Claus gave us some reading books and food to put for the reindeers on Christmas Eve.

We were very lucky this year in Junior infants that **Twinkle** (one of Santa's Christmas fairies) wrote to us and told us all about life in the North Pole. She even had a peep in our books to see how everyone was getting on and she was very impressed with the work she saw. We hope she will write once more before Christmas! We have celebrated birthdays too. In November, we celebrated Coopers birthdays! December we celebrated Rian and Jades birthday.

Wishing you all a lovely break and best wishes for the New Year! I look forward to seeing you all again in January 2023!

Ms. Carroll

### Senior Infants

Senior Infants have been very busy since Halloween and are ready for a well-earned break. In Aistear we learned all about how a Café works, the Post Office and how Santa gets all his letters. We really enjoyed our book The Jolly Christmas Postman and hearing about all his adventures, we

also heard how King Puck saved Christmas in Kerry. We have been joined by another student in recent weeks – Robin the Elf. Robin has caused all sorts of mischief in our classroom from covering our Christmas tree with blue tissue paper to making photocopied pictures of himself and hanging them up in our room. He also had a bubble bath and came to watch our Christmas Concert. He was very impressed with all the boys and girls acting skills and was so proud of them. He went looking in Ms Slattery's press and found all the sweets!! (which he told us about!) Robin has reported back to Santa that everyone in Senior Infants is on the good list this year because they have worked so hard on their sounds, maths, art work cutting and organisational skills. Robin had a look in our books and was very impressed with what he saw! We had a special visit from Santa recently and he loved listening to us singing Jingle Bells. We had a special visit to Castleisland where we met Mrs Claus who was delighted to meet such lovely boys and girls. We also made hot chocolates and had a Christmas party.

We have celebrated some birthdays also. We celebrated Jack Carmody's birthdays in November. Sam celebrated his special day in December.

Wishing you all a lovely break and best wishes for the New Year! Nollaig Shona Daoibh!

Ms Slattery

### ***First Class***

We have had a busy time getting ready for winter and Christmas in first class. First class learned a lot about science and did some cool experiments which we demonstrated at our science fair. With the frosty weather we got to test out what material melts the ice the quickest and we even got to do the experiment outside using salt on the icy grass.

We have been busy doing lots of Christmas arts and crafts and we really enjoyed performing 'Santa's on Strike' in the school Christmas show.

Ms Broderick

### ***Second/Third Class***

What a quick and busy term this has been for the boys and girls in second and third class!! Everyone has been working really hard in class and are all ready for a well-deserved Christmas rest!! We started the year with a very enjoyable swimming session and this tied in nicely with mental health week where we learned some valuable techniques and skills for looking after our mental health.

Following on from this the children greatly enjoyed partaking in our Maths and Science weeks in creating moving lego robots as well as including coding in their designs. The boys and girls displayed great teamwork and cooperation to complete all the assigned tasks perfectly.

Finally, it was great to see all the children's hard work pay off in the run up to Christmas to perform brilliantly in the school Christmas show. There was an impressive range of song, dance, poetry, music and even hilarious jokes. Well done to everyone involved. Lastly, I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all refreshed in the new year.

Mr O' Connor

### ***Third/Fourth Class***

What a busy term we have had upstairs. The children and parents have put in a huge amount of effort, so an enormous Thank you! The children learned a vast amount in science week the first term.

Art was great fun this term; the children learned how to make pom poms and design our own stars. We also participated with TAP (Teacher Artist Programme) where Niamh our artist helped us create and understand music. We as a class wrote our own song and developed the backing music with sounds from around the school. This is available on our class website page.

Mikey competed in the Winter league at Woodlands Equestrian Centre. The final took place Sunday 18th of December. Mikey was the over all winner of the 128 70cm league and also the 128 80cm with his pony High-mead Last Dance.

On a final note, I would like to wish you all a healthy and safe Christmas.

Ms. Buckley

### Fifth Class

Seasons greetings from all in 5th class! Here are some of the highlights from term one.

5th class pupils participated for the first time in the Maths Week Olympiad. Four of our pupils achieved 3rd place in the Pairs category (Natalia, Sophie M., Nicole and Maya). We are very proud as 81,000 students took part from over 502 schools across both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland! Well done!

In English, pupils learned how to use a thesaurus and wrote Synonym poems. We also read the novel 'There's a boy in the girls' bathroom' by Louis Sachar.

For Science Week, we tested our Reaction Times, held a Table Quiz and had a Science Exhibition in the halla. Pupils got to use Lego We-do Kits and Mr O'Neill kindly explained the process to the class.

Pupils have thoroughly been enjoying the Spikeball/Volleyball sessions with the students from Mercy Mounthawk. They will have a tournament early in the new year.

We have also been busy completing projects on Britain and engaging with the Stay Safe programme.

There was great excitement during the World Cup with Noel hosting a World Cup Draw/competition!

5th class pupils beautifully sang the songs 'A Christmas Hallelujah' by candlelight and 'Welcome Home' by the Okee Dokee Brothers for

the highly anticipated return of our annual Christmas Concert.

Wishing all the pupils and their families a fun-filled festive season! Nollaig shona daoibh go léir!

Mrs Corridan and Noel

### Sixth Class

What a busy two months we have had in Rang a Sé! The boys and girls have worked tirelessly and have now completed their final first term in O'Brennan NS!!

In November, we celebrated Science Week where we completed lots of activities. We researched famous scientists, learned about acids and bases, created a volcano in a bottle and had a challenge to see who could make the longest paper chain using just one A4 piece of paper! On Friday we showcased our experiment in the hall and got a chance to see all the experiments from other classes. Another highlight was working with the Lego We-Do sets with Mr O'Neill!

Over the past few weeks we have had Volleyball with Transition Year students from Mercy Mounthawk. Every Wednesday morning the coaches organised different games and activities to practice the skills. We are really looking forward to competing in a blitz in January with other schools from Tralee!

On Saturday 3rd of December we had our Ceremony of Commitment for our Confirmation. Thank you to Fr Gearóid who helped us to prepare and who officiated the ceremony. Well done to the boys and girls who prepared so well.

As the Christmas preparations got under way, we also had lots of excitement preparing for our Christmas Concert. We sang Silent Night in English, Irish and Ukrainian! We also performed the story, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore. We had lots of fun rehearsing for the final night and the boys and girls were excellent!! A big thank you to Tymothy, Olivia, Oleg, Matvii and Vadim for helping us with the Ukrainian version of Silent Night!

Finally, lots of fabulous art work was completed over the last few weeks too. Zentangle patterned reindeers, oil pastel Christmas lights and origami snowflakes are on display around the room and corridors while we also made wooden snowmen decorations to take home!

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas!

Ms Barry

### **Dates/ Upcoming School events**

- School closes at 12 on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December for all pupils.
- School re-opens on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 9.00am
- Bank Holiday - school be closed on February 6<sup>th</sup>.
- ASD Training – school will close on February 7<sup>th</sup> for whole staff training.
- February Mid-Term Break 16<sup>th</sup> - 17th February inclusive– school closed on these days
- St. Patrick's Day 17th March – school closed
- Easter holidays – school will close on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> for Easter Break



### **Green School Update**

Our Greens Schools Committee are working towards our biodiversity flag and we re excited to see our planters arrive during the week. Thanks to Kevin McDermott for making and installing our planters. We are looking forward to seeing what will grow in the new year.

### **Student Council**



Our student council co-ordinated the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign that delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Often these shoebox gifts are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they bring is incredible. Since 2010, with your help, we have delivered over 2.1 million Shoebox gifts to Vulnerable Children across the world. The school received 157 boxes!!! Thanks to local volunteer Paula for assisting with the shoebox appeal.

Our school also held a Christmas jumper day to raise money for a national charity. The charity we choose was Focus Ireland for all the incredible work they do with homelessness. We raised €320 and Focus Ireland were delighted with our donation.

Thank you for supporting these charities.



*Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us  
May your Christmas be filled with the love of family and the joy of friends.  
May you be blessed with health, happiness and abundance in 2023!*