



O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

December 2024

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 has been a fun-filled term, and we were delighted to perform our fabulous 'Christmas Show' on Wednesday 18th of December. Congratulations to all the pupils and staff for an outstanding performance. Everyone worked very hard to learn their 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 Friday the 6th of December. Santa got to spend time with all the children, and they 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 preparing our Toy Show Goody bags.

On Tuesday the 17th 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 Brennan, Regina, Tracey, Anne, and Marian for all their hard work.

We have lots of celebrations on staff this Christmas also – we would like to extend our best wishes to Caroline's daughter Mairead and her fiancé Stuart, as they celebrate their wedding today. We also send our warmest congratulations to Mr. Sheehy and his fiancée Amy as they prepare for their wedding on December 30th.

Finally, 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 and healthy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you all again in 2025!

Le gach dea-ghuí

Michelle White

Arabella

It has been a wonderful term in the Arabella room. We have really enjoyed spending time with our friends in Senior Infants and First Class for singing and football, and our recent trip to the Ashe Memorial Hall and Tralee Town Park. The museum was a winter wonderland! We're glad the weather has been mild but we really enjoyed learning all about melting and freezing during the cold spell in November. We even built some mini snowmen in our classroom. We continued with this theme and made lovely snowman artwork for the classroom. We have been busy cooking and baking this term, we have made lovely cookies, jelly and buns.

We have celebrated lots of birthdays in our classroom so far this year - Happy Birthday to Córa, Gavin, Salahudeen and Caragh.

We celebrated a very special day when the parents visited our classroom for our Christmas Show. Decorating our classroom for Christmas has been lots of fun! We have really enjoyed learning new Christmas songs this year, making our own decorations and displaying them on the Christmas tree. A big thank you to Mrs White, Anne, Tracey, Regina and Marian for helping us to prepare for this special time and for all your help throughout the year so far. It is wonderful to take this opportunity to celebrate this special time of year with our friends, family and school community.

All of the children enjoyed when a very special visitor from the North Pole came to our classroom. A big thank you to Santa for visiting us and for the chocolate treats. The children have all done excellent

work since the beginning of the school year and are looking forward to a fun and relaxing Christmas break.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas.

Ms Brennan

Junior Infants

What a busy couple of months we have had in the Junior Infant room. The children have worked so hard and deserve a well-earned break for Christmas.

We now know 20 sounds and are blending words to read very well in lists and books. We have begun our cursive handwriting and are working hard on this tricky skill. In maths we have been playing lots of fun counting games with dice and maths bingo has been a favourite. And we have read some really fun and interesting books in school such as 'Baby Brains', 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'Dear Father Christmas' and 'The Night Before Christmas'.

In Aistear, the children enjoyed playing in 'The Hospital' and 'Santa's workshop'. Wrapping presents ready for Santa's sack was so much fun. The children really enjoyed creating lots of different inventions using 'Junk Art' from all the different boxes and cardboard, brought in from home.

We have had two Birthdays in Junior Infants this half term; Jake O'D and Daisy celebrated their birthdays in November.

We had a visit from Michelle Culloty from STEM ar Scoil. We turned into scientists for the morning and did some very interesting experiments with her.

Our trip to Tralee last week was a huge success. We visited Santa at the Ashe Memorial Hall, watched a Christmas movie, played in the playground and even posted Christmas cards to Santa in a very special post box. The children were so well behaved and careful walking in town and were so good at listening. I am so proud of them all.

We had our movie night where we watched one of our favourite movies, 'The Grinch'. The children

really enjoyed coming to school in the evening and watching a movie together.

Jingles our Christmas Elf arrived at the beginning of December and has been keeping a close eye on everything in the classroom. He was very impressed by all the hard work and beautiful handwriting happening in Junior Infants. I'm sure he will have a glowing report for Santa!

Our Christmas concert was a huge hit. The children were so brave and worked hard learning the songs and dancing for a big audience. Well done, everyone!

Merry Christmas everyone and Happy New Year!

See you in January 2025!

Mrs. O'Donnell

Senior Infants

Senior Infants have been very busy since Halloween and are ready for a well-earned break. In Directed Play 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.

Senior infants welcomed Delphine to the class in November and 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 singing 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 also went on an adventure to Tralee Museum where we met Santa and Mrs Claus who were delighted to meet such lovely boys and girls. We sang Little Donkey for them and then Santa read us a story. We visited the crib in the square and posted our Santa cards. Dave the postman kindly visited our classroom and collected some other letters and cards we had for the North pole. They were an extra special collection. We also made hot chocolates with cream and marshmallows and had a Christmas party.

We have celebrated some birthdays also. We celebrated Jaye, Emily, Nathan and Ryan in November. December has seen Dáithí and Fionn turn a year older. Happy Birthday to all.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break and Best Wishes for 2025!

Nollaig Shona Daoibh!

Ms Slattery

First Class

We have had a fun filled December in first class! The boys and girls have been working very hard and are looking forward to a well-deserved break.

We had a fantastic time exploring Science & Maths during our STEM Week in November. We embarked on a Shape Trail around the school, where the children had the opportunity to identify and explore different shapes in the environment. We also conducted some very cool science experiments! One of the highlights was learning about how plants absorb water. The children were amazed to see how water & food colouring travelled up through celery, they loved watching it happen in real-time.

We have also been busy creating beautiful winter-themed artwork. The children designed their own Christmas Jumpers, painted polar bears, and decorated Christmas trees, to name a few! As part

of our learning about Christmas, we explored Christmas Traditions around the World and discovered how different countries celebrate this special time. We even travelled to Lapland in our imaginations to learn about Santa's home! We studied the fairytales of Hans Christian Andersen, which included the stories of The Ugly Duckling and The Little Mermaid. The children enjoyed discussing these classic tales.

One of the most memorable events of the past few weeks was our trip to Tralee. The children had a wonderful time visiting the Post Office to post their letters to Santa. They also enjoyed exploring the crib in the town square and were thrilled to visit the playground. The highlight of the day was meeting Santa himself at the museum! It was a magical experience for everyone, and a perfect way to end the term.

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

Ms O'Sullivan.

Second Class

As we approach the festive season, 2nd Class has been buzzing with activity throughout November and December! Everyone is ready for a well-earned Christmas break!

In November, we celebrated STEAM Week with plenty of hands-on fun. Highlights included a maths trail around the school, a Starburst sweets estimation challenge, designing and building magnet-powered racing cars and tracks, and a paper chain engineering challenge. The creativity and teamwork were fantastic!

In English, we focused on recount and procedural writing. The children wrote and published detailed accounts of their Halloween break. More recently, we've been learning all about procedures, creating instructions for a variety of tasks—including how to turn your teacher into a goat!

In Maths, some topics we explored were fractions,

time, addition and subtraction. We particularly enjoyed discovering different ways to solve problems and sharing our strategies on mini whiteboards.

As Gaeilge, we learned all about 'bia' and had great fun creating our very own menus and dramas. In art, we channeled the wintery weather into beautiful seasonal scenes and crafted wooden snowman decorations.

A major highlight of the year has been the Christmas Concert. The children wowed everyone with their performances of I Wish it Could be Christmas Everyday and Away in a Manger. A special thank you to our music teacher, Sorcha, for helping us prepare.

As the Christmas preparations got under way, we counted down the days with our Advent calendar. We welcomed Tinsel, our elf, into our classroom and we visited Santa's Grotto upstairs. We enjoyed a trip to Tralee to meet and post letters to Santa, visit the crib in the square as well as a quick stop off at the playground. We wore Christmas Jumpers on Friday 6th December while we also had great fun at our Christmas Movie night last Thursday!!

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas!

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go Léir!

Ms Barry

Third Class

It's hard to believe Christmas is already here in 3rd class! We've had such a busy and exciting term. One of the highlights was our incredible Science and Maths Week, where we designed our own marble mazes. We loved watching the mindful video about mazes, which inspired us to create our own versions.

In English, we read Mr. Stink and had fun comparing him to the characters from The Twits. We also focused on procedure writing, helping Mr. Stink figure out how to take a bath! We loved exploring the special friendship between Mr. Stink and Chloe and we were saddened by Mr. Stink's story. It made

us realise that every homeless person has a story of their own.

In Maths, we tackled more challenging topics, especially multiplication and division. We've been working hard on our times tables and are getting really confident with them.

As Gaeilge we explored An Aimsir, Sa Bhaile and An Nollaig. Art, we used fabric and fibre to create beautiful winter pictures that were a real treat to make.

Our hard work also went into our Carol Service, where Ms. Carroll chose the song "Nearly Christmas" and the class picked "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas." Ms. Carroll was so impressed with how enthusiastic we were and how well we chose the right actions for the songs.

We were also thrilled to win the Attendance Award for November! To celebrate, we had a fun party and enjoyed Christmas quizzes on the iPads with Kahoot.

Finally, we can't forget all the birthdays we celebrated this term! A big Happy Birthday to Jack, Kalen, Zoey, Oisín L, Saoirse, Zuzanna, and Mason!

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas! We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ms Carroll

Fourth Class

We have had an action-packed November and December in 4th Class with lots of fun and learning taking place. Here is a little glimpse of life in 4th Class the past two months.

In English we have been learning about author's intent and our intent as writers. We have been writing reports in English and Irish on Arctic Animals agus an t-iora rua.

We celebrated Science week in November with some cool experiments. We designed and created parachutes for eggs and launched them out the

second-floor window to see if they would land safely. Some landed safely, others did not! We learned all about Polar Bears and how the papillae on their paws help them to walk on ice and snow. This month we also learned about the human ear and how we hear.

Christmas and Winter have been big features in Art and Music the past two months. Having read about the Northern Lights in English, children created beautiful landscape artwork depicting the aurora borealis. We enjoyed listening to 'Walking in the Air' while using chalk pastels to create Flying Snowmen. There was also lots of laughter and fun while creating sock snowmen with rice this week. We have been having fun preparing for our Christmas Show and have really set ourselves a big challenge singing 'Somewhere in my Memory' from Home Alone and 'All I want for Christmas' by Mariah Carey.

For History and Geography, we enjoyed a field trip to Tralee where we did a Discovery Challenge in The Town Park and learned about the history of The Ashe Memorial Hall. A highlight this half term was interviewing Emma Tangney's grandmother, who told us lots of stories about her past.

We've been developing our Stay Safe skills in SPHE and enjoyed playing games in PE, especially Rounders. As part of Active Schools, we engaged in a daily Active Breaks challenge and had Active homework every Wednesday.

In Religion, in November, we took time to pause and remember our loved ones who are in Heaven. In December, we have been learning about Advent as a time of preparation, the birth of John the Baptist and the Epiphany.

Big congratulations to our November and December assembly winners – Isha, Caoimhe, Chloe F., Rory, Jason, Eva, Hannah, Jessie and Sadie.

All the boys and girls in 4th Class have worked fantastically the past two months and truly deserve a wonderful Christmas. We wish you all a lovely Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir.

Ms Brosnan and Ms Ryle

Fifth Class

What an action-packed term this was in fifth class. Everyone has been working really hard in class and are all ready for a well-deserved Christmas rest!!

Following the Halloween break as the evenings became increasingly darker, we started the month of November focusing on road safety awareness. The children did fantastic work in creating road safety awareness posters that are displayed around our class and school for all pupils to see.

STEAM week also took place in November where we began the "Meet the Scientist" programme for 4th, 5th and 6th class children. This programme runs up to February and involves children seeing scientists from different fields explaining their area of expertise followed by a Q&A session from all participating schools. We had great fun doing our STEM paper tower challenge build which uncovered some really creative design and engineering ideas in our class. We also enjoyed participating in two on-line maths quizzes with Michelle Culloty from Tralee Education Centre as part of our STEAM week.

We also had the pleasure of having a guest speaker, Lisa Fingleton, join us to talk about biodiversity and sustainable living in modern day Ireland. She was very impressed with the children's interpretation of 'Lunch 2050' posters. Well done also to our 5th class choir group participating in the peace proms concert in Limerick.

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 Carol Concert. A big thanks and 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

Sixth Class

As the Christmas season sparkles into full swing, we are thrilled to share the magic and creativity that has been filling our days in rang a 6!

Painting Rudolph. Our festive art sessions have brought Rudolph to life in a burst of colour and joy. From bright red noses to green & blue backdrops, everyone has created their own unique masterpiece of our favourite reindeer. The creativity on display has been nothing short of inspiring, and Rudolph himself would surely be proud!

The Great O'Brennan Bake Off 2024 was a delightful event that brought out the creativity and teamwork of all the children involved. Each team showcased their skills by crafting delicious chocolate biscuit cakes, including variations such as puddings, logs, and rocky roads. The children not only had a fantastic time experimenting with their recipes but also gained valuable insights into the effort and collaboration required in baking. The event was a perfect blend of fun and learning, Mrs White & Mr O Connor judged the event and Team 1- The Christmas Pudding won!

Sewing Christmas Decorations, needles threading through fabric has been a warm and relaxing time to our preparations. From adorable Christmas stars to charming tree ornaments, everyone's sewing skills have shone brightly. The handmade decorations are sure to bring an extra smile to our homes.

Christmas Songs No Christmas is complete without music, and our playlist has been filled with holiday cheer! From rocking out to Run, Run Rudolph to singing the serene and beautiful Holy Night, we've embraced the spirit of the season. And let's not forget our group favourite, Elves Just Want to Have Fun — a lively anthem that has brought laughter and smiles to everyone.

Nollaig Shona Gach Duine! (Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas!)

Ms Buckley



School Choir

On the 14th November the choir travelled to Limerick for a workshop in preparation for their upcoming concert with Peace Proms next February. There was great fun and laughter throughout the day. Songs they will perform in Limerick include Moments we Live For, Musical and Pop Medleys, Unstoppable and Where is the Love. They wowed us all with a short excerpt from their repertoire after the interval in our Christmas Show.

Green School

This year we are focused on the initiative "Global Citizenship Litter and Waste" The Green Schools Committee and the school community are invested in recycling our rubbish properly and taking home our own waste.

Our Christmas Jumper appeal was extremely successful and we raised over 300 euro. We hope to invest this into our Biodiversity Garden and our school grounds. We would like to thank you all for donating and helping our environment a little more.

Also remember we are collecting plastic bottles, aluminum or steel in our red bin outside the school. We would be grateful if you have recycling from the Christmas to add to our red bin.

At the start of December, we had a visit from the Kerry County Council Artist in Residence Lisa Fingleton. We had the pleasure of learning how to attract the eco system back into our gardens and growing our own vegetables.

We would like to Wish you a Healthy and Happy Christmas.

Green Schools O Brennan NS.



Student Council

Our Student Council co-ordinated the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal once again this year. 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.

The shoeboxes were gathered and then collected by local volunteer Mike just after the Halloween Mid-Term Break. The school received 112 shoeboxes which is incredible. Thank you to Mike for collecting the boxes and donations! A massive thank you again to everyone for supporting such a wonderful cause and brightening up Christmas for lots of boys and girls ✨



Active Schools Committee

It's been another busy term for The Active Schools Committee! Our committee has been busy promoting fun and fitness throughout the school! We've introduced Playworks in the front yard with 6th class organising games for the junior classes. Line leaders have been assigned in the back yard, keeping everyone moving and active even after the bell rings. The biggest initiative so far is the Active Breaks Challenge, where each class is enjoying one movement break every day for four weeks. Plus, we've kicked off Active Homework Wednesdays to encourage activity at home. Let's keep moving and make fitness fun! 🏃🏆



School Basketball

Our boys and girls basketball teams have been training over the past few months in preparation for the upcoming annual Castleisland Christmas Blitz! Each team will play two group games in St John's Hall over Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th December. The boys team will play on Saturday 28th against Currow NS and Scoil Nuachabháil. Our girls team will play on Sunday 29th against Scoil Íde Curranes and Kilmurry NS. Best of luck to everyone!!

