



O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Term 2 has been a very busy and enjoyable one in our school, with many wonderful events and celebrations taking place. Pupils took part in Pancake Tuesday, Seachtain na Gaeilge, World Book Day, Mother's Day, Active Schools Week and St. Patrick's Day, to name just a few.

On March 12th, our 6th Class pupils made their Confirmation in Clogher Church. It was a very special and memorable day for all involved. Sincere thanks to Bishop Ray Browne and Fr. Gearóid Walsh for such a lovely ceremony. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Buckley for the extraordinary amount of work and preparation she undertook in helping our Confirmation candidates prepare for this important Sacrament. Thank you also to Ms. Broderick and Ms. O'Sullivan for their valuable contributions.

Our 2nd Class pupils are currently busy preparing for their First Holy Communion on May 16th under the guidance of their teacher, Ms. Barry, along with the support of their parents. We wish them every success and will keep them in our thoughts and prayers as their special day approaches.

We held our Open Morning on February 16th and 17th, which was a great success. It was wonderful to welcome so many new pupils and their families to our school. The children had a fantastic time and are already looking forward to visiting us again in June ahead of their big start in September.

It has also been a very active term for sport in our school. There was great excitement surrounding the recent basketball blitz, congratulations to all the winning teams and to everyone who took part. A special word of thanks to Ms. Barry and Ms. Buckley for their excellent coaching and dedication.

Today, we enjoyed the finals of our soccer tournament, which was organised by Kyle and all

the boys in 5th Class. Well done to everyone involved, it was a very enjoyable and well-run event.

We wish Mrs. Corridan all the best as she begins her maternity leave and look forward to hearing her lovely news.

Finally, I would like to wish all pupils, staff and their families a very Happy Easter. Stay safe, enjoy the well-deserved break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on April 13th, 2026.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Michelle White

Arabella

What a fantastic term we had in the Arabella Class! There was lots of learning, laughter and fun all along.

We celebrated Valentine's Day by making beautiful heart crafts and lovely Valentine's cards. During circle time we talked about the people we love and what makes them special.

This month we learned all about clothes! We had so much fun: Dressing up as princes and princesses (Cora and Caragh love being princesses), dressing Teddy for the weather, designing party outfits and matching clothes to the weather and seasons

We went on a lovely school trip to Ballyseedy where we had a brilliant time playing together in the playground.

Spring is Here! With the brighter weather, we started some spring activities and made some beautiful spring art.

The biggest highlight this month was our brand new garden area! We love playing outside together, and we are very excited that a trampoline has just arrived. The children are really enjoying spending more time outside in the fresh air. Salahudeen loves the swings

and Cora is having so much fun on our brand new trampoline

We also enjoyed a cake sale with lots of yummy treats. Caragh helped teacher carry and organising treats. Gavin loved the rice crispy buns. Yummy

The priest visited our class to talk to the children who are preparing for their First Penance. Fr. Gearoid gave Cora and Fionn their First Penance, it was so lovely.

This term was full of fun, creativity, and friendship. But our favourite part has definitely been playing together in our new garden! 🍃☀️ We have a brand new grass area with a trampoline, swings and a mud kitchen. We asked other children to come and play with us. We are the luckiest and happiest children in all of Kerry!

Ms. Gorman

Junior Infants

What an exciting second term of Junior Infants we have had! This term has been so busy and we have learnt so much!

In phonics we now know 36 sounds and are blending so well, that we can read real books! We have been working very hard on perfecting our cursive letter formation and are so proud of our beautiful letters.

In January we went on a trip to an African market in Aistear. In February we really enjoyed playing 'The Vet'. We had some very sick animals who needed a lot of different procedures as well as x-rays! Luckily, we had lots of very capable vets in our classroom. Some children really enjoyed making signs for the different parts of the vet surgery such as 'Waiting Room' and 'Reception'. We even had a visit from two beautiful gentle husky dogs from Serra Husky and even a snake!

This term we have had some lovely events. As part of the Creative Schools initiative we focused on the artist Jackson Pollock and made some action paintings inspired by his work. We combined our

paintings with paintings made by the Senior Infants children to make a beautiful collaborative artwork piece for Valentine's Day.

During Seachtain na Gaeilge we learnt lots of fun dances, songs and poems. We performed some of them for the whole school during the 'Ceolchoirm'. For World Book Day, we brought in our favourite books from home to show our friends.

We have had lots of birthdays in Junior Infants this term; Nikol and Hanna celebrated their birthdays in January, Nova and Patrick had their birthdays in February, in this month we had Sean and Cónán's birthday is this week. Lá Breithe Shona daoibh!

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and enjoy the well-deserved break.

Mrs. O'Donnell

Senior Infants

It has been a very busy and exciting few months in Senior Infants! We have explored themes such as The Sports Shop and The Garden Centre, and more recently, we have been learning how to grow our own plants and flowers. Before the Easter holidays, we successfully grew cress plants in our classroom.

After returning to school in January, we learned about life in cold climates, including the interesting fact that penguins and polar bears will never meet! In Maths, we have been focusing on length and the number ten, while in Gaeilge, our theme has been Bia.

In February, we welcomed the arrival of spring. We explored the signs of the season around us and listened to the story of St. Brigid. It was also a busy month filled with celebrations, including Pancake Tuesday, Valentine's Day, and Grandparents' Day We were delighted to welcome grandparents, parents, and friends into our classroom. As part of the Creative Schools initiative, we collaborated with Junior Infants to create artwork inspired by Jackson Pollock, which is now displayed outside our classrooms.

March has been our busiest month yet, with Seachtain na Gaeilge taking centre stage. We thoroughly enjoyed Lá Glas and our ceolchoirm in the hall. Senior Infants performed brilliantly, especially when dancing the eight-hand reel to The Sweets of May. We also created Irish-themed gonks for art (thank you to Fiadh and Caoimhe for the wonderful idea!) and learned all about St. Patrick in preparation for St. Patrick's Day.

In addition, we collected Easter eggs for our Easter Egg Wall and supported our Amber Flag fundraiser by purchasing raffle tickets. We were delighted to have plenty of space in the classroom to display all the eggs and delighted to win the Easter Wall competition! We had a fantastic Easter disco to celebrate.

Congratulations to our Assembly Certificate winners: Evie Mai, Aoife, and Emi (January); Emilia C and Alice (February); and Ava May and Daisy Mae (March). Well done to all! Star of the Day continues to be a much sought-after achievement, and the whole class has been working very hard to earn their stars.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Easter break—enjoy all the Easter eggs!

Cáisc Shona duit.

Ms. Slattery

First Class

First class have worked hard throughout this exciting term and are looking forward to the Easter break. We began the year singing on TG4 with the school for the victorious Ballymac team. The class developed their musical creativity further in drumming workshops with the wonderful musician Martin Scharer. The children learned all about Australia with a pen pal. We also ate delicious Tim Tams to celebrate Australia Day.

In February, we welcomed Mr Murphy, to the classroom for his teaching practise. We finished the month with some tasty pancakes made by the Parents Council.

In March, we celebrated Grandparents Day. First class created fabulous art collages of their grandparents with 2D shapes. We also explored the use of clay to make pottery. The children performed the song Bhí Feirm ag Sean McDonald during Seachtain na Gaeilge. Bhí a lán spraoi againn le rang a dó ag labhairt as Gaeilge le chéile. D'fhogair Mollie, Jaye agus Ben nuacht an lae ar Raidió Scoile.

We had a variety of PE activities throughout the term. There was gymnastics, rugby, football and box aerobics.

The Easter Egg Hunt was a big highlight to mark the completion of the term. Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the break. Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Ms. Dillane

Second Class

We've had a very busy and exciting start to 2026 since returning to school in January!

At the beginning of the term, we were thrilled to support the Ballymac football team as they won the All-Ireland Junior Club Final in Croke Park. It was a proud moment for everyone, especially as we featured on TG4 in the lead-up to the match. We were also delighted to welcome the team back to school afterwards, along with their trophies, to celebrate their fantastic achievement.

In January, we also took part in drumming workshops with musician and percussionist Martin Scharer, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. In PE, we focused on gymnastics, practising and improving our rolls and balances, while in Maths we explored a variety of strategies for addition.

February was another busy and enjoyable month. We celebrated both St. Brigid's Day and Valentine's Day. We also enjoyed the Student Council Spring Bake Sale with lots of delicious goodies. The children preparing for their First Holy Communion marked an important milestone as they made their First Confession in St. Brendan's Church, Clogher. Well

done to everyone involved, and many thanks to Father Walsh for his guidance and support.

March brought more memorable moments, including Grandparents' Day. We loved interviewing our grandparents, creating special artwork, and welcoming them into our classroom for a lovely celebration.

We also celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge! Bhíomar an-ghnóthach ag labhairt Gaeilge! Bhí comhrá againn le rang a 1, ghlacamar páirt i tóraíocht taisce, chanamar 'Siar Siar Leat' agus rinneamar 'An Haka Gaelach'. Rinneamar an-iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt i rith an lae chomh maith.

Other highlights this term included rugby coaching with Ronan from Tralee Rugby Club, football sessions with Lorcan, and boxercise classes with Sports Fitness Ireland. We also enjoyed English stations with Ms. Geraghty and Mr. Breen, Pancake Tuesday, learning about St. Patrick, our new yard rotations at break times and lots of fun Easter activities over the past few days.

We wish everyone a lovely break and a very Happy Easter!

Ms. Barry

Third Class

What a busy and exciting term it has been in 3rd class! We can hardly believe that Easter is already here this school year is flying by.

In February, we celebrated St. Brigid's Day by designing colourful, patterned St. Brigid's crosses inspired by her famous cloak. The creativity on display was fantastic! We also held our Student Council Bake Sale. Well done to Sophie Horan, Jack Carmody and all the Student Council for all their help in organising the event. There was lots of yummy treats and a wonderful display of creative talent.

March was full of special moments, beginning with our lovely Grandparents' Day. We were delighted to

welcome our grandparents for a beautiful prayer service. The children thoroughly enjoyed showing them around the school, performing a song, and creating wonderful artwork to mark the occasion.

Seachtain na Gaeilge brought great energy and fun to our classroom. Bhíomar ag damhsa, ag canadh, ag seinm ceoil, agus ag úsáid Gaeilge i rith an lae sa seomra ranga! Each class took part in a ceolchoirm in the hall, where we performed "Óró, Sé do Bheatha Abhaile." This tied in nicely with our Geography work, where we explored Clare Island.

On Lá Glas, the children made a brilliant effort to dress in green for St. Patrick's Day, it was a fantastic display of school spirit!

A big well done to Sophie Lane, Mícheál and the Amber Flag committee for organising the Easter raffle. From collecting Easter eggs to selling tickets, their dedication and teamwork was outstanding. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event.

We also celebrated several birthdays this term:

January: Feardorcha, Aoibhín

February: Daryna, Sophie L

March: Cillian, Shay, Joshua, Nicolas, Mícheál

Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter, enjoy the well deserved break!

Ms. Carroll

Fourth Class

It has been a busy Term 2 for us in 4th class with lots going on.

In English this month, we have been reading the novel "Matilda" by Roald Dahl. We had great fun acting out scenes of the novel during Drama class. We also wrote reports on Antarctic Animals and Irish Garden Birds. Lots of laughter could be heard when learning how to write Limericks in poetry class and debating in Oral Language.

In Science this term we researched Irish Garden Birds, designed and made bird feeders and

presented our projects to the class. We also had fun learning about non-Newtonian fluids while making Oobleck and learning how nappies work!

World War II was a big feature of History this term while we learned about the bogs of Ireland in Geography class. In Art, we made dancing Leprechauns for St Patrick's Day. We also learned about pointillism as an art form while painting floating balloons.

Bhíomar ag ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge i rith an Mhárta. Bhí ceolchoirm againn sa halla nuair a chanamar "Is Mise Fear an Cheoil" agus "Ó mo Sheáinín". Bhaineamar an-taitneamh as an gceolchoirm ar fad. Bhí Ciorcal Comhrá againn le Rang a 3. Rinne na páistí iarracht mór an Ghaeilge a labhairt. Bhí céilí againn sa rang freisin. Bhíomar ag damhsa "Shoe the Donkey" agus "Mo Dhreoilín". Bhí an-chraic againn!

We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge during the month of March. We had a concert in the hall where we sang "Is Mise Fear an Cheoil" and "Oh my Johnny". We enjoyed the whole concert. We had a "Conversation Circle" with 3rd class. The children all made a great effort to speak Irish. We had a céilí in our classroom where we danced to "Shoe the Donkey" and "Mo Dhreoilín". We had great fun.

We really enjoyed having our grandparents in school for Grandparents' Day on 6th March and creating lots of colourful artwork for the special occasion.

Congratulations also to our Assembly winners for this term – Matvii, Zuzanna, Ryan, Cian, Timmy, Clara-Kate, Kevin, Jack and Kate.

All the boys and girls in 4th Class have worked fantastically the past few months and truly deserve a wonderful Easter break.

We wish you all a lovely Easter.

Cáisc Shona daoibh go léir.

Ms. Brosnan and Ms. Costello

Fifth Class

What an action-packed term this was in fifth class. It is hard to believe we are at Easter term already as the academic year is going by so fast!

The start of the term saw the boys and girls produce fabulous artwork to welcome grandparents to the halla for grandparent's day!

St. Brigid's day was marked by creating lovely colourful portraits of St Brigid for our sacred space. In February we also had our open days where the children did two fabulous science investigations that were displayed in the halla. The Student Council members also showed great initiative and competence to inform parents about the wonderful initiatives (Green School, Active Flag, Students Council and Amber Flag) being run in school.

Our 5th class boys and girls also got the chance to take part in the mini-7's football competition in Knocknagoshel on March 20th. Thankfully the day was dry and the children had great fun competing very well in each game!

March also marked the start of Seachtain na Gaeilge. In class we had 3 action packed weeks ag caint is ag cómhrá, ag damhsa, ag canadh, ag seinm ceol agus ag úsáid gaeilge i rith an lae sa seomra ranga. Bhí ceolchoirm sa halla freisin le gach rang agus bhí an spóirt agus craic againn. The children made a tremendous effort on our 'Lá glas' to dress up in green!

Finally, it was great to end the term with a fantastic Easter egg wall and hamper raffle in class as part of our Amber Flag, Pieta fundraiser. A big thanks to parents for contributing and supporting this worthy cause. Well done to our Well-Being Warriors also for sharing their creativity!!

I hope everyone has a lovely, relaxing Easter break and returns energised for our final school term!

Mr. O'Connor

Sixth Class

Big congratulations to 6th Class on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thank you to everyone involved from both the school and church community for making the day so special.

We have had many jam-packed and active weeks here in O'Brennan, with plenty of sporting success and fun along the way!

Our boys and girls recently travelled to Killarney to compete in the Regional Volleyball Tournament. The boys were outstanding, winning their region and qualifying for the Munster Volleyball Championships in Limerick. Huge congratulations to Mr. Breen and the boys — we are all extremely proud of your achievement.

Last Friday, both our boys and girls took part in the Mini 7's Football in Knocknagoshel. They all played very well and represented the school with great pride and enthusiasm.

On Thursday 26th April, both our boys' and girls' basketball teams played in the Plate Final in the St. Brendan's School Competition. Well done to both teams!

In the classroom, we have also been enjoying our Gaeilge. Bhí an-spraoi againn ag glacadh páirte i gciorcal comhrá agus ag canadh "Amhrán na gCupán" le Rang 5.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and well-deserved Easter break from all in 6th Class!

Ms. Buckley



Extra-Curricular Activities

School Choir

Well done to our school choir who sang beautifully for our Grandparents Day Mass this term. Choir rehearsals will restart on the first Thursday after the Easter holidays, during lunchtime, in preparation for First Holy Communion on 16th May. Any new members from 3rd to 6th class are welcome to join for this special occasion 🎵

Amber Flag

This year, our wellbeing journey has continued as we focused on developing a strong understanding of positive mental health. Each Wellbeing Warrior took responsibility for coordinating mental health initiatives, with an emphasis on empowering others to prioritise their wellbeing, overcome challenges, and build resilience across the school community.

One of our key goals was to organise a fundraiser to support Pieta's work, while also raising awareness of the valuable services they provide.

As part of this, we held our annual Easter Hamper and Easter Egg Wall Challenge. Each class created an Easter Egg Wall inspired by our motto, "Spread your wings and fly."

It has been wonderful to see the entire school community come together to promote a safe, positive, and supportive environment, fostering a healthy attitude towards both physical and mental wellbeing.



Green School

The Green Schools Committee has been very busy, continuing to make our school a greener and more sustainable place. The daffodils and spring flowers planted last year are now in full bloom, adding colour and life to our flower beds.

Last week, the committee also carried out a Spring clean-up of the roads and surrounding areas of our school, helping to keep our local environment clean and tidy.

This year, we are proudly working towards achieving our 10th Green Flag, with a focus on Energy and Global Citizenship. A key part of this theme is raising awareness about different types of energy and exploring how we can all reduce our energy use to help protect the environment.

To get everyone involved, classes are taking part in a slogan competition to create a new slogan about saving energy. Meanwhile, the committee is busy designing posters and signs to promote awareness throughout the school.

In the coming weeks, battery recycling bins will be placed in the school porch. We encourage everyone to start collecting and recycling used batteries as part of our ongoing efforts to care for our environment.

The Green Schools Committee



Student Council

Over the past few months, our Student Council has been very busy representing our school with pride and enthusiasm. They played an important role in our Open Mornings in February for incoming Junior Infants, warmly welcoming parents and children

and giving them a real sense of life in our school — from school lunches and iPads to our library and extra-curricular activities. The council members were excellent ambassadors, speaking confidently about school life and creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all our visitors.

The Student Council also organised and ran their annual bake sale, which took place on 27th February. This year's event had a lovely spring theme and was a huge success. A sincere thank you to everyone who baked, bought, donated or supported the event in any way. The hall was full of smiles and delicious treats, and the atmosphere was fantastic. We were delighted to welcome Aga Leśniak, Mum of Helena in 2nd Class, who kindly judged our Spring-Themed Cake Competition and provided beautiful prizes. A massive thank you to Aga for her kindness and generosity. The creativity and effort on display were outstanding. Thanks to the incredible support of our school community, the bake sale raised over €1000!



School Basketball

Our boys' and girls' basketball teams have continued their great work this term, training enthusiastically during lunchtime sessions and making excellent progress. Our boys' and girls' basketball teams have been busy training and competing in the Tralee Primary Schools League this term. In February, our 3rd and 4th Class teams played against Moyderwell and Scoil Eoin, with the boys winning both games

and the girls recording one win and one loss.

Our 5th and 6th Class teams also took part in the February Mid-Term Blitz in Moyderwell where they played two matches against Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn and CBS Primary School, coming away with one win and one loss.

We were also delighted to take part in Finals Night on Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th of March. On Tuesday, the junior girls team played Scoil Eoin in the cup semi-final and were unlucky to lose out on a score of 9–16. The junior boys team also faced Scoil Eoin in the cup final that night in a fantastic, closely contested game, emerging victorious on a scoreline of 21–19.

On Thursday, in the plate final, our senior girls beat Moyderwell in another close and competitive game, winning by a single point, 10–9. Our boys also emerged victorious in their plate final against CBS Primary School. A huge thank you to St Brendan's Basketball Club for organising two fantastic days of basketball once again. We can't wait for next year's tournament!



School Football

Friday, 20th March brought a beautiful day for the Mini 7's GAA Football blitz, held in Knocknagoshel GAA pitch. It was a fantastic occasion filled with great skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship from all involved.

The O'Brennan girls had a strong run on the day, playing against Currow, Knockaclarig, and Kilmurry. They showed great determination and teamwork throughout their matches and progressed to the semi-final, where they faced Scartaglin. Despite a spirited performance, they were unfortunately beaten at this stage.

The O'Brennan boys also had an excellent day, competing against Kilmurry, Scartaglin, and Gaelscoil Áogán. They played very well in all their games and showed great effort and commitment. In their final match, they were unlucky to concede a very late goal, which denied them a well-earned result.

A big thank you to everyone who organised such a wonderful day, and well done to all the boys and girls from 5th and 6th Class in O'Brennan for representing their school with pride.



Cross Country

Well done to our athletes who took part in the Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Competition on March 10th in Caherslee. Everyone ran excellently and performed very well. We had representative in the boys and girls 3rd / 4th class 1000m and in the boys 5th / 6th class 2000m. Well done to Kyle, Joey, Mason, Oisín, Timmy, Jack, Shona and Róisín. We're very proud of you!



Volleyball

On 2nd March, our 6th Class boys and girls travelled to Killarney for a fantastic event hosted by Volleyball Ireland. Both teams played exceptionally well against strong competition from across the county, with the boys winning their semi-final and securing a place in the All-Ireland Finals in Limerick.

On 19th March, our 6th Class boys competed in the All-Ireland Primary Schools Volleyball Competition at the UL Sports Arena, winning two matches and representing the school with great skill and

determination.

The Junior Entrepreneur Project (JEP)

O'Brennan Quiz took place on the 12th of February in O'Brennan School and proved to be a fantastic and enjoyable evening for all who attended. We would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported the event, and we hope you all had a great night.

There was a wide range of fantastic prizes on offer, including David Clifford jerseys, gloves, socks, and footballs, as well as Ballymacelligott jerseys. We are also delighted to share that the Ballymacelligott All-Ireland jersey, kindly sponsored by Mikey Brosnan's family, has arrived this week.

Congratulations to all of our prize winners on the night:

- O'Neill Family (Winners of Quiz)
- Jack O'Shea (6th Class) – David Clifford jersey and socks
- Katy Rose Lynch (5th Class) – Signed Kerry football
- Sadhbh Sheehy – David Clifford football and jersey
- Chloe Turner – David Clifford football
- Max Korshun (2nd Class) – Ballymacelligott jersey
- Anne Lynch – Quiz supporter- Ballymacelligott jersey
- Sam Kelly -(1st Class) – David Clifford jersey and socks
- Killian Shannon – (1st Class) David Clifford gloves

We are delighted to announce that a total of €2,350.00 was raised from the Junior Entrepreneur Project Quiz. This money will go towards funding the 6th Class school tour and bus. Half of the remaining funds will contribute towards 6th Class graduation hoodies, while the rest will support a day out on the Greenway cycle and also a contribution towards the use of the school hall for the quiz night.

A huge thank you from all in 6th Class and Ms. Buckley for your generosity and support in making

this event such a success.

BLAST Arts Initiative

We were delighted to take part in the BLAST (Bringing Live Arts to Students and Teachers) initiative again this year in January. The BLAST initiative is an exciting opportunity that brings professional artists into schools to support the delivery of arts education. Our school was fortunate to be chosen to extend our project from last year through a pilot extension, allowing us to further explore the world of music in a fun and engaging way.

Each class enjoyed two weeks of workshops with musician and percussionist Martin Scharer. During the sessions, pupils learned about rhythm, beat, and percussion, and even got the chance to create and perform their own original rhythms and arrangements. It was a fantastic, hands-on learning experience that sparked creativity and built confidence across all classes.

