



O'BRENNAN NS NEWSLETTER

June 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

What a fantastic year it has been at O'Brennan National School. We are so proud of all that we have achieved together as a school community. This year included a very successful Curriculum Evaluation in English, winning the basketball blitz, a wonderful Junior Entrepreneur Programme project, special celebrations for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, achieving our 15th Curious Minds Gold Award, and once again being recognised with the Amber Flag for our commitment to promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. It has been a busy, successful and memorable year for our pupils, staff and families.

Today, we say a big thank you and goodbye to Ms. Dillane as she finishes up with us. We thank her for all her hard work, dedication and care for our 1st Class this year. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her every success and happiness as she begins her new role in Spa N.S. next year.

Looking ahead to September 2026, we will have eight mainstream classes, supported by four Special Education Teachers (SETs), one special class teacher and eight Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) for the academic year.

- Junior Infants: Ms Sinéad O'Sullivan
- Senior Infants: Ms. Mary Slattery
- 1st Class: Ms. Michelle Broderick
- 2nd Class: Ms. Méabh Barry
- 3rd Class: Ms. Kelly Carroll
- 4th Class: Ms. Brosnan / TBC
- 5th Class: Mr. Pat O'Connor
- 6th Class: Ms. Nora Buckley
- ASD Class Teacher: TBC

Special Education Teachers (S.E.T.):

- Mrs. Jennifer O'Donnell
- Mr. Aidan Breen
- Mr. Eamonn Sheehy
- Ms. Caoimhe Geraghty

- Part Time Teacher: TBC

Special Needs Assistants (SNAs):

- Regina
- Eileen
- Ann Marie
- Margaret
- Tracey
- Anne
- Noel Crowley (Part-time)
- Marian Coyne

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work of our school secretary, Caroline, who ensures the smooth running of the school office every day. Thank you, Caroline!

A big thank you to our caretaker, Jer, for all his hard work throughout the year, and especially for managing the morning traffic each day and helping to ensure everyone arrives safely.

A big thank you to Liz for organising our hot lunches throughout the year and for taking such good care of us all. We really appreciate it.

On behalf of the Board of Management, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our school staff. Their continued commitment, passion and care for every pupil and family are deeply appreciated. They consistently go above and beyond, and we hope each of them enjoys a relaxing and well-deserved summer break.

Finally, I would like to wish all our pupils, parents, staff, and the wider school community a safe, happy, and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Thursday, August 27th.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Michelle White

Arabella

This summer term in Arabella has been full of fun,

adventure and more than a few unexpected moments!

In May, our theme was animals and we became experts in all things wild and domestic. We sang, danced, made animal sounds and had great fun learning all about different creatures. The highlight had to be our trip to Kennedy's Pet Farm where excitement levels were sky high from the minute we arrived.

There was so much to explore and plenty of unforgettable moments too. Caragh attracted the attention of one very cheeky goat and had to make a speedy getaway! Gavin loved visiting all the animals, Cora raced straight for the go-karts, Oliver was a big fan of the shipwreck play area and our own Fionn could not believe his luck when he met a horse called Fionn — some things are just meant to be!

In June, things got a little stranger as our theme changed to aliens. We created alien masks, invented silly alien words and enjoyed lots of imaginative games and drama. We finished our summer term with a marine animals theme and an amazing trip to Dingle Aquarium. The penguins stole the show, the shark caused a few dramatic escapes and everyone managed to squeeze into the tiny igloo and pretend to be eskimos!

It has been a fantastic year in Arabella and we have loved every minute of it. We have shared so many laughs, made wonderful memories and enjoyed so many adventures. Thank you to all of our wonderful children for making the year so much fun. We are so proud of all the progress you have made, everything you have achieved and all the smiles you brought to our classroom. It has been amazing to watch.

Ms. Gorman

Junior Infants

What a fun-filled final term we have had in Junior Infants!

Junior Infants had lots of great outdoor activities

this term. We played with chalk and bubbles on the school yard. We did relay and obstacle courses outside for P.E. and Active Schools Week. Our school tour to Kennedy's Pet Farm was a highlight of the year. We learnt about so many different animals, pigs, donkeys, goats, sheep, cows, chickens, hens, ducks and geese. We even saw some Alpacas! The playground on the farm was so much fun and the sand pit and go carts were a favourite for some of us. We also enjoyed a teddy bear's picnic.

In Aistear we learnt about the Fire Station and the Airport. We also had a lovely time playing with water and sand too. We learnt how to make jelly and ate it with delicious ice cream. In art we made some cool hot air balloons, rainbows and enjoyed creating our own art creations. In SESE we learnt about the parts of the plant, and made some beautiful paintings of sunflowers. It was so interesting.

This year our Junior Infants have begun their journey to become super readers and writers. I am so proud of how much they have learnt; I hope they are proud of themselves. They can read well and can write beautiful cursive letters. They even learnt to write their own sentences.

I have really enjoyed teaching all the children in Junior Infants this year. Also, many thanks to the parents for your hard work and support during the year. I wish you a lovely summer holidays and all the best for next year in Senior Infants.

Mrs. O'Donnell

Senior Infants

What a wonderful few months we've had in Senior Infants! We have been busy learning, exploring, and growing together as we prepare to take the exciting next step into First Class.

Everyone has worked incredibly hard on their literacy and numeracy skills, and I am so proud of the progress each child has made throughout the year.

This term, we enjoyed exploring a variety of exciting themes, including *The Zoo*, *The Campsite* and *Under the Sea*. We also learned all about the farm in both

English and Irish, discovering how to stay safe around animals and farm machinery. As we looked forward to sunny days at the beach, we dived beneath the waves to learn about sea life and created our own beautiful seascapes. We even travelled through the clouds in colourful hot air balloons! These wonderful creations are on display in the corridor outside our classroom and have received many compliments from visitors and staff alike.

During the recent warm weather, we put our sun safety lessons into practice by wearing sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses. We also enjoyed cooling down with a few well-deserved ice creams and ice lollies along the way!

Our school tour to Kennedy's Pet Farm was another highlight of the term. We met lots of fascinating animals and birds, explored three playgrounds, and returned to school tired but full of excitement, stories, and smiles. Our Teddy Bear Picnic with Junior Infants was also a great success, and we were delighted to welcome Rachel, who made a balloon animal or sword for every child. Our bubble machine added some extra smiles to our picnic!

A huge congratulations to our May certificate winners, Siún and Ian, and to Emily, Saoirse, and Shane, who received certificates in June. Well done to all of our Senior Infants who earned certificates throughout the year—you have all been fantastic!

It has been an absolute joy to teach this wonderful group of children. Thank you for all the laughter, conversations, enthusiasm, and happy memories. Wishing everyone a summer filled with sunshine, adventure, fun, and plenty of ice cream and bubbles!

Congratulations on completing Senior Infants. You have all come so far, and I know you are going to be a fabulous First Class.

Best Wishes

Ms. Slattery

First Class

First Class have enjoyed many wonderful experiences this year and are now ready to enjoy a well-deserved summer break.

April was an exciting month, with Active Schools Week proving to be a huge success. The children participated in a variety of activities, including rugby, tennis, dance, hurling, basketball, and taekwondo. In English, we explored procedural writing by following instructions to make jelly, which the children were delighted to enjoy afterwards. In Art, we learned the new technique of paper quilling and used our skills to design colourful 3D snail creations.

In May, we explored family history by creating and presenting our own family trees. We also enjoyed participating in the Play works initiative, where 5th and 6th Class organised rounders and yard games at lunchtime. In SESE, the children took part in a water safety webinar and learned valuable tips for staying safe around water this summer.

In June, we had an amazing time on our school tour to Dingle Oceanworld Aquarium. We saw lots of interesting sea creatures, had lunch in Harrington's Restaurant, and finished the day with delicious ice cream at Kool Scoops.

It has been a pleasure teaching First Class. I wish them every happiness and success in the years ahead. Thank you to the parents and guardians for your kindness and support throughout the year. Wishing everyone a wonderful summer and a fond farewell.

Ms. Dillane

Second Class

What a wonderful and busy few months we've had in 2nd Class! Our final term was packed with lots of activities and highlights.

We hit the ground running soon after Easter with Active Schools Week (27th April – 1st May). The boys and girls threw themselves into every activity, enjoying football, taekwondo, rugby, padel, hurling,

basketball and tennis. There was a great buzz around the school with plenty of energy and excitement. It was a fun-filled week for everyone!

In May, much of our time was spent preparing for the First Holy Communion on 16th May. The children worked so hard in the lead-up to the day and we are all incredibly proud of them. A sincere thank you to Fr. Walsh for his support and for such a lovely ceremony.

We were also very lucky to welcome Ms. Muireann Mangan, who completed her school placement with us during April and May. She brought so much enthusiasm to the classroom and the children really enjoyed her lessons, especially learning about homes and schools in the past, report writing, exploring Andy Warhol's art, as well as music and drama activities. We are very grateful for all her hard work.

June was full of excitement too! Our school tour on 12th June was a real highlight. We had a fantastic day at We Can Cook Children's Cookery School and Ballybunion Crazy Golf. The children loved baking and decorating their own cupcakes, playing mini golf and spending time in the playground. We finished off the day with a visit to Listowel Castle. A lovely way to round off a brilliant trip.

There were so many other highlights this term as well, including our First Holy Communion party, planting seeds, reading The Twits outdoors in the sunshine, rounders with Mr. Breen, making clay medals, visits from little chicks, ice pops and ice-cream, orienteering and scavenger hunts, our World Cup activities, country projects and creating lots of colourful summer art.

It has been such a pleasure to teach this group of children. They have grown so much over the year and should be very proud of all they have achieved. Thank you to all the parents and guardians for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Best of luck to all the boys and girls as they move on to 3rd Class. I have no doubt they will continue to shine.

Enjoy the break!

Ms. Barry

Third Class

The end of the school year has arrived so quickly. I can't believe we are here already! The children are now eagerly looking forward to their summer holidays and moving into Fourth Class.

We recently enjoyed a fun-filled school tour to Killarney Leisure Centre, where the children had a fantastic time taking part in active games, bouncing on inflatables, and swimming in the pool. The children were also very lucky this term to visit the Wetlands as part of our Geography. During the visit, we took part in orienteering, a scavenger hunt, and pond dipping.

We also had a fantastic Active Schools Week thanks to Ms. Barry and the Active School Team. Some of the activities included cricket, basketball, football, pitch and putt, and padel.

When asked about their highlights from the school year, the children shared a wide range of memories, including: the Storyteller's visit with stories about Antarctica, the Halloween Walk, the Christmas Play, the Bake Sale, designing posters for the Student Council, History, Art, the Basketball Blitz, P.E., quizzes, the school tour, Active Schools Week, Science, the Christmas Jumper Swap, the visit to the Wetlands, assemblies, the trip to Ballyseedy at Christmas, Grandparents' Day, Movie Night, Geography, and Maths.

The children were also asked to choose a few words to describe this school year. Their words included: active, fun, busy, crazy, and exciting.

This term, we also celebrated some birthdays. In April and May, we wished a happy birthday to Michael, Rosie, Aisling, and Jack S. In June, we celebrated Sophie H. and Conor. We would also like to wish a very happy birthday to those celebrating during the summer holidays: Cian and Jessica.

I would like to thank all of the children for their hard

work, enthusiasm, and kindness throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to watch them learn, grow, and achieve so much. Thank you also to parents and guardians for your continued support and encouragement throughout the school year.

I hope everyone has a wonderful, safe, and hopefully sunny summer holidays. Best wishes to all the children as they move on to Fourth Class. I know they will continue to do great things!

Ms. Carroll

Fourth Class

It has been a busy Term 3 for us in 4th class with lots going on.

We took part in Active Schools Week in April. There were so many activities to sample- Taekwondo, rugby, football, hurling, pitch and putt, basketball. We thoroughly enjoyed these activities and were so thankful to the outside coaches who came in to work with us. One highlight of this week was getting the chance to drop our usual homework and take part in active homework instead. Some children created dances, cycled their bikes, went for a walk with their family and some even used the time to do some active housework by tidying their rooms and toys.

For PE this term, we explored the strands of Athletics and Outdoor and Adventure Activities. We focused on the fundamental movement skills of dodging and skipping. We practised our relays and in June we practiced our map reading skills and took part in orienteering tasks on the yard.

This term was particularly creative in the Arts subjects. In Art, we had fun making optical illusions and relief sculptures. In Music we listened to various compositions such as Mussorgsky's 'Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks' and Ralph Vaughan Williams' 'The Lark Ascending'. We really enjoyed composing different rhythms and playing them on percussion instruments.

In History, we explored some Russian myths and legends such as Baba Yaga and Babushka. We also

learned about life in Ireland since the 1950s. We learned how people went to school and their daily life. The children created 10 questions which they then used to interview an older person in their family. It was so interesting to learn how life has changed.

The children each created their own projects on a topic of their choice in the month of June. We were blown away by the variety of topics explored and presented - including cars, horses, the Ford engine, authors, colour theory and even how to make bread (which was very tasty with butter and jam!). Children showed their wide range of creativity making videos, PowerPoints, charts and models.

The highlight of term 3 was our School Tour on Thursday 11th June to Splash Sports in Castlegregory. We learned how to surf followed by trampolines, pedal boating and stand-up paddle boarding. We were very lucky with the weather on the day. We stopped at the shop on the way home. A fun day was had by all!

Congratulations also to our Assembly winners for April, May and June- Rían, Billy, Luke, Ciara, Mariia, Charlie, Jonathan, Ryan, Róisín and Rían for a second time.

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

We would both like to sincerely thank you the parents for your cooperation and support throughout the year. The children in 4th class are a credit to their families.

We wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer holidays.

Ms. Brosnan and Ms. Costello

Fifth Class

What a quick run-in to the end of the school year it has been! So much has happened in 5th Class during this final term.

After a relaxing Easter break, the children returned full of energy and enthusiasm for the busy weeks ahead.

In June, as part of our orienteering strand in the PE curriculum, 5th Class travelled to Glanageenty for a short excursion to explore the terrain of this beautiful local woodland. It was also a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about some fascinating local history connected to the heart of their own locality.

The hard work and dedication of all our Amber, Active and Green Committee members were rewarded this June with a fantastic trip to Leo O'Connor's dairy farm. During their visit, the children learned about how a large dairy farm operates on a daily basis. Lots of fun was had, and plenty of new knowledge was gained about modern farming life.

Our school tour also took place in June, when 5th Class enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Star Adventure Centre in Kenmare. This was followed by a stop for lunch and treats afterwards. Thankfully, the weather was fabulous on the day, and everyone had great fun in the water!

Last, but certainly not least, we are delighted to share the fantastic news that our Amber Schools Flag has been renewed! The students and staff put in a huge effort and showed great commitment in promoting mental health and wellbeing throughout the school. A special word of thanks goes to the Amber Schools Committee members and staff for helping to organise all of the activities. We look forward to showcasing our flag proudly at the front of our school next year.

Finally, I would like to thank all the boys and girls for their efforts in class throughout the year. I wish everyone a very enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to seeing you all back refreshed for the new school year at the end of August.!

Mr. O'Connor

Sixth Class

Greetings from Rang a Sé!

Well... we did it! Where did the year go? It's hard to believe we've reached the end of our final year together in O'Brennan N.S. We returned in January, refreshed from our Christmas break, and jumped straight into preparations for our Confirmation. We began with our Pledge Ceremony in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ballymacelligott. On March 12th, the children celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation in Clogher Church — a day that reflected all the time, effort, and dedication they had put in.

In February, our focus turned to the Junior Entrepreneur Programme (JEP). Our business idea was "O'Brennan Quiz," and the children took on roles in sales, finance, marketing, and IT. The Quiz Night was a huge success — thank you to everyone who supported us along the way!

May saw us take part in Tri Heroes, a fantastic initiative supported by Niamh Murphy from Triathlon Ireland. It helped us develop not just our physical fitness through running and cycling, but also our sense of teamwork, safety, and personal growth.

In June, we cycled the Greenway, supported by our wonderful community guards, Garda Aidan O'Mahony and Garda Mary Gardiner. Our final class trip to West Cork Secrets was a highlight of the year — the excitement was real from the moment we boarded the bus! It was a day full of laughter, fun, and memory-making that we'll cherish forever.

The final week of term brought lots of emotion as we prepared to say goodbye. Our Graduation Mass on June 23rd was a beautiful and meaningful celebration. Every child took part — praying, singing, alongside their classmates and families. A special word of thanks also to Fr. Gearóid for his constant support and guidance throughout the year.

It has been a year of growth, fun, learning, and friendship. Wishing all our wonderful Rang a Sé pupils every success and happiness in their next adventure.

Extra-Curricular Activities

School Choir

Our school choir continued to thrive throughout this term, with lunchtime rehearsals bringing music and joy to our corridors each week. The commitment, enthusiasm and talent of our young singers made every rehearsal a pleasure.

A highlight of the term was singing for the First Holy Communion celebration. The choir performed beautifully helping to make the ceremony a very special and memorable occasion for all involved.

A special word of thanks to our 6th Class choir members who will be graduating this year. Your dedication, positivity and love of music have enriched our choir over the years and your contribution will be fondly remembered. While you will be greatly missed, we hope you continue to enjoy singing and sharing your musical talents in the years ahead.

Congratulations to all our choir members for a fantastic year filled with music, friendship and wonderful memories. We look forward to welcoming new members from 3rd to 6th Class in September—we can't wait to raise our voices together again!



Curious Minds Science Foundation Ireland

We are delighted to share the exciting news that we have been awarded our 15th Curious Minds Gold

Award by Science Foundation Ireland! This prestigious award recognises schools that demonstrate excellence in STEM education—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths—through inquiry-based learning, hands-on activities and real-world exploration.

The adjudicators were full of praise for our project giving us the following feedback:

"Congratulations to everyone at O'Brennan National School on your award! Your submission clearly shows that there was a huge amount of STEM work done in the school this year. It's clear that O'Brennan National School is full of very creative pupils. I was very impressed by the bird feeders, 3D car models, paper chains and Leprechaun traps made by the pupils. I would like to highly commend the staff and teachers in the school for creating such amazing learning opportunities for their students. Keep up the fantastic work and well done on your award! It's a real credit to the pupils, teachers and whole school community."

Well done to all our pupils and staff—this is a wonderful achievement and a reflection of our school's enthusiasm for STEM, teamwork and love of learning.



Amber Flag

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that our Amber Schools Flag has been renewed! The students and staff put in a huge effort and showed great commitment in promoting mental health and wellbeing throughout the school. A special word of thanks goes to the Amber Schools Committee members and staff for helping to organise all of the activities. We look forward to showcasing our flag

proudly at the front of our school next year.



Green School

The Green Schools Committee has been very busy this year, continuing to make our school a greener and more sustainable place.

We were proud to work towards achieving our 10th Green Flag, with a focus on Energy and Global Citizenship. As part of this theme, we explored different types of energy and looked at ways we can all reduce our energy use to help protect the environment.

Classes took part in a slogan competition to create a new message about saving energy, which proved to be a great success with fantastic participation across the school. The committee also designed posters and signs to help raise awareness throughout the building.

A battery recycling bin was recently placed in the school porch, and the response has been incredible. Thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative by collecting and recycling used batteries.

A big thank you to our whole school community for your continued support in helping us care for our environment.



Student Council

Our Student Council have been very busy this term, working alongside Mrs. White to share their ideas on what works well in our school and how we can continue to improve it. They have done a fantastic job representing the voices of all the boys and girls, and their commitment and leadership have been greatly appreciated.

The Student Council members, along with other committee members, also enjoyed a trip to Leo O'Connor's dairy farm with Lee Strand. It was a very enjoyable and informative day, where the children learned all about life on a modern dairy farm and the journey of milk from farm to table. The day finished with lunch in the hay barn, along with milk and treats kindly provided by Lee Strand.

A big thank you to all of our Student Council members for the 2025/2026 year. A special word of thanks to Aoife and Donncha, who graduated this summer. They have been wonderful role models and leaders in our school community, and we wish them every success as they begin their journey in secondary school.



School Football

This year, our girls' team performed exceptionally well in the Cumann na mBunscol competition, competing against Spa N.S., Ardfert N.S. and Holy Family.

Our first match took place in Churchill on a beautiful sunny day. The girls gave a fantastic performance and showed great determination throughout, but unfortunately were narrowly defeated by a few points.

We then travelled to Caherslee for our blitz, where the team produced an excellent display to secure a well-deserved victory over Holy Family.

In our final game against Ardfert, the girls were extremely unlucky to miss out on a place in the finals, losing by the narrowest of margins.

We are immensely proud of every girl who represented our school. Their commitment, teamwork, sportsmanship and effort, both on and off the pitch, were outstanding throughout the competition.



Athletics

This term, many of our pupils took part in the Athletics Track and Field event hosted by An Ríocht Athletics Club. The evening was filled with fantastic performances across a wide range of events, including sprints (40m, 60m, 80m, 100m), middle-distance races (300m, 500m, 600m), field events such as long jump, turbo javelin and shot put, as well as the exciting 4x100m relays.

We were delighted to have a number of medal winners and were very proud of all the boys and

girls who qualified to represent our school at the Kerry Primary School Sports on May 20th. A huge well done to everyone who took part. Your effort, enthusiasm and team spirit were brilliant to see!



Dates / Upcoming Events:

- School re-opens on Thursday 27th August 2026.
- Our school calendar for 2026/2027 is now available on our school website: www.obrennans.ie

