



# BROADFORD & KILBANE N.S.

## NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

With Christmas almost upon us our school is a busy place with lots happening. Here are a few things we would like to bring to your attention.

December 2018

### Sensory Garden

We are looking to construct a School Sensory Garden to the rear of the school using funds that were specifically raised for us over the last 2 years by parents. A sensory garden is a very useful resource as it provides opportunities, both educationally and recreationally, to stimulate the senses in children.

To keep costs down we will be looking for some voluntary help in the construction phase of this project. A lot of the garden features can also be constructed using recycled materials (in keeping with us being a Green School). We will put a list of required materials together that some parents may have lying around unused at home. The school staff have formed a team that are going to oversee this project and you will hear from them shortly.

### Choir Service & Bake Sale

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of December the children from Juniors-6<sup>th</sup> class will be performing a Christmas Choir Service in Broadford Church at 10am. This will be followed by a **Bake Sale** in the School afterwards. Both events are open to everyone in the community.

**Please note:** We will be looking for donations of baked goods and helping hands for the Bake Sale.

### Student Council

Our Student Council recently held a bake sale so they could purchase some equipment for the yard at break-time. This was organised entirely by the Council and they raised a whopping €268.90. Well done to them all!!

### School Calendar

Customised school calendars will be available for purchase during the last week of school before the Christmas Holidays. Calendars will be on sale from the office and in the school at the Bake Sale. Prices are as follows; €8 for 1 calendar, €15 for 2 calendars and €20 for 3 calendars.

### Broadford Village Study

Clare County Council recently completed a study on Broadford Village and gave suggestions where community groups and organisations could make improvements. 2 areas suggested would have direct benefits for the school-namely Pedestrian Lights outside the school and a Community Playground. With a local election and possibly a general election looming, we are asking parents to mention these as priority areas for Broadford if you happen to meet a politician. The more of us that shout the better chance we have of securing them.

### Perfect Attendances

Well done to the 42 children in our school that have perfect attendances in the first term which is up from last year's figure of 36.

As the quote goes..... "80% of Success is Showing Up".....!!

### Child Absences

Just a reminder that if your child is absent from school then please issue the class teacher a written note. These written notes are required for our records when explaining an absence to Túsla (the Child and Family Agency) at the end of the school year. Pre-printed notes are included in the back of homework journals which children from 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class have.

### Green Schools-Travel

We had a visit recently from Róisín Ní Ghairbhith who works with An Taisce as part of the Green School's Programme. Our Green School's Committee will be organising events in the near future to reduce the amount of travel to school by car that takes place in our school. Watch this space!!!

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## Junior Activity Club

Santa will arrive in Broadford N.S. on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 1.30 pm to visit all the boys and girls! The Junior Activity Club Elves are liaising with the North Pole to ensure a fabulous family day out for all. There will be fun and games for all the family from ages 1 to 101. Lots of new surprises this year and plenty of delicious festive treats to get you in the party mood. Come along for plenty of community spirit and a little Christmas magic!!!

## Parent-Teacher Meetings

Thanks to all the parents who attended their child's Parent/Teacher meetings in November. If you were unable to attend then please make contact with your child's class teacher to arrange a suitable time.



## Bookworms

Well done to the children who have made massive efforts in their reading outside of school time. We are seeing big improvements in the children's learning. It is vital that parents of children in Junior/Senior Infants, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes engage in Shared Reading with their child every night of the week. Discuss the book with your child and ask plenty questions but most importantly, make it an enjoyable experience. Older children in the senior classes need to continue reading up to 60 minutes daily. All children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes are divided into 10 reading teams. The 3 teams with the highest word counts will be presented with prizes before Christmas.

**Please Note:** A worthwhile exercise is listening to your child reading aloud for at least 5 minutes each night-this helps with their reading fluency and gives parents the opportunity to give individual feedback on how to improve...hopefully Santa will bring books to lots of the children on Christmas morning!!

**Happy Reading over the Christmas Holidays...!!!!**

## Hallowe'en Dress-Up Day

Huge thanks to all the parents, children and staff who took part in the Hallowe'en Dress-Up Day on October the 24<sup>th</sup>. We collected a 'hair-raising' €484.70 in total which went to Irish Cancer Society. We really appreciate your support for this worthwhile charity fundraiser.

Thanks to **Mrs. Cara Garrahy** for her efforts in promoting and co-ordinating the event this year.

## School Closures

Reminder that our school is closing for the Christmas Holidays on **Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of December at 12.00pm** and reopening on **Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 at 9.00am.**



## School Assembly

Well done to all the girls and boys who have gotten special mentions in the School Assemblies since September. Recognition goes to children for healthy eating, good behaviour, sporting success, as caint as Gaeilge, students of the week, good effort in class work and tests and most importantly for overall **kindness towards others**. Well done to all and keep up the good work!!

## Parking

A text message went out to all parents on Wednesday asking them to respect our **NO PARKING** zones outside the school. We are asking you to continue to respect this rule. We realise that parking can be an inconvenience but that does not excuse any driver putting children's lives at risk through parking within these zones!!

## Active Corner.....

### Swimming

Swimming instruction for all classes between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will take place after Christmas. Each class will undertake 5 swimming lessons. Specific details will be issued shortly.

### Cross Country Finals

Well done to the children who attended the Cross Country Finals in Lee's Road in November. It was the biggest number of children we've ever had to qualify for a final. Our athletes performed admirably in what were very competitive races against well seasoned cross country runners.

### Happy Christmas and New Year

The staff of Broadford & Kilbane N.S. would like to wish all the children and parents a very **Happy Christmas** and a **Healthy and Prosperous New Year.**

Le gach dea ghúí,  
Aonghus O' Brien