

BROADFORD & KILBANE N.S.

NEWSLETTER



December 2021

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.

Rural Active Travel Programme

It is great to see that works have begun on the village footpaths and junction at the Fairgreen following a successful school application to the Department of Transport for the above mentioned scheme. These upgrades mean that it will be much safer for our school children to walk to and from school along with walking to the church when required. These works compliment the pedestrian crossing and footpaths works outside the school which took place following a successful CLÁR application last year. As a community, we need to constantly remind our elected officials of the need for proper pedestrian infrastructure within our village.

School Calendar

Customised school calendars will be available to pre-order soon. A payment link will be sent via Aladdin and this is how orders are being handled. The payment link will close on **Friday 10th of December**. Prices will be as follows; €8 for 1 calendar, €15 for 2 calendars and €20 for 3 calendars.

Collecting Children

If parents are collecting children at any time during the school day then please present to the main entrance. If Robina is not in then please wait for a teacher to pass by to let you in. This way we can properly track all visitors to the school.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

We had 65 donations to Team Hope's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal recently. These shoebox gifts will undoubtedly bring joy straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Thanks to all who participated for their generosity.

PM Readers

We are missing some of our **PM** and **Big Cat** readers. We are asking parents to do a quick search of their children's libraries to see if any of these books are at home. If we lose one copy of a PM/Big Cat reader then the whole set of books is rendered useless so it is vital that we get these books back.

Please note, that from today, all PM/Big Cat books that go home are numbered. This allows us to track where books are at any one time. If a book is damaged or misplaced, parents will be required to reimburse the school to the value of €10 per book.

Book Donations

Big thanks to MJ Madigan and Tom Boland in 6th class who donated a huge amount of children's books to the school last month. These are already being put to good use in the different class libraries!!!

Sacraments

As Fr. John is retiring after Christmas, we haven't been able to finalise a date for the sacraments. We will notify parents once these dates have been decided after consulting Fr Brendan Quinlivan, parish priest of Tulla.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

All parent/teacher meetings should now be complete. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation with the last minute change to meetings over the phone. Thanks also for the many messages of thanks that parents expressed to their class teachers!

Covid-19 Regulations

As you are probably aware, we've had a number of Covid cases in one class since we returned from the mid-term break. It is a testament to parents being vigilant that this outbreak has been limited to this one particular class.

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More News

Artist in Schools Scheme

We recently made an application to the Artist in School's Scheme and we are pleased to announce that it was successful. This means that we get to work with artist John Lillis again this year. John will work with our 5th & 6th classes again this year and work will begin after Christmas. We can't wait to see what exciting ideas he brings this time around. Big thanks to our secretary **Robina Jones** who spent hours putting together the successful application.

Creative Schools

Our Creative Schools project is in full swing and we are definitely seeing an increased level of creativity among the children. Our key objective of Creative Schools is to reignite a culture of traditional music and dance in our parish. The key activities include;

- All classes enjoying weekly Sean Nós dancing sessions with Edwina Guckian.
- Fiddle lessons for children in 2nd class and after school lessons for children who are interested in learning the fiddle.
- Tin Whistle lessons for all classes from 2nd-6th classes.
- Art Competition for all classes under the theme Autumn/Winter.
- All classes completing Print lessons following in-service from Evelyn Sorohon. We will then move onto Fabric and Fibre after Christmas. Thanks to Margaret Moloney and Mary Casey who have volunteered to teach the senior classes knitting and crochet.
- Whole School Project where a commissioned piece of external art will be developed and displayed under the guidance of local artist Kathryn Cushiere.

Green Schools

A lot of Green School's work took place recently. The children from 4th-6th classes planted a Cotoneaster Hedge along the boundary wall between the school and the community hall. It is hoped that when this hedge matures, its flower will provide nectar to our native bees and its berries will provide food for the small birds. It will also become a home for the many insects and small creatures to live in. We are also purchasing apple trees from Seedsavers in Scariff and will plant them at the back of the school in the near future.

Hallowe'en Dress-Up Day

Huge thanks to all the parents, children and staff who took part in the Hallowe'en Dress-Up Day before the midterm break. We collected a 'hair-raising' €982.10 in total which went to Crumlin Hospital. We really appreciate your support for this year's worthwhile charity fundraiser where all money was donated in memory of Róisín Considine.

Accelerated Reader

Hats off to the following children who hit their targets recently; JJ O'Connell, Cian O'Driscoll, Keeva O'Loughlin, Laoise O'Brien, Seán O'Brien, Aoibhinn O'Connell, Enid Wixted, Sofia Walsh, Sarah Cloete, Emma Cosgrove, Zac Cosgrove, Lily Rose Hurley, Oisín Lovett, Kayla Moran, Lily Duffy, Daniel Hickey, Niamh O'Connell, Dylan O'Brien, Steffan O'Riordan and Pádraig Sweeney.. There is still plenty time for many more children to hit their target before December 22nd. As always, we are also hoping that Santa will bring books to **ALL** the children on Christmas morning!!



School Playground Updates

As you may have noticed, works began last week on the site for the playground. Unfortunately, we had to remove the trees as space is at a premium. Big thanks to our chairperson **Bernard Gunning** and to **Mike Vaughan** for voluntarily removing the tree stumps over the weekend. **KOMPAN** are expected to arrive on site on the week of the 6th of December to begin their site works.

School Closures

Reminder that our school will be closing for the Christmas Holidays on **Wednesday the 22nd of December at 12.00 noon** and reopening on **Thursday the 6th of January 2021 at 9.00am**.

Please note also that we will close at 12 noon tomorrow **Wednesday 23rd of November** and also on **Monday 17th of January** and **Monday 9th of May** to facilitate staff training and planning in the Primary Language Curriculum. Neither of these dates were in the original school calendar at the beginning of the year.

Christmas Activities

We are inviting the children to wear Christmas jumpers/pyjamas/hats on the last day of term, for some Christmas fun and cheer.



Hurling Block

It is a sight to behold so many children out exercising each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning before school. Practice makes perfect.

Le gach dea ghúí,
Aonghus O'Brien

Broadford & Kilbane N.S.