

Broadford & Kilbane N.S.

Newsletter



Dear Parents,
2022 is already well underway and our 2nd term promises to be a hive of activity with lots happening. Have a look below to see the important events in our school.

January 2022

Broadford & Kilbane NS Playground

Excitement is building as we near the completion of our new school and community playground. We are expecting all building works to be completed in early February and we hope to have all the paper work completed close to that time also.

Once the playground is completed, the school will lease the facility to Broadford Development Association Ltd (the same group who renovated the Community Hall). This will allow the playground to be used by the wider local community outside of school hours. Conditions of the lease will stipulate that Broadford & Kilbane NS have sole use of the facility during school hours which will be necessary from a 'Child Safeguarding' and a 'Health and Safety' viewpoint. The playground will transform breaktimes in our school as it will take a full class off our yards thus creating more space for children to play. A rota will be developed giving all classes access to the playground on different days.

Literacy Lift Off

Literacy Lift-Off has started in Junior Infants. This is an intensive programme of Reading and Writing and will give the children lots of opportunities to read books at their independent reading level. We can't wait to see their progress between now and Easter. Literacy Lift Off will continue in Senior Infants, First Class and Second Class until Easter and all children are making tremendous improvements.

Enrolment

Enrolment new students for September 2022 will open on February 1st. Please make contact with the office if you have a child that you would like to enrol and we will then send you out a Registration Form and an Enrolment Form. Closing date for applications is Monday, 28th of February.

School Closure

Please note that the school will be closing for a half day on **Wednesday 23rd of February** to facilitate staff training in the Primary Language Curriculum. Children are to be collected at 12noon sharp.

Other school closures for your information.
Thursday 24th & Friday 25th February (**Midterm**)
Thursday 17th & Friday 18th of March (**Paddy's**)
Half day on Friday 8th of April (**Easter**)

Sacraments

Second Class:

Communion Enrolment Mass-Monday 7th of March at 7pm,

Sacrament of First Reconciliation-Friday-25th of March at 12 noon.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion Saturday 28th of May at 11am.

Sixth Class:

Sacrament of Confirmation-Saturday 14th of May at 11am.

All sacraments will take place at Broadford Church. Bishop Fintan Monahan has indicated that he will not be confirming children this year. Thanks to Fr. John Bane for agreeing to come out of retirement to preside over these important celebrations.

Artist in the School

John Lillis has started working with 5th and 6th class. 2 years ago, John worked with the children to make a rap song. Last year they completed a documentary podcast on our school. This year they decided that they are going to complete another rap song, this time about Climate Action and the important role trees have in fighting Climate Change. This topic will compliment our work in Green Schools and in particular our work in Biodiveristy.

Note : Events

- Playground
- Literacy Lift Off
- Enrolment
- School Closure
- Sacraments
- Artist in the School
- Féile Áth Leathan
- Outdoor Classroom
- Digital Learning Plan
- Twitter
- Fiddle Classes
- School Tours
- Creative Schools
- Swimming
- Morning Hurling



Féile Áth Leathan

Each year, children in our school from 1st to 6th class attend Féile na hInse and we have had much success over the years. Covid-19 has put a halt to the Féile na hInse competitions so this year we are going to invent our own 'Féile Áth Leathan' competition. Children from these classes will complete interviews, recite poetry or sing songs 'As Gaeilge' with prizes for the children with the most impressive performances.

Outdoor Classroom and School Garden

Our board of management are going to build an Outdoor Classroom at the rear of the school along with installing a number of raised beds which will act as a School Garden. Works will begin shortly.

We are interested in getting some keen gardeners to volunteer their time to work with the teachers and school children on a School Garden. We'd love to get parents, retired grandparents, neighbours, etc. to instil their love of nature to the next generation. If you have someone in mind then please let us know!!



Digital Learning Plan

The staff and board of management recently reviewed our Digital Learning Plan which can be seen on the school website. To improve the ICT infrastructure in the school we have purchased 12 new iPads along with protection cases and a charging trolley. The cost of these items comes to €6,000 and we're looking forward to putting them to good use. We have also been granted 25 refurbished desktops from a company in Shannon thanks to local parishioner Dan Daly. These will be used to replace older stock currently in use in the school. There may also be some units left over so if any parent would like a free refurbished desktop then make contact with the school. It will be a case of first come first served!!

Twitter

Another action in our Digital Learning Plan, is to increase our use of Twitter to communicate more effectively with both the school and wider local community. Our Twitter handle is @broadford_ns so please follow for school updates, pictures and lots more.

Fiddle Classes

Fiddle classes continue to take place after school each Wednesday from 2:45-3:15pm with Mrs. Carmel Kennedy. Fiddle classes are for any child that attends fiddle lessons outside of school and is aimed at further developing the skills of our school musicians. If you would like contact details for the local fiddle teacher then please make contact with the office.

School Tours

We have started planning our school tours for the 3rd term. We are hoping government restrictions will be lifted so as to allow our 5th & 6th classes to attend the Burren Outdoor Centre for an overnight tour. Our 3rd & 4th classes will hopefully get the train to Dublin Zoo while the teachers on the younger classes want to build some suspense before announcing where they will be going!

Creative Schools

Our Creative Schools associate Evelyn Sorohan will be soon begin working with renowned artist

Kathryna Cuschieri and the school children to produce a commissioned piece of art for our school.

Active Corner.....

Swimming

Swimming lessons in Shannon will be the PE classes for children in 1st-6th classes, starting on **Thursday 3rd of March**. Further details will be sent to parents in the next while along with a permission slip and a payment link.

Please note: Any child that will not be attending swimming lessons in these classes will have to remain at home for the duration of the lesson as we will not be in a position to supervise children who remain behind as children cannot mix bubbles due to Covid-19 procedures.

Morning Hurling

Hurling each morning continues to take place each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for all children from Senior Infants to 6th class. Well done to the dedicated hurlers and camogie players who turn up each morning.

Is mise le meas,
Aonghus O'Brien

