

BROADFORD & KILBANE N.S. HALLOWE'EN NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

As we approach the Hallowe'en mid-term break, detailed below are a few things we would like to bring to your attention.

October 2021

Hallowe'en Colours Day

This year we will support 'The Trick or Treat for Temple Street' campaign for our Hallowe'en dress up day. The money will go towards Crumlin Children's Hospital for the wonderful work it does. This Trick or Treat day will take place this Friday the 22nd of October and we are asking for a donation of €3 per child (€7 for a family of 3 or more). Thank you for your support over the previous years and let's make this year's event another 'fangtastic' success!



Green Schools

Our new Green School's Committee consists of the following children; Aoibhinn O'Connell, Seán O'Brien, Melody Borri, Benny Ryan, Heidi Cloete, Seán Óg Reddan, Dylan Slattery, Lily Duffy, Jonathon Banin Casey, Sasha Marsh, Dylan Kiniry and Róisín Micks. We are in Year 2 of a 2-year process of trying to secure a 5th Green School's Flag for the school under the theme of **Biodiversity**. Thanks to last year's committee for all their hard work. We have a busy few months ahead for the children including weekly rubbish picking, monitoring our energy and water usage and putting in place measures to reduce it accordingly. We also have over 100 metres of hedging to plant along the school boundary along with creating a school orchard with help from Seedsavers in Scariff.

Creative Schools!!

There is so much happening in Creative Schools that it is hard to keep up. Below are some of the initiatives we are currently engaged in to increase the levels of creativity in our school...

- A more structured approach to the teaching of music in our school using the Dabbleadoo programme.
- Greater emphasis on teaching the tin whistle in all classes from 2nd-6th and with 1st class after Easter.
- 1 Term of Fiddle Lessons for each child in 2nd class along with a weekly lesson after school

with Ms Kennedy for any child from 2nd-6th who has their own fiddle.

- After Christmas, all classes will complete either Sean-Nós or Set Dancing lessons.
- All classes to teach the Printing strand in Art after Halloween following in-service for the staff by Evelyn Sorohan.

- Developing a commissioned piece of Art with Artist Kathryn Cuschiere with the children's involvement.

- In-School Art Competition-children create a piece of Art (drawing, painting, poem, story, etc.) around the theme Autumn/Winter. Prize for class winners and overall Junior (Infants-2nd) and Senior Winner 3rd-6th).

- We are also looking for any parents or grandparents to teach the children knitting, sewing or embroidery.

School Assembly

We had our first whole school assembly last week over in the stand in the hurling pitch. At Assembly, the school got to welcome our new Junior Infants while we were also able to give Special Mentions to girls and boys in each class for the many achievements they have already achieved since we returned in September.

Safe Cross Code

Instructions in relation to our Pedestrian Crossing were also given at this assembly. These instructions are very clear and the children have been asked to make sure that parents comply!!!

1. **NEVER** cross the road unless the Green Man says you can cross (even if a car stops and beckons for you to cross)
 2. **ALWAYS** look right, left and right again and listen for oncoming traffic. Do not cross until all vehicles in your sightline have stopped.
- It is vital that we as adults, model good behaviour for the children in our care, no matter how inconvenient it may be!!

Note : Events

- Hallowe'en Colours Day
- Green Schools
- Creative Schools
- School Assembly
- Safe Cross Code
- School Closures
- Parent/teacher Meetings
- School Calendar
- Accelerated Reader
- Setanta Bookclub
- English Reading
- Field Walk
- Morning Hurling

TRICK
OR
TREAT



More News...

School Closures

The school will be closed from **Monday the 25th of October** to **Friday the 29th of October** for its Mid-Term Break.

We will also close at 12 noon on **Wednesday 24th of November** to facilitate staff training and planning in the Primary Language Curriculum.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

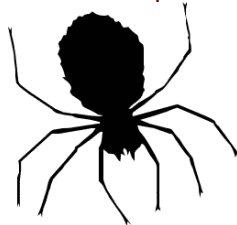
Our parent/teacher meetings are scheduled to take place after the Hallowe'en break. They will begin on the week of **Monday the 15th of November**. It is hoped that these meetings will take place face-to-face and we will be in touch closer to the time with greater details.

School Calendar

We will again produce the school calendar as it has proven very popular for parents. All classes from Junior Infants to 6th classes will get their pictures taken on **Wednesday the 10th of November**. We are asking all children to wear their school uniforms on this designated day. If you do not wish your child to be included in the school calendar, then please make contact with your class teacher before this date.

Accelerated Reader

There is a phenomenal amount of reading taking place at present! Children from 1st-6th classes are busy trying to hit their targets. Well done to **JJ O'Connell** in 1st class, **Enid Wixted** in 2nd class, **Zac Cosgrove** in 4th class and **Pádraig Sweeney** in 6th class who have already hit their targets. AR is used as a motivational tool to get the children to read independently. Encouraging the children to hit their targets will have a huge positive benefit across the different subjects. Children this year can take quizzes on books read at home and the correct link to the website can be found under the Parents Section of the school website.



Setanta Bookclub

Setanta Bookclub catalogues are going home with the children this week. If you want to order books from the catalogue, then please email the school with your order which should include the name of the book and the catalogue number. A payment link will then be sent to allow for payment. This initiative has allowed us to greatly stock our class libraries over the years as the school gets vouchers worth 20% of all monies collected to spend on books.

Field Walk

The children from 2nd-6th classes went on a long field walk last week. We started at the school early in the morning and walked out to the ruins of Doon House which is surrounded by the beautiful Doon Lake and woods. Here, the children heard stories about the Picathybhui, An Bac Laidhre, An Coiste Badhar along with a hurling match that took place between a man named McMahon and the Fairies of Doon. From here we walked to the Girl Guides and into the forest around Annaly Lodge. From there we made our way back to school via Violet Hill where we discussed more about the history of the local area. Along the whole walk, we were blessed to have our native trees which are full of berries and changing colours. Hopefully, a sense of pride in our local place was developed along the way. Well done to the children who completed the 5 hour walk without one complaint!!

English Reading

'Literacy Lift-Off' has started in Senior Infants/First Class as well as in Second Class. The children are already making huge progress with their reading. As part of this reading intervention, children are reading 2/4 books a week in class with their teachers. It is important that parents read these books again each night with their child as this 'familiar reading' really develops the child's reading skills, particularly the skill of Fluency. Children in First and Second classes can also take AR quizzes on these books when they get a chance. **Please ensure that these books do not get misplaced and are returned each day to school.**

Morning Hurling

There has been a great response to the morning hurling, so much so, that Senior Infants and First class also want in on the action which we are allowing from now on. As a result, hurling will continue on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-9:00am** until further notice. No worries if a child is late, they can just join in at whatever time they arrive. It is also a great way to get the reluctant hurler to participate as there is no pressure and they are just having fun with their friends. Thanks to **Jack O'Brien, Liam Patterson and Gary Cooney** for giving up their mornings to develop the children's skills.

We are urging the children to stay safe over the Hallowe'en Holidays.

Le Meas,
Aonghus O' Brien