



# BROADFORD & KILBANE N.S.



**School Opening Ceremony Booklet**

**23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2018**

# Programme of Events

## **Master of Ceremonies**

**Mr. Bernard Gunning, Chairperson Board of Management**

12.30pm noon

Words of Welcome Aonghus O' Brien, Principal

12.35pm

Mass Chief Celebrant: Bishop Fintan Monahan, Bishop of Killaloe

1.15pm

Official Opening Ceremony

Speeches:

- Fr. John Bane, P.P. of Broadford Parish
- Mr. Aonghus O' Brien, Principal
- Bishop Fintan Monahan, Patron of School

Cutting of the Ribbon – Bernard Gunning, Bishop Monahan

Cutting of the Cake – James Wallace, Zoe Carroll.

Closing Song – School Choir

Viewing of School Building and Facilities by An Comhairle Scoile (Students Council)

Refreshments

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2017/2018

Children's Contributions

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- Junior Infants-12 Reasons Why We Love Our School
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List of Children attending Broadford & Kilbane  
N.S. 2017/2018

## Chairperson's Welcome

On behalf of the Board of Management of Broadford & Kilbane N.S., I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Bishop Fintan Monahan, Rev. Father John Bane, local politicians, Principal, Staff, invited guests, past pupils, parents and most importantly the pupils.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Board Members, both past and present. They have all voluntarily dedicated countless hours of their time for the benefit of the community and in particular for the children of our parish. We hope that this new school will allow present and future students to maximise their potentials-physically, emotionally, intellectually, socially and holistically.

As a Board, we are proud of our involvement in this project and are thrilled with the final outcome. Our new school is the envy of many thanks to a wonderful design by Siobán Mulcahy and her Design Team and the high craftsmanship of our builder Dave Whelan and his associated subcontractors. The result is a school which marries a beautifully refurbished 1950's building with a new extension with all the modern facilities. Throw in a new All-Weather Surface Area and tarmac play areas and we feel the result is a school campus which is a wonderful advertisement for the Irish Education System.

I'd like to thank our Principal, Aonghus O' Brien for being the driving force behind this whole project from start to finish. His hard work and dedication paid off in spades. The staff, parents and children of Broadford & Kilbane N.S. also deserve great credit for their patience during the building stages, for their constant enthusiasm and willingness to roll up their sleeves to help out in any way possible. Also, a word of thanks to the politicians who canvassed on our behalf.

There are many positive things happening in the locality at present. While this is undoubtedly a hugely exciting and important development, hopefully it is only one of many. With a continued positive attitude and willingness to support the various active community groups , then our locality can achieve significant things in the near future.

Bernard Gunning  
Chairperson

## Principal's Note

Just on my own behalf, there are a number of people that I'd like to formally acknowledge for making this building project possible.

Thanks to our Board of Management who continue to give their time freely and in particular to our Chairperson, Bernard who was involved in every step of this project. While I knew from the outset that he had the requisite skills to give advice and make decisions on the construction of the building, I'd no idea of his knowledge on things floor coverings and in particular colour schemes..

Great credit must go to our wonderful children and staff of our school for putting up with the difficulty of working on a building site for the best part of a year. There was never an inconvenience and every new development in the building project was met with an enthusiasm and a willingness to roll up the sleeves and get stuck in. Thanks to Deirdre Troy, our Deputy Principal, who had a proactive role in most of the decisions made throughout the building project and who's commitment to Broadford community never ceases to amaze. A big thanks to Robina Jones, our secretary, for her diligence throughout the project with keeping track of all accounting matters and ensuring we met all departmental obligations. Mary Casey is another member of our school community who must be admired after our building project. Countless times she was given the unenviable task of having the school/classrooms ready following extensive building works, sometimes with only 24 hours notice. Mary's work is always of the highest standard and she always goes about her work with a smile on her face. A special mention to our SNA's, who go about their business conscientiously and are always willing to take on any role that is required of them.

Thanks to the parents of Broadford & Kilbane N.S. for your constant willingness to get involved in school matters, whether it is through fundraising or school events. In addition to this, we always find our parents to be very understanding and enthusiastic and we are proud of the strong working relationship between parents and school staff. Long may this continue.

We are forever indebted to our Architect Siobhán Mulchay, our Design Team of Tim King, Ray Gohery and Jackson Coleman and our Builder Dave Whelan. It was evident from the outset that they had the experience and expertise to succeed in delivering a top class project. The buildings aesthetics have won praise from many, as has the quality of the craftsmanship.

A lot of credit must go to the many individuals in our community who gave their time enthusiastically, usually at the drop of a hat, to help our school in whatever way they could. Charles Lenihan, Christy Kelleher, Seán Casey and Fr. John Bane continue to make huge contributions to our school and are the type of people that represent everything good about a community.

Today is a very special day in the history of not only our school but also of Broadford parish. While the new building will undoubtedly improve the education opportunities afforded to the present and future children of Broadford, our priority remains the delivery of a caring and loving education through **working hard and being kind!!**

Aonghus O' Brien  
Principal

# Opening Ceremony Mass

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** *This Is The Day*

## The Introductory Rites

### Presentation of Symbols

**Narrator:** Nell Madigan

**Symbol Bearers:** Ellen O' Brien, Michéal O' Connell, Lily Duffy, Conan Gunning, Isabel Maher, Elijah Corrigan.

Welcome

### Penitential Act

I confess....

The Gloria

### FIRST READING

**Oisín McMahon:** A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

Always be joyful, then, in the Lord; I repeat, be joyful.

Let your good sense be obvious to everybody.

The Lord is near.

Never worry about anything; but tell God all your desires of every kind in prayer and petition shot through with gratitude, and the peace of God which is beyond our understanding will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, let your minds be filled with everything that is true, everything that is honourable, everything that is upright and pure, everything that we love and admire- with whatever is good and praiseworthy.

Keep doing everything you learnt from me and were told by me and have heard or seen me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

**The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm: REGINA CAELI

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Choir:** Seinn Alleluia

## GOSPEL READING

**Choir:** Seinn Alleluia

## HOMILY

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**Hannah Quinn-Tuite:**

For pope Francis, our school Patron, Bishop Fintan and the priests. May they continue to guide us on our journey of growing in faith. Lord, Hear us

**Cormac Gunning:**

May God bless the people involved in the building of our new school extension: those who worked hard in the design, planning and building; the Board of management teachers and parents. Lord hear us.

**Rebecca O Connor:**

We remember those who have gone before us on the way of faith. We remember especially former teachers and past pupils who have died. May they rest in eternal peace in Heaven. Lord, hear us.

**Oisín Gunning:**

For our teachers. May they know how much we appreciate their care and concern for us. Lord Hear us.

**Brian O Doherty:**

For the parents of our pupils. May God grant them and all families health, happiness and fulfilment. Lord hear us.

**Chloe Carroll:**

For children everywhere. We appreciate how lucky we are to have such a beautiful new building and we remember and pray for children around the world who are not fortunate to have such facilities.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### PROCESSION WITH GIFTS:

**Bread and Wine bearers:** Dylan Kiniry and Róisín Micks

**Music:** The Shepherd is my Lord

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Mystery of Faith

The Great Amen

### THE COMMUNION RITE

Ár nAthair

### BREAKING OF BREAD

Invitation to Holy Communion

### Holy Communion:

**Instrumental:** Inis Oirr (Saidhbhe O' Sullivan, Ashleigh McNamara, Ella O' Brien, Eoghan Gunning, Owen Wallace, Niamh Reddan, Áine Boland, Saoirse O' Farrell, Aoibheann O' Sullivan)

**Choir:** Christ Be Our Light

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### COMMUNION REFLECTION:

**An Iarchomaoineach:** Michael Vaughan

Go dtuga Dia daoibh:

Tuar ceatha le gach stoirm

Meangadh gáire le gach deor

Gealltanais le gach buairt

Agus beannachtaí go leor.

Cairde dílse le fadhbanna an tsaoil

A roinnt leat go fial,

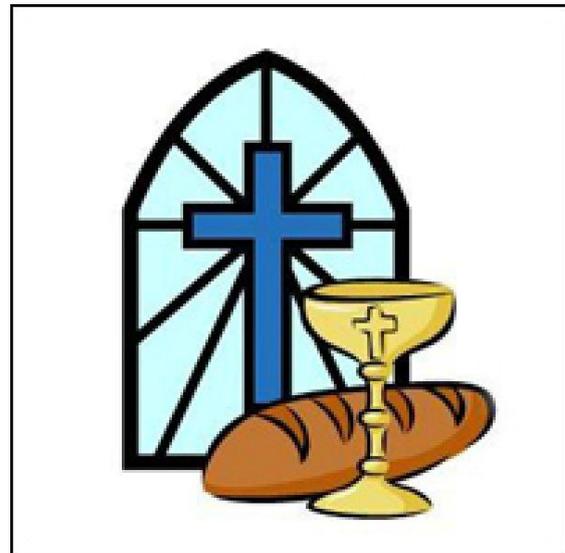
Amhrán bin le gach osnaíl

Agus freagra ar gach urnaí.

**Word of thanks.**

### FINAL BLESSING

**FINAL HYMN:** Siúl i Solas Dé



# Beannacht - Scoil

Go mbeannaí Dia an scoil seo óna bhun go dtí a bharr,

Go mbeannaí sé gacmh fardoras, gach cloch is gach clár.

Go mbeannaí sé na frathacha in aired os ár gcionn

Is fós gach balla daingean atá inár dtimpeallú inniu.

Go mbeannaí sé an doras a osclóimid go fial

don stráinséar is don bhochtán chomh maith is dár ngaol.

Go mbeannaí sé na fuinneoga a ligeann dúinn an leas

Ó shoals geal na gréine, na gealaí is na réaltaí.

Go mbrona Dia críonnacht is gaois orainn go léir,

De bharr an oideachas a sholáirítear ins na seomraí seo.

Go bhfana síocháin dá réir sin

don ár gcomharsan' cion is grá.

Go mbeannaí Dia an comhluadar seo atá anseo inniu,

Is go stiúra sé sinn uile go dtí a ríbhóigh féin.

Áiméan.

## Schools and Education in Broadford Parish

The history of education in Broadford parish reveals that local families, similar to the rest of the country, always had a great desire for education. There were a variety of schools in the parish in the years preceding the foundation of the national schools. The educational facilities in these 'Hedge Schools' were limited. The first record we have is from the year 1808, when Thomas Nason, the local Protestant parish clerk, held a school at 'Aghaclare'. Meanwhile Owen Donnellan and John Killeen, both Catholics, also operated schools in Broadford village and in Gortnaglogh. The curriculum in all three schools was extremely limited, comprising of 'the 3rs', namely Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

The Society for the Promotion of the Education of the Poor of Ireland was a voluntary agency set up in 1811, to provide education for the poorer classes. The agency became commonly known as 'The Kildare Place Society' which was established to provide children with a non-denominational education. Initially, the Kildare Place Society received support from all religious denominations, with leading Catholics including Daniel O'Connell serving on the board of governors. Unfortunately, after a few years a sectarian aspect emerged. The Kildare Place Society supported a school in Broadford Village for a number of years. There were other interesting schools operating during this period.

In 1821, the 'Abstract of Answers and Returns' under the Population Act of Ireland for 1821 reveals a surprising number of schools operating in Broadford parish. There were six schools in operation, four in Kilsely Parish (Broadford) and two in Killokennedy Parish (Kilbane). Patrick Hennessy had the exceptional number of 220 children, in his school in Ballykelly. John Killeen's school was attended by 150 pupils, 100 boys and 50 girls. The parents paid the teacher's salary while Reading, Writing and Arithmetic were the subjects taught. Thomas O'Connor's school had 64 pupils, 36 boys and 28 girls. Interestingly, a Mrs. Curtis maintained 'a female school' in Broadford Village attended by 28 girls, where needlework as well as reading and writing were taught. In Killokennedy Parish, Thomas McGill held a hedge school for 135 children, 85 boys and 30 girls. Another hedge school in Killokennedy Parish was run by Patrick Hayne with 110 children, 70 boys and 40 girls. The Broadford Irish Society Baptist operated in 1820, with an enrolment of 140 children, both boys and girls. In 1824, Patrick Kelly, also operated a school in Ballykelly, described as 'a wretched hovel, badly thatched'. 50 children attended Patrick Ryan's school. Daniel Madden operated a school in Ballymoloney, attended by 142 children, 100 boys and 42 girls. This school was held in 'a very badly thatched' building. In Kilbane, Michael Arthur and John Gunning had 175 children in their school which was located in the Catholic Chapel. This school was funded by the Catholic parish. Meanwhile, Murtoigh Gleeson operated a school in Fermoyle which was located in a 'poor cabin, built of stone and mud'.

These returns for the Irish Education Inquiry of 1824 reveal that almost 700 local children were attending schools in Broadford at this time. The figures show the remarkable number of children in the locality and the enormous demand that there was for primary education in the parish. We must also note that very many local children did not attend any school for a variety of reasons including issues of accessibility and the lack of finance.

## The National Board of Education 1831

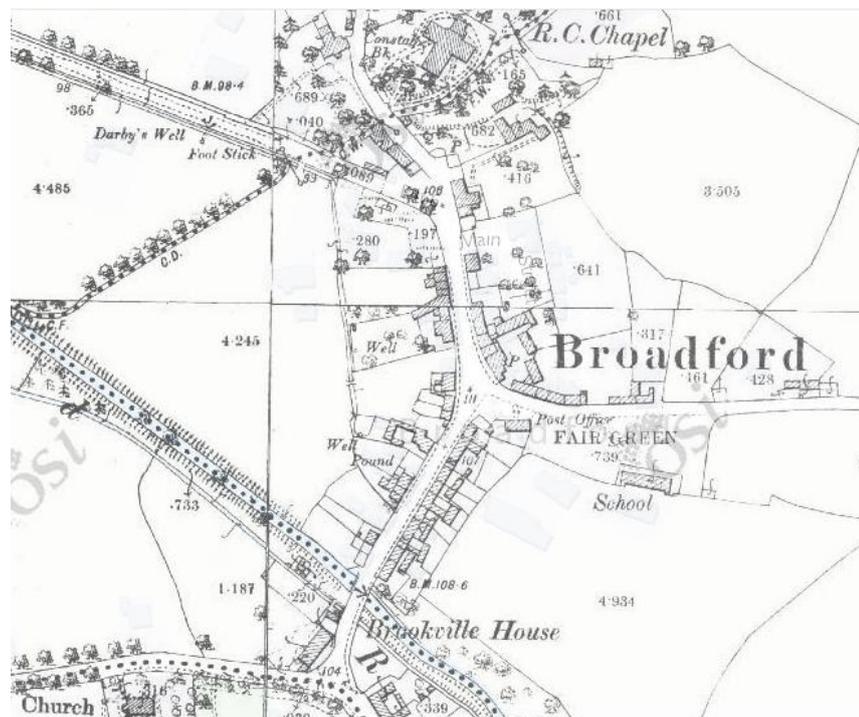
In 1831, the government established the National Board of Education. This system of National Education, with frequent subsequent modifications, remains today an integral part of Irish life. The commissioners provided a grant towards the construction of the school, paid most of the teachers' salaries, approved and published suitable text-books, issued regulations for the schools and appointed inspectors to regulate the system. Though the system was run from Dublin local communities exercised significant control over their parish schools. Individual schools appointed their own school-manager, who enjoyed significant power, including the right to appoint and dismiss teachers. Though they were supposed to be non-denominational, very soon, virtually all the national schools were managed by local clergy.

### Woodfield National School.

Though Woodfield National School is long forgotten by most people, it played an important role in the history of education in Broadford. Anne O'Brien inherited her mother Mary's lands in Clare, including the Woodfield Estate. Anne O'Brien, who was greatly concerned for the welfare of her tenants, founded four schools on her estate, at Knocknaguhy [Feakle], Drominadoora [Kilanena], and Knocknahanny and at Woodfield, Broadford. The school was located in a one room, stone building with a thatched roof, which was provided rent free by the landlady. The classroom measured twenty 4 feet by 15 feet. Furniture consisted of 'six desks and ten forums' [benches]. Class was held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday. John Killeen aged 40, the former hedge school master, was appointed teacher at an annual salary of £12. Anne O'Brien, through her manager, insisted that religious instruction was not to be given in any of the four schools under her control. This policy led to immediate and sustained opposition from the local Catholic clergy. This school only lasted for a short number of years.

The local Catholic Church also availed of the opportunities afforded to it by the National Board of Education and opened 2 national schools in the parish.

**Broadford National School.** In 1839, under the direction of the parish priest, a new school was built in the Fairgreen in Broadford Village from parish funds. The school was built from stone, with a thatched roof and occupied part of the recently disused Catholic Church in Ardskeagh, the remainder of the building was then demolished. The school consisted of two rooms. The boys' room measured 30 feet by 18 and the girls' room 10 feet by 18. The school operated from Monday to Saturday and commenced each day at 9 a.m. and finished at 4 p.m., with the exception of a half day on Saturday. As



As



## Broadford Townlands

In conjunction with the opening of the new extension, all the main rooms in the school building have been named after townlands in the parish. Below is a full list of the townland names in the parish. The underlined townlands are those that were chosen by the children and parents of our school. As teachers, we are looking forward to using these names to further enrich the children's knowledge of the locality.

Townland	Meaning	Townland	Meaning
Ahaclare	The Ford of the Board Bridge	<u>Hurdlestown</u>	<u>Baile na gCliath</u>
Aharinagh	The Field of the Blackthorns	<u>Kilbane</u>	<u>The White Wood</u>
<u>Ardskeagh</u>	<u>The Hill of the Whitethorn bushes</u>	<u>Killaderry</u>	<u>The Oak Wood</u>
Ballykelly	O' Kelly's Residence	Killeagy	The Wood of the Flag Stones
Ballymoloney	O' Moloney's Home	Killokennedy	The Church of O' Kennedys
Ballyquin	O' Quin's Residence	<u>Kilmore</u>	<u>The Great Wood</u>
<u>Barbane</u>	<u>The White Top Hill</u>	Kilseily	The Church of the female saint Ceily
<u>Cappanaslish</u>	<u>The Cultivated Plot of the Beetles</u>	Kyle	The little burial ground
<u>Cloongaheen</u>	<u>The Meadow of the Little Javelin</u>	Kyleglass	The Green Wood
Cloonyconry	O' Conroy's Meadow	Leitrim	Partly Dry Land
Coolagh	Place of Peat	<u>Muingboy</u>	<u>Land of Coarse Yellow Grass</u>
Coolderra	The Back part of the Oak Wood	O'Shea's Acres	
Crean	The Parched Land	Shannaknock	The Old Hill
Derra	The Oak Wood	<u>Snaty</u>	<u>A Separated Spot</u>
<u>Doon</u>	<u>The Fort</u>	Springmount	The Hill of the Spring
Drummin	The Little Ridge	Tooreen	The Little Bleaching Well
<u>Formoyle</u>	<u>The Rocky Meeting Place</u>	<u>Violet Hill</u>	
<u>Gortacullin</u>	<u>The Holly Field</u>	Woodfield	
<u>Gortnaglogh</u>	<u>The Stony Field</u>	Woodpark	Marsh of the Wooden Post
Gortnagonnella	The Field of the Houses		

# Happy Days

The long summer days when we were young  
Sure I can remember them still  
When to run around in our bare feet gave us the greatest thrill.  
We waited patiently for the month of May  
Then our shoes we did discard right away  
Oh those were the happy days, not a worry, not a care.  
And we went to school each day with our feet bare.  
Now some might think it rough or really very tough  
But an injured toe meant nothing then to us  
Sure we'd hold it under the spout  
The pure water would wash it out  
And up and down the Sappy road we'd run and shout.  
No antibiotics then, to the doctor we never went  
We ate green apples from the trees, and  
Young turnips plucked from the fields  
We ate every wild berry the sides of the road could yield  
And from, morning until night we played in the fresh air  
And we went to school each day with our feet bare.  
No mountain bikes had we, Nintendos or those things called Wii  
Sure my father's old bike was always there to take  
If you could get your leg over the bar  
You could travel near and far  
Never worry about a lorry, bus, or a car.  
Oh those were the Happy days  
Not a worry, not a care  
And we went to school each day, with our feet bare.



We do lots of cool Art-Melody

We get to eat our lunch together  
and have lots of fun-Colin

On Fridays we do Show + Tell-Aoife

The new school is cool-Benny

We get to bring Rubie  
and Ellie home-Zoe

Jack

Teacher always reads  
us stories - Sofia

Sofia

Zoe

I love learning Maths - Ailbhe

We get play time on Fridays - Finn

Aoife

I like how Finn always  
helps me - Lorcan

Ellen

Our teacher is really nice to us - Ellen

I love colouring in  
the play house - Jack

Colin

Finn

Gaeilge is so much fun - Ruth

Melody

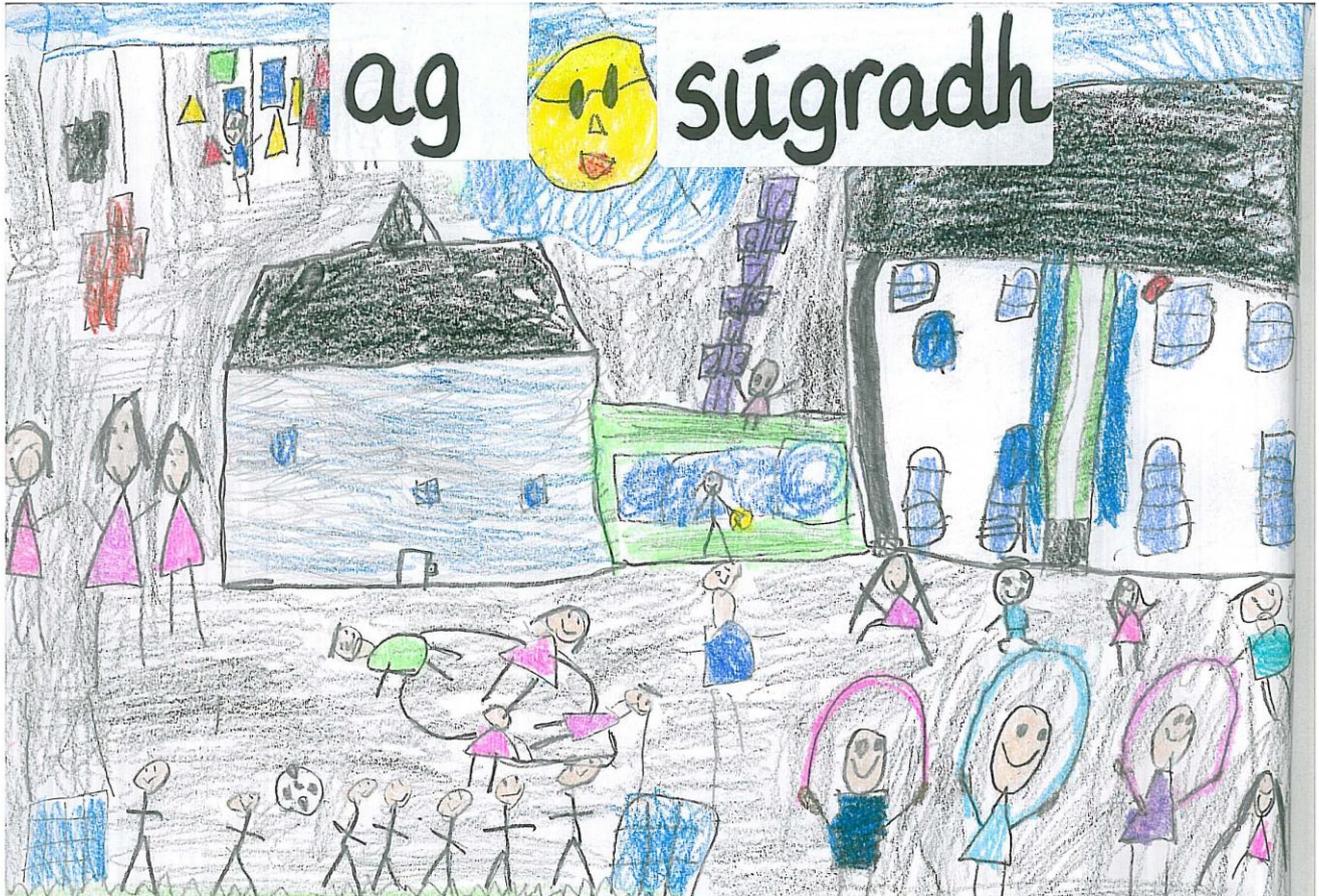
**By Junior Infants**

Ruth

Ailbhe

Ruth

# Ní neart go cur le chéile



ag foghlaim

# spórt



# ceol

By Adam Gunning

## My Favourite School Memory

My favourite school memories are the funniest days of school. My favourite of them all is Sportsday. It's when you do exercise for the full day and have fun!!! My favourite part of the day is the race but my favourite year was 2017!!! That's the year I won and it was the first time I won! I like it because you get to go on bouncy castles!!! Each year Sportsday gets better and this is my memory..... SPORTS DAY!!!!!! But it's all for fun.



# Broadford N.S.



My name is Ryan Corbett. I was born in 2010. I live in Broadford Co. Clare. There are 24 people in my class counting me. My favourite playground games are Cops n robbers, 52 bunkers, and flush the toilet. The new school is amazing. I love everything about it, especially the shelves. They are really cool because the door slides open! I love the new astroturf and the new colours of the school. I also love sports day and cross country. I also love lunch time because we can play games and do what we want.

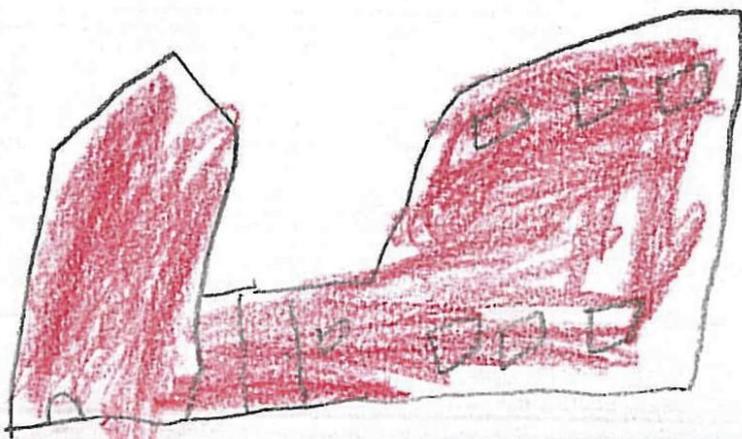
I Love my school.

# Our new School by Alan

I love my new classroom.  
It is big. It is really bright.  
We have seven computers.  
We have a new press. It is  
bigger than our old one in the  
prefab.

It is easy to go to Ms. Sandenburg's  
room because you don't have to  
walk that far. It is down  
the hall.

Out her window you can see  
loads of trees and the river  
and loads of birds nests.



# Broadford by Amber

My name is Amber.

I live in Broadford.

I love it because it is nice  
and small and quiet.

I love the Country Store.

They make very nice things.

And I love my school.

Our teachers names are

Miss Mc Dermott and Miss Adams

I live with my mammy,

Daddy and brothers Driss and  
Billy.



# Alphabet School

- A is for Aonghus the best teacher ever  
B is for Broadford where we live  
C is for Communion and Confirmations made  
D is for Dictionaries for which we use  
E is for Exercise that we do to get fit  
F is for Friends we meet every day  
G is for Gaelige another language we learn  
H is for Hurling a tradition in our School  
I is for Instruments we play in mass and School  
J is for the jumper we wear in School  
K is for knowing our townlands  
L is for learning our Spellings  
M is for Maths multiplication we learn  
N is for nature all around  
O is for Our School opening ceremony  
P is for Pupils that arrive in September  
Q is for questions asked in the credit union quiz  
R is for Reading everyday  
S is for Science experiments and projects  
T is for Tests we do once a week  
U is for The Ultimate School we have  
V is for Verbs we love doing  
W is for winning all our matches  
X is for Xylophone we learned before  
Y is for the yard we play in  
Z is for Zoo which we love to go to

by Saoirse Aine Jack John

# Broadford

**B**roadford Kilbane brilliant school

**R**olla you will see we have no fool

**O**pportunities that the school brings

**A**mazing pupils full of zing

**D**are devil principal encourages the gaa

**F**or all the pupils who love to play

**O**ver the top sessions at the ball wall

**R**ith rith rith as the bell call

**D**etermined, dedicated school

by Saoirse

# Our Wonderful School

Clock ticking,

Chalk scraping,

Door creaking,

Voices whispering.

Teachers talking,

Fingers tapping,

Paper rustling

It is nice,

It is cool,

So much noise,

But but I love my school!

Written by Úna O'Doherty

## Interviewee: Mrs Mary Anne McInerney

### Interviewers: Grace Madigan and Michael Moran

#### Where did you train to become a teacher?

I trained in Mary Immaculate college in Limerick, it is known as Mary I now. We didn't call it Mary I at that time.

#### When did you first begin teaching?

I started teaching in a one teacher school in Killoran in the parish of O' Callaghan's Mills. I was there for five years and I loved every minute of it.

#### Could you tell us more about teaching in a one teacher school?

It was very difficult, I had all classes, from Juniors right up to Sixth Class. At that time there was an exam at the end of Primary School called the Primary Cert, and we were to prepare the children for it. In my first year teaching I found it very difficult, because I had to prepare children for their First Holy Communion as well as their Confirmation and I was doing my diploma also. At that time we did the diploma over two years. I had the first part of my diploma to do as well as prepare students for their Primary Cert. What we used to do with regards the Primary Cert was teach Irish, English and Maths and then they would do written papers in their spare time. I don't know whether it would compare now with the leaving cert nowadays. I wouldn't be that familiar with that but the Primary Cert was difficult enough but you had a choice. You see you were given five questions in Maths. In English, you had to write an essay. The children that I taught were very good and very diligent in their work.

#### Where was your first teaching position?

That was in Killuran school, but schools was very different and teaching in school was very different to what it is now. If you wanted heat, you had to light a fire, if you wanted to boil a kettle, you had to put the kettle over the fire to boil it there was no central heating. The Parish Priest, Fr. Kennedy, was very good to the school and he made sure that if there were any repairs to be done, he did it. We used to have stations in the school twice a year that meant that the school was closed for the day. The priest said mass and the congregation came in from the surrounding areas. Stations were a mass for the people of a certain area and they came in, they brought in flowers and we would have a cup of tea afterwards.

#### Can you remember how many children were in that school?

I had 30 children, I smile to myself now when I hear teachers complaining about having 30 children in the one class. As I had Juniors to Sixth in one room. We needed 33 or 34 pupils to get a second teacher in the school. There was only one classroom so there would have been a problem if we got a second teacher as we would have needed another room to be built. There were fewer grants to be got at that time for those works.

#### What kind of resources did you have available to you at the time.

Any resources I had, I had to make myself. No vans came around to the school to bring Art and Craft work and that sort of thing. I went to Limerick and I got boxes and I made different things and I was always bringing something to the school, carrying something. I always had something to bring because you see there were no resources available at that time, so any resources I had were handmade.

#### Were there many differences between the subjects that were taught then and what we learn now?

Well, I suppose at that time the focus was on Maths, English and Irish, and we did Artwork and P.E. P.E was done on the yard, playing rounders and games like that, History and Geography was

taught but it was difficult to get around to teaching History and Geography when you had so many different classes in one room but I taught it.

#### What kind of changes did you witness taking place in schools from the time you started to when you retired?

First of all the school became more comfortable, the classes became smaller. One teacher schools still existed. I came to Broadford after five years in Killuran because we were living in Broadford and a vacancy came up in Broadford. Now, when I came here we had stoves for heating and the stoves were lit by a local man and he used coal. Sometimes in the mornings they wouldn't light up so we'd have to leave on our coats, children and teachers alike. After lunch when the stoves would heat up, you'd feel like going to sleep because it was so warm. One child actually did fall asleep one day because it was so warm in the school room. Then we had a wonderful priest called Fr. O'Brien who decided that he would put central heating into the school. So he put in central heating and he painted the school. The priest's house at that time was across from the school. It is a derelict house now. He lived over there and he was lovely to the children. The changes were that he put in central heating. There were also changes in the curriculum. There was a lot more writing to be done. Now I never went into school in my 44 years teaching without my notes written, nowadays they have to write more detailed notes but I always knew what I was going to do.

#### Did you have to give up your job when you got married?

No, I didn't, if I had to give it up I would have fought it, I have a fighting spirit.

#### When did you first become Principal of Broadford National School?

In 1992. You see we all learned the word retrospective in 1988 because the numbers were retrospective to the September before. So I went on what is called the panel. That means that you wouldn't have to travel more than 28 miles, it was miles that time. I went teaching in Clonmoney School in the Newmarket on Fergus parish. While I loved it there, the parents were lovely, the children were lovely as well as the teachers. I got on fabulously with the teachers but I had to drive. Now I didn't mind driving over, it used to take me 25 minutes to drive. I didn't mind driving in the mornings but when I used to sit into my car coming home I used to say to myself, "I've to drive now for 25 minutes to get home." You see I live at the other end of the village so I never had to drive much to come to Broadford School. That bothered me a little that I had to drive. I used to listen to Ronan Collins on the radio and he preserved my sanity, do you know what sanity is?

#### Did you find it difficult to go from teaching, to teaching and being a principal?

Well, I did but I got used to it, you see I was in Broadford School for 25 years before I went on the panel. I was teaching infants for the first 25 years and the other teachers used to say I babied the infants. I'd put on their coats for them and you know, treat them as little children like they were. So when I went to Clonmoney, I had fourth and fifth class at first. Then there was a change around in classes so I asked to go back to the infants because I loved infants. When I came back to Broadford, I was teaching 5th and 6th class. I loved 5th and 6th. You know I always begrudged time out say if you had an interruption because of Principal duties. Now, I had a column on the blackboard, where I had written down, not homework but work for them, they used to call it, interruption work. I used to say to them that they would have to do it at home or during the weekends, if I had an interruption during the day and if they didn't get it done but I never really stuck to that.

#### Were there many women who were Principals at the time?

Not a lot, they were mostly men, but there are a lot more lady Principals now and there are a lot more young principals, which I

think is a good thing. They can go with the times and they, maybe, relate better to the children. I always related well to the children and I always like to be remembered for my sense of humour and my sense of fairness. If you're fair and have a sense of humour, you'll get through anything.

#### **What was your greatest challenge as a Principal?**

The greatest challenge was, I suppose to get the curriculum done, to get everything done. Now, I love sport, I have sky sports and I watch everything on Sky Sports but when I was here Mrs. Stritch, who was Aonghus's Aunt was in charge of the sport and she was different to me in the sense that she wanted the team to win. I'd be the type now that I'd put in 6th class first and then 5th and then 4th. You don't win matches doing that, you need, if there was someone better in 5th class or 4th class to put them in. But she was fabulous for the sports.

#### **What was the highlight of your teaching career?**

I suppose coming back to Broadford was the highlight. I always say that, when I went to Clonmoney and I was there for three and a half years that I went into exile for three and a half years. Now the Clonmoney parents and children wouldn't like to hear that but coming back to Broadford was the highlight of my life because I loved the parents and the children. I suppose I shouldn't be telling you this but the children of Broadford School are just excellent. They always were and they are excellent. I was here for the raising of the flag (1916-50th year commemoration) and the children were excellent.

#### **What did you most enjoy about being Principal in Broadford?**

Well, if you were standing outside the door, you mightn't think that I enjoyed anything, but I did enjoy it. I enjoyed the children, I suppose I enjoyed their attitude. 5th and 6th were different to infants. In fact, if you told the infants anything, they'd believe you but 5th and 6th questioned everything. I enjoyed that, and I put up robust controversies against the children if they were complaining about something. One day we were discussing something and it said in the reader that you can't tell anything to women because they gossip it around the place and I said "*girls, we don't agree with that, sure we don't*" and they said "*oh no, we don't*" and the boys started saying, "*Oh yes, that's true*" and there was a kind of a controversy about it. Afterwards, I saw somebody laughing and I said to her, "*What are you laughing at?*" and the standard answer when you're asked '*What are you laughing at*' in school is, what would you say?

#### **At nothing!**

"*At nothing!*" Yes, since I was going to school that was the answer. So she said '*nothing*' and I said, "*You're laughing at something*" she said she was laughing at something that Matthew said. I asked her what did Matthew say and he said, "*Tis true for the book, you can't tell anything to women*". So we had a big laugh at that then.

#### **When did you retire from teaching?**

In Christmas 2006. I'm over 12 years retired. After I retired, I didn't know what I was going to do. Just two weeks after I retired, a local principal rang me and said to me, '*Are you up*' and I said '*Of course I'm up.*' This was about a quarter to nine and he said '*Would you come for the day to do subbing and while you're coming down, be thinking you might stay for the week.*' So I did a lot of subbing then in different schools. I went to about 14 different schools around and I did a lot of learning support. Even though I wasn't used to it, but I quickly got used to it. Some of the teachers were going back to Mary I to do a diploma course and I filled in for them. This didn't suit teachers who were just out of college because it was maybe two days one week and three days in another, but it suited me fine. I spent a whole term in an Autism unit in a school, I knew nothing

about the Autism unit only for the SNA's. I wouldn't have survived without them because I wouldn't have felt competent to do it.

#### **What advice do you have for parents and children today?**

Well, I suppose I always have the same advice, try and learn as much as you can, you see I won't tell you my age but I'm nearly 1000, and you learn something every day. Every single day you come to school you learn something new, apart from the subjects, you learn how to deal with other children and maybe you can reach out to somebody and make someone happy because some children are sad. Maybe their Mom or Dad are sick or maybe their Grandad has died or something like. The advice I would give parents and children is to try and have a happy life and be nice to everyone and be kind to everyone.

#### **Is there anything that we haven't asked you that you would like to share?**

Well I suppose, you didn't ask me but there was a 6th class in this school and they were 'characters', do you know what characters are? What does it mean?

#### **Is it like they were really funny?**

Oh, they were good children but we used to talk sport for 15 minutes on a Monday morning and they talked about the match that they had over the weekend. Now they would all have been on the team, but one of them spoke about it and he said, they were beaten by about 8 goals. I'd didn't say, '*You must have been very bad*', I said, "*How come that happened,*" and he said '*Well we scored lots of goals but they didn't go in!*'

That was one thing and then there was another thing that this young fellow said. They were doing a test about the Vikings, you've heard about the Vikings, haven't you?

#### **Yes!**

Well they were doing a test about the Vikings and he put up his hand and said "*Mrs. McInerney, do you remember when the Vikings came?*". Now that's how he started, he didn't actually mean that I was around when they came. I wasn't actually around when they came, but he wanted to ask me a question about something he couldn't understand. There was another incident then, with the same class they were just unbelievable. We were down in Mrs Stritch's room and we had gotten new white boards. The top of the board was too high and Mrs Stritch decided that she'd put up the alphabet along it so that it wouldn't be wasted space. She was teaching infants and one of them said '*There must be very tall teachers in some schools,*' as much as to say that they could reach the top!

#### **If there had been no limit on the bill, would there have been anything you would have liked to buy for the school?**

Oh there were lots of things I would have liked to buy, lots of technology, say as I went on. I was teaching 44 years so I'd have liked to buy computers, i-pads weren't around. We had one computer in the school at the time but you see you were always curtailed by the amount of money you had. You need to have the place warm and you needed to have the place clean, so that came first you know. We got a secretary when I was here and believe it or not, do you know who the secretary was?

#### **Was it Robina?**

Yes, Robina! She's still here. Robina came, and we had her for one day a week at first. Then she used to come two days a week and eventually she used to stay until she had the work finished. She's an excellent secretary and she, like how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, she prepared the way for us. She was always thinking ahead. I don't know how long she's here now but she came when I was here. Now, we had no learning support teachers and no SNA's that time, they just weren't available. Learning support came in just a year or two before I left but the teacher was going between five schools so you can imagine, most of her time was spent travelling.

**Your Name:** Oisín Gunning-4<sup>th</sup> Class

**Date:** 16/5/2018

**Name of Interviewee:** John Gunning

**Relationship to you:** Grandfather

**Where did you attend school?**

Kilbane National School, at that time Kilbane NS was where the ball alley is now beside Donal Whelan's house and opposite Gunning's pub.

**What age were you when you started school?**

5 years old

**Can you remember your first day of school?**

**What was it like? How did you feel?**

It was a good day and my brother Mike brought me on the first day.

**Who were the teachers in your school?**

Paddy (Packie) Skehan who was from Kilbane was my first teacher. Mr. Lynch from Limerick was there next for about a year and then Mary Bonfield.

**How many children were in your class?**

About 7 in my class and 30 children in the whole school.

**How many classrooms were in the school?**

One classroom and all 30 children were in one classroom with one teacher.

**What kind of facilities were in the school?**

There was no running water and no electricity, there was no indoor toilet and there was paraffin lamps on the wall.

**What kind of things did you have in your school bag?**

My school bag was like an army bag about the size of a biscuit tin. In it I had my lunch, catechism book, pencil (there were no biro's when I was in school) and a copybook/jotter/maths copy

**What subjects did you do in school?**

Religion, maths, writing and Irish.

**Which subjects did you like/dislike and why?**

I didn't like Irish, I liked English and Maths.

**How did you get to school and was it far?**

I walked barefoot to school which was about a half a mile (800 metres).

**What clothes did you wear at school?**

Short pants, jumper and a short coat. There was no uniform at that time.

**What kind of games did you play at break time?**

We played in the river and went fishing. Once I caught an eel which was 3 feet long, I brought it home and cooked it, ate it and never ate fish again!!

We played hurling not with hurleys but with crooks which was made out of sally wood, my father made them for us.

**Did you have to do jobs at school, and if so, what kind of jobs?**

I had to sweep the floor in the classroom.

**Did you receive any rewards for good work or good behaviour?**

No

**What kind of foods and drinks did you eat for your lunch?**

2 slices of homemade bread and a bottle of milk. My grandmother owned the local shop and sometimes I went over to the shop at lunchtime and she would give me a bottle of milk or tea.

**What were your parent's occupations at the time?**

My parents were farmers.

**Did you ever have to help out at home during school time and if so did you miss out on school?**

I milked cows by hand at half seven in the morning before school and sometimes I missed school when the threshing of the corn was happening.

**Interviewee:** Brendan Gunning

**Interviewer:** Eoghan Gunning

**Where did you attend school?**

I started school in the sacristy in Kilbane while the school was being built and after a year or two we moved into the school.

**What age were you when you started school?**

I was about four and a half.

**Can you remember your first day of school?**

**What was it like? How did you feel?**

I remember sitting next to the window in the sacristy, looking out waiting to go home.

**Who were your teachers in your school?**

I had Olive Fahy and Mary O' Mahony.

**How many children were in your class?**

I started with six and finished with around nine or ten.

**How many classrooms were in your school?**

We had two classrooms in the old school.

**What kind of facilities were in the school?**

We had no whiteboards just blackboards and chalk, and there were toilets too.

**What kind of things did you have in your schoolbag?**

We had things like pencils, crayons and copybooks

**What subjects did you do in school?**

I did subjects like maths, Irish, History, Geography and possibly gymnastics.

**Which subjects did you like /dislike and why?**

I like maths because I found it easy and I disliked Irish because I never listened during Irish.

**How did you get to school and was it far?**

When I was small I was driven and when I grew up I used to walk or cycle.

**What clothes did you wear at school?**

We didn't have a uniform so we were allowed to wear our own clothes.

**What kind of games did you play at break?**

We played hopscotch, basketball, tag and also jumped off a wall and swung off a cherry tree when we shouldn't have been.

**Did ye have to do jobs at school and if so what kind of jobs?**

I can remember we had to do things like empty the bins.

**Did you receive any rewards for good work or good behaviour?**

I think it was gold stars we got, but I didn't get too many of them.

**What kind of food and drinks did you eat for your lunch?**

I brought sandwiches to eat and sometimes flasks of tea /soup to drink.

**What were your parents occupations at the time ?**

Both of my parents were farmers.

**Did you ever have to help out at home during school time and if so did you miss out on school?**

Yes, I did have to help out on the farm, and missed one or two days if there was a sick calf or something like that.

**Name of Interviewee:** James O' Brien

**Names of Interviewers:** Caitríona Corrigan & Filippo Montanari

**Where did you attend school?**

Broadford National School, your school, in the old part of the present building.

**What age were you when you started school?**

I was five, Phillipo, five.

**Can you remember your first day at school, what was it like, how did you feel?**

I can't really remember the first day but the first week or month, I didn't like school. I can't remember why, I didn't like it. School was something new.

**Who were the teachers in your school?**

We had three teachers, Mr. O'Donnell didn't come until later, Mr. Moriarty, he was the principal, whom I didn't know because I wasn't in his class. I think Mrs Cooney was there and a teacher called Miss Laycock, whom I unfortunately got into trouble with, for writing something on the board. We won't mention anymore!

**How many children were in your class?**

There were approximately ten to twelve children.

**What were their names?**

There was John McMahon, John Keefe, Michael Carroll, John Broughton and Billy McNerney. And of the girls, I can remember an O' Driscoll girl. I don't remember her first name as the family moved away from the parish, sometime later, and a girl called Anne Doyle, a lovely girl, who unfortunately got sick and died the following year.

**How many classrooms were in the school?** There were three classrooms at that time.

**What kind of facilities were in the school, for example computers in the classroom?**

Absolutely nothing, Caitriona. There was a blackboard. The teacher had white chalk. That was the height of the equipment, nothing else.

**What type of desks did you have?**

The desks were small. They were a nice desk, two seaters, with space for an inkwell.

**What kind of things did you have in your school-bag?**

Books, copies and a pencil. I had a pen with a nib on it. If you leant too hard on the pen, you broke the nib and depending on the teacher's mood you probably got a clatter for breaking it. You could use it, if you were very bold, to put extra ink on it and flick it at the girls.

**What subjects did you do at school?**

Four subjects. Irish, English, Mathematics and Religion.

**Was extra time given to some of them?**

No, the same amount was given to each of the three r's, as they were known, Writing, Reading and Arithmetic. Arithmetic was the big one to get a grasp of, because if you were good at maths, a lot came from it. When you went on to learn geography for example, you knew all about degrees and lines of latitude. Maths were important, or sums as we knew them. I didn't hear the word maths until I went to secondary school.

**Which subjects did you like and dislike and why?**

I liked maths and I liked English. I didn't like Irish, because it was a forced feeding operation. It was all about grammar, módh cionniolach, séimhiú's and fada's. Pupils were studying mostly grammar.

**How did you get to school, was it far from your house?**

It was a mile and a quarter and we walked, but we had great fun going to school. First, we met other children including Pauline Bourke, another girl in my class, and we next joined up with the Taylors. By the time we got to the school we would have a group of maybe fifteen, or sixteen children coming down from my road. On some mornings you'd meet a group coming from another road. Some mornings there would be a row between the groups before school and definitely there would be a row on the way home. It would have been arranged. It was a type of entertainment.

**What clothes did you wear at school?**

Boots, corduroy trousers -corduroy was a really strong material – a shirt and a jumper.

**Were they comfortable or uncomfortable?**

Perfectly comfortable.

**What games did you play at lunchtime? Did you play matches?**

Our teacher, Mr. O'Donnell was from Donegal. His interest was Gaelic Football, so we played football. There were very strict rules. We weren't to hit the windows! We set up a record in my particular class, we broke six windows in four days, so the football was banned. We played Tig, and other rather rough games. Boys and girls were separate at play time. Later hurling was introduced but we never played it at school unfortunately. We did play hurling games against other schools. We had quite a good school team actually. We got to two school finals. We had no hurling field in the parish at the time.

**Did you have to do jobs at school?**

We kept the school clean but we created very little rubbish at that time. What you brought to school, you took home with you apart from your lunch. That is a big change compared to nowadays.

**Did you receive any reward for good work or good behaviour. Not just yourself, but your class?**

There were scholarships for secondary schools, when you got to sixth class. That was around 1966-67. A number of us, by some fluke or otherwise, received small scholarships to go to secondary school. At the same period free education came in so everybody got the opportunity of going to secondary school. At that time most people finished school after national.

**Did you get a scholarship?**

I did as well as the next guy. I probably should have mentioned something else. The teacher was very interested in music and formed a school band.

**Were you part of the band?**

I was, but I was ejected from it.

**What did you play?**

I played the mouth organ, but I had no idea of timing or musical notes. It was one of my big disappointments, when I was thrown out of the school band. [off the record, James told us of the accident that befell the band's drum following his ejection]

**What did you have for your lunch?**

Milk and whatever our mother would have made for us. A simple sandwich! It wouldn't have been very elaborate. That was it!

**What were your parents' occupations at that time?**

My father was a farmer and my mother, a farmer's wife, was a wonderful worker as well. They both worked on the land, on improving the land, milking cows, rearing pigs etc. What type of animals did you have. We had cows, cattle, sheep, pigs, hens and turkeys. Do they qualify as animals? And one or two horses, working horses. And dogs!

**Did you have to work at home?**

Constantly. Once you went home, my mother insisted on us doing our homework. My mother was the strict one, not the teacher. Once you had the home work done, you went out and did farmwork, rounding up the cows, cleaning up etc.

**Did you ever have to do farmwork during school-time and did you miss out on school as a result?**

No, I never missed out on school. You did the work before you came to school and after you came home from school. My mother, again, was so strict on education that you were forced to go to school, sick or otherwise.

**So, you would have to be very sick to be allowed to stay at home?**

You would want to be on death's door. I don't ever remember missing school. You went to school. That was part of your duty, no matter what. And, no matter what the teacher said, the teacher was right. Even though, the teacher was often wrong! [the children agreed with that statement]

**That's the end of the questions. Thanks James.**

You're very welcome

**Interview by,** Oisin Mc Mahon  
**Interviewee** John Kelly (cousin)

**Where did you attend school?**

Broadford National School

**What age were you when you started school?**

I started school at the age of 5.

**Can you remember your first day at school? What was it like and how did you feel?**

The actual day is a little blur but I do know I was very nervous and a bit terrified.

**Who were the teachers in your school?**

I am not sure if Mrs Mc Inerney was there when I started but Mrs Mc Inerney, Mrs Cooney and Mr O Donnell were the teachers

**How many children were in your class?**

Again I'm not sure, but I think 12 or 13.

**How many classrooms were in the school?**

There were 3 classrooms.

**What kind of facilities were in the school?**

Facilities were basic. Teacher's desk, student's desk and a blackboard in each room.

**What kind of things did you have in your school bag?**

Books, pencils and my lunch.

**What subjects did you do in school?**

We did Maths, History, Geography, Irish, English and Religion.

**Which subjects did you like/dislike and why?**

I liked all subjects with the exception of Maths. I just couldn't get my head around Maths.

**How did you get to school and was it far?**

I used to walk and it was about half a kilometre.

**What clothes did you wear at school?**

There was no uniform in those days, you wore your own clothes. When I started I wore short pants and by the time I left I had progressed to long pants.

**Did you have to do jobs at school, and if so, what kind of jobs?**

I remember I used to have to take out the ashes and light the fire and later it was a stove.

**Did children receive any rewards for good work or good behaviour?**

I don't recall any rewards but you might avoid a clip around the ear.

**What kind of foods and drinks did you eat for your lunch?**

I used to take home made brown bread and a bottle of tea. We used to leave the bottles of tea beside the stove so as to have warm tea.

**What were your parent's occupations at the time?**

My father worked in the Council and my mother was a housewife.

**Did you ever have to help out at home during school time and if so did you miss out on school?**

No I didn't but I do remember lads from farming backgrounds having to help out on the farm at different times of the year. There was one particular fond memory I have. We went on a school tour to Shannon Airport. This was a big deal at the time. We got to go into a plane, but this was not the highlight of the day. There was an automatic door going into the airport and none of us had seen one before. We spent about fifteen minutes going in and out of the airport taking turns at getting the door to open.

**Thanks very much John for your time.**

**Interview by** Sadhbh Mc Mahon

**Interviewee** Sean Mc Mahon (Father)

**Where did you attend school?**

Broadford national school

**What age were you when you started school?**

I was 4 when I started.

**Can you remember your first day of school? What was it like?**

**How did you feel?**

I can't remember the actual day but i know I didn't want to go, I was nervous and I cried and I tried hard to go home.

**Who were the teachers in your school?**

Mrs Mc Inerney, Mrs Cooney and Mr O Donnell.

**How many children were in your class?**

It varied through the years between 5 and 8 or 9. But I do remember only 5 of us got confirmed together.

**How many classrooms were in the school?**

There were three classrooms.

**What kind of facilities were in the school?**

Facilities were normal run of the mill and plenty good enough for us.

**What kind of things did you have in your school bag?**

Books, pencils, biros, toppers, rubbers and lunch.

**What kind of subjects did you do in school?**

Irish, English, Maths, History, Geography Nature, Religion and some singing and dancing.

**Which subjects did you like/dislike and why?**

I liked them all but probably excelled at none.

**How did you get to school and was it far?**

I walked to school and it was about half a kilometre.

**What clothes did you wear to school?**

We didn't wear a school uniform, jeans, cords, t-shirts. It didn't matter they were destroyed by the time you went home.

**What kind of games did you play at break time?**

We played catch and chase until first class where you were then promoted to major league football out the back.

**Did you have jobs at school, and if so .what kind of job?**

We didn't really have any jobs but you might be selected to retrieve the ball that was kicked into the river or look after the skittles for Mrs Mc Inerney.

**Did you receive any rewards for good work or good behaviour?**

In fifth and sixth class we would compete against each other on a points system. The good work and behaviour would get you points.

**What kind of foods and drinks did you eat for your lunch?**

Always strawberry jam sandwiches and a flask of tea.

**What were your parent's occupations at the time?**

My father used to work in a sand pit and drive a truck while my mother was a housewife.

**Did you ever have to help out at home during school time and if so did you miss out on school.**

No not really. I do remember our school tour was to a Bunratty Castle Banquet. It was a great experience where the Master was locked in the dungeon and was only let out if he sang a song. Lucky for him he was a very good singer.

**Thanks Dad.**

Your welcome Sadhbh.

**Name of interviewee:** Jamesy O'Connell

**Names of Interviewers:** Saidhbhe O'Sullivan and James Wallace

**James:** *Where did you attend school?*

**Jamesy:** *Broadford National School*

**Saidhbhe:** *What age were you when started school?*

**Jamesy:** *11 years old.*

**James:** *Can you remember your first day of school? What was it like? How did you feel?*

**Jamesy:** *We had a great day in the new school.*

**Saidhbhe:** *Who were the teachers in your school?*

**Jamesy:** *Mr O'Driscoll and Ms O'Neill.*

**James:** *How many children in your class?*

**Jamesy:** *12.*

**Saidhbhe:** *How many classrooms were in your school?*

**Jamesy:** *2*

**James:** *What kind of facilities were in your school?*

**Jamesy:** *Toilets and running water.*

**Saidhbhe:** *What kind of things did you have in your bag?*

**Jamesy:** *Pencils, pens, rubbers and books.*

**James:** *What subjects did you do in school?*

**Jamesy:** *English, Irish and Maths.*

**James:** *What subjects did you like/dislike and why?*

**Jamesy:** *I liked Maths and English and I disliked Irish.*

**Saidhbhe:** *How did you get to school and how far was it?*

**Jamesy:** *I walked a quarter of a mile.*

**James:** *What clothes did you wear at school?*

**Jamesy:** *Jumper and pants.*

**James:** *What kind of games did you play at break time?*

**Jamesy:** *Football.*

**Saidhbhe:** *Did you have to do jobs at school, and if so, what kind of jobs?*

**Jamesy:** *I had to clean the classrooms.*

**James:** *Did you receive any rewards for good work or good behaviour?*

**Jamesy:** *No.*

**Saidhbhe:** *What kinds of foods and drinks did you eat for lunch?*

**Jamesy:** *I came home for lunch and I ate sandwiches.*

**James:** *What were your parent's occupations at the time?*

**Jamesy:** *My mother was a housewife and my father was a carpenter.*

**Saidhbhe:** *Did you have to help out at home during school time and if so did you miss out on school?*

**Jamesy:** *No*

**Name of interviewee: Clement O' Donnell**

**Name of interviewer: Hannah O' Donnell**

**1) Where did you attend School?**

Broadford National School

**2) What age were you when you started school?**

Actually I was three and a half, or a bit more, my birthday is in December so I went to school a little bit early so I ended up being three and a half going on four.

**3) Can you remember your first day at school, what was it like and how did you feel?**

Ahh, I can actually remember it, it was strange, my father actually was the school teacher so it was just strange going to work with my dad I think, I also remember meeting two friends that remained friends all of my life and that kinda made it easy, I actually went to school before the summer holidays just to see what it was like and because I made these two good friends I didn't actually stay back, I moved on from infants into high infants after the summer holidays.

**4) Who were the teachers in your school?**

The lower classes were taught by Mrs. McInerney, the middle classes by Mrs Cooney and the higher classes were taught by Mr. O'Donnell, my dad.

**5) How many Children were in your class?**

I actually don't know but it was a reasonable class, I think in the range of like 15 or something like that.

**6) How many Classrooms where in your school?**

There were 3 classrooms in the school.

**7) What kind of facilities were in the school?**

The school itself, I think when I started they were still using solid fuel stoves in the classrooms, I think maybe in the first year or so, but then it was upgraded (I didn't know this at the time) to an oil burner that actually heated the school and I remember knowing at the time that that was quite modern for Ireland, a decent heating system. I always thought as well that the windows were huge, Slide and Sash windows, we had poles to push them up and pull them down and I always remember thinking that was kinda cool. We also had a large play area out the back and the front for playing soccer and mucking around like that, yeah it was lovely.

**8) What kind of things did you have in your schoolbag?**

Mainly pencils, topper, rubber, a ruler and copybooks and some reading books, we didn't have much books in those days, they were expensive.

**9) What subjects did you do in school?**

We did English, Irish, maths, writing, religion, geography and history, my favourites were geography and history. I liked maths as well.

**10) What subjects did you like and dislike and why?**

I absolutely loved history and geography because I loved the fact that you could walk around the place and see the all the things we were being taught. And I really liked the idea that the seasons were plastered all over the walls on different posters and you could see what was going on when you were in school. I really

liked history as well and I quite liked stories, I always liked stories. I also liked maths because I found maths interesting. Things I disliked, sometimes I disliked maths because I'd get bored and my mind would wander, you know fluffy little clouds outside in the sky. And I also disliked Irish and my dad was a native speaker, so it was a bit strange but I just really had no interest in the Irish language.

**11) How did you get to school and was it far?**

We were drove to school practically all mornings, my dad actually worked in the school, so we would go and come from school with him.

**12) What clothes did you wear at school?**

We wore just general cloths, there was no uniform, we generally wore a jumper and a shirt and pants and boots. On the days that we knew we'd have PE, we might have worn runners or something like that but the clothes didn't change that much back in those days, we just didn't have many.

**13) What kind of games did you play at break time?**

We played soccer, we played quite a lot of war as well and Cowboys and Indians, we ran around the place in little groups, yeah we played a lot of those kind of games and chase games, it was good fun.

**14) Did you have to do jobs at school? and if so what kind of jobs?**

We would do jobs at school, especially we would do jobs when school was out, or maybe we were given a half day to clean up to school and maybe go out on the riverbank there beside the school and clean it up. Maybe because my dad was a school teacher I was also involved in painting the school and things like that when we were off. Yeah we were given little jobs but nothing major.

**15) Did you receive any rewards for good work or good behaviour?**

No, we didn't get things like that but I do remember that because fishing was popular at the time, the course angling, there was a plan in place where large groups of French people used to come to Doon lake to fish and the school children would supply them with worms, for bait for fishing and we would actually spend a lot of time digging up worms and putting them in buckets and tins and giving them to the French people. And in return we got fishing rods and reels from those people, we all that that was really really cool.

**16) What kind of food and drinks did you eat for your lunch?**

It was pretty much bread and ham, bread and chicken, bread and whatever was left over from the dinner the day before. It was pretty much like that and some fruit but back then it was all about bread and meat and....tea.

**17) What were your parents occupations at the time?**

My mother was a housewife and my father was the principle of Broadford national school.

**18) Did you ever have to help out at home during school time and if so did you miss out on school?**

Yes we did, because we live in a farming community we used to help the local farmers, I do remember we used to get days off for picking potatoes and we used to be able to stay at home and work with the farmers to pick the potatoes and not go to school that day. I also remember at around about three O'clock being almost sorry that I wasn't in school because I was going to be picking potatoes until six or seven that evening.

# Top 30 Places to See in Broadford Parish

(as chosen by 5<sup>th</sup> Class of Broadford & Kilbane N.S.)

1. **Kilseily Church and Graveyard**-medieval church site and holy well dedicated to St. Seily. Gave its name to Kilseily Parish
2. **Killokennedy Church and Graveyard**- medieval church site founded by Ó Cinnéide (an ancestor of Brian Boru). Gave its name to Killokennedy Parish.
3. **The Enchanted Lake**-Loch an Bhuilg-famous mythological site with much folklore attached
4. **Ballyquin Well**-renowned holy well in Kilbane restored in the 1930's.
5. **The Old Barracks**-was once one of the principal R.I.C. and Garda Barracks in the county
6. **Hurdlestown House**-the seat of the Bently family since the mid 17<sup>th</sup> Century
7. **Fermoyle Fort**-a huge most important Bronze Age Hillfort. Only discovered through aerial photography in recent decades.
8. **Protestant Graveyard**-site of the Church of Ireland church in Broadford built around 1810
9. **Woodfield House**-an important architectural building associated with Charels Walker who founded Limerick Lace industry
10. **Glenomra Wood**-a Special Area of Conservation with remnants of the famous Clare Woods
11. **Doon House**-John McNamara of Doon House founded Broadford Village in 1627. Later associated with Robert Whitehead, the inventor of the torpedo.
12. **Lissane and Ardskeagh Slate Quarries**-the source of the renowned Broadford Slate
13. **St. Peter's Church, Broadford**-one of the finest churches in the Killaloe Diocese built in the 1830's.
14. **St. Mary's Church, Kilbane**-similar to St. Peter's, another most magnificent church building and achievement for the pre-famine community who built it.
15. **Cragnamurragh**-gives a magnificent vista of Glenomra valley and surrounding counties.
16. **Violet Hill House**-built by the Going family around 1800 with a beautiful view of Doon Lake.
17. **Glenomra House**- seat of the Arthur family, one of the most important landlords in the county.
18. **Annaly Lodge**-built by the White family, then the richest family in Ireland, in the 1850's as a shooting lodge.
19. **Kilmore Church**-dedicated to St. Joseph's ,the smallest church in the Killaloe diocese.
20. **Ballykelly Dolmen**-a fine example of a megalithic tomb for which Broadford is renowned.
21. **Kilmore Barracks**-now a ruin, first burnt out during the War of Independence.
22. **Handball Alley in Kilbane**-site of the Killokennedy fever hospital during the Famine and of the national school afterwards. Then became a much loved community built sporting amenity.
23. **Glennagalliagh Pass**-known locally as the Gap Road, it was an important route in Celtic times. Now affords beautiful views for its users.
24. **Cillín in Kyle**-one of the burial grounds of unbaptised children in the parish thus giving Kyle townland its name. A poignant reminder of more difficult times.
25. **The Mill Field**-site of many local tournaments in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, pre the founding of the GAA and the site of the first County Hurling Final in 1887.
26. **The Picathywee Stone**-the stone in Violet Hill on which the infamous yellow haired witch sits, waiting....
27. **Kemstone Island**-what was once a crannóg and where a huge dugout wooden canoe was discovered a number of years ago. It is now the home of the Picathywee
28. **Doon Lake**-a Natural Heritage Area, it is an area of outstanding beauty and a renowned fishing location
29. **The Mills in Derra**-now in ruins, the site of both a corn and a tuck mill.
30. **The Dane's Cave**-located in Snaty, it supposedly got its name from the Viking treasure buried somewhere within.

## Our Future Plans

While we are delighted with our new building and new play areas, we are not finished with developing the site of Broadford & Kilbane N.S. We dream of constructing a playground on the grounds of the school-to the side of our ASD Class and to the rear of the Handball Alley and Community Hall. If we succeeded in making this dream a reality, then it would be a facility that could be used by the school, pre-school (if one opens in the Community Hall) and by the general community. It is a facility that would also further enhance the riverbank walk. To achieve this would have to explore a number of avenues to generate the revenue required to build this playground. This is something we aim to pursue with government agencies over the next year or so. The image below of the school site highlights in yellow the ideal location of such a playground.

We are also hoping to create a memory wall in the school by covering some of the internal corridor with photographs from both Broadford N.S. and Kilbane N.S. If you have any photographs that you think would be appropriate then we'd be delighted to include them on our memory wall. Photographs can be dropped into the office and will be returned after they have been scanned.



## List of Broadford & Kilbane N.S. Staff 2017/2018

Aonghus O' Brien

Deirdre Troy

Cara Garrahy

Niamh McDermott

Carmel Kennedy

Maireád Howard

Liam Patterson

Sarah Fitzgerald

Polly Sandenburgh

Sarah Adams

Deirdre McDonnell

Kelly Anne Melican

Elizabeth Cullinan

Patsy Grogan

Marie Cooney

Caroline O' Connell

Anne Marie Murray

Anne Marsh McMahon

Robina Jones

Mary Casey

## Board of Management 2015-2019

### **Patron Nominees**

Bernard Gunning - Chairperson

Fr. John Bane – Parish Priest

### **School Representatives**

Aonghus O' Brien -Principal

Deirdre Troy – Deputy Principal

### **Parents Representatives**

Denise Fahy

Seán McMahon

### **Community Nominees**

Mary Teresa Carroll

James O' Connell

# List of Broadford & Kilbane N.S. Children 2017/2018

<b><u>Junior Infants</u></b>	Dylan Kiniry	Sadhbh McMahon	Alex Mulready
Colin Marsh-Moloney	Michael Madigan	Lexi O'Donoghue	Brian O'Doherty
Finn O'Driscoll	Dylan Slattery	Aoibheann O'Sullivan	Michael O'Donoghue
Jack OMahoney	Amber Alaoui	Hannah Quinn-Tuite	Owen Wallace
Benjamin Ryan	Lily Duffy	<b><u>Fourth Class</u></b>	Liam Wixted
Lorcan Williams	Niamh Grace	Elijah Corrigan	Jack White
Melody Borri	Roisín Micks	Daniel Greene	Ciara Cremins
Zoe Carroll	Niamh O'Connell	Oisín Gunning	Caitriona Corrigan
Ruth Hickey	Raonaid O'Driscoll	Isaac Maher	Grace Madigan
Ellen O'Brien	Emma O'Mahoney	John Moloney	Sáoirsé McNamara
Ailbhe O'Loughlin	<b><u>Second Class</u></b>	Mark McNamara	Sara O'Brien
Aoife Sweeney	Jonathon Banin Casey	Aodhán O'Driscoll	Hannah O'Donnell
Sofia Walsh	Tom Boland	Jack O'Brien-Tobin	Niamh Reddan
<b><u>Senior Infants</u></b>	Ryan Corbett	Michael Vaughan	Annie Quinn-Tuite
Fionn Boland	Conan Gunning	Áine Boland	<b><u>Sixth Class</u></b>
Zac Cosgrove	Alan Mead Lucas	Clare Fahy	Samuel Cooper
Cillian Doyle	Dylan O'Brien	Sharon Mason	Peter Fahy
Oisín Lovett	Sean O'Brien	Amy O'Brien	Leo Hurley
Alex Maher	James O'Donnell	Rebecca O'Connor	Michael Moran
Michéal O'Connell	Matthew O'Donoghue	Una O'Doherty	Peter O'Farrell
Sean óg Reddan	Steffan O'Riordan	Saoirse O'Farrell	Jake Slattery
Síobhra Corrigan	Pádraig Sweeney	<b><u>Fifth Class</u></b>	Rory Smith
Emma Cosgrove	Ava Reddan	Noah Corbett	James Wallace
Lily Rose Hurley	Maebh Wixted	James Dillon	Anna Lovett
Sophie Mc-Mahon-Carroll	<b><u>Third Class</u></b>	Ryan Fitzgerald	Nell Madigan
Kayla Moran	Cormac Gunning	Luke Flaherty	Chloe McMahon-Carroll
Emily O'Donnell	Lewis Hurley	Adam Flynn	Ashleigh McNamara
Molly O'Farrell	Emmett Moloney	Eoghan Gunning	Mia Marsh
Molly O'Sullivan	Ronan O'Connell	Jack Lovett	Ella O'Brien
Gabrielle O'Riordan	Danny O'Farrell	Cathal McNereny	Amélie O'Riordan
<b><u>First Class</u></b>	Patrick Smith	Oisín McMahon	Saidhbhe O'Sullivan
Adam Gunning	Hugh Vaughan	Filippo Montanari	Ellen Phelan
Daniel Hickey	Isabel Maher	John Moran	



Neil Madigan