

BROADFORD & KILBANE N.S. NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

A big welcome back to all the children, parents and staff for what will hopefully be an exciting year for our school. A special greeting to the new children and parents in our school!!

September 2023

Note : Events

New Students

A big warm welcome to all the new students in our school this year. Starting in Junior Infants are **Emma Casey, Ada Clifford, Kate Cooney, Indie-Rose Fitzpatrick, Iris Gunning, Mila Heffernan, Mia Kiniry, Hannah Mason, Clodagh Ryan, Seán Barron, Killian Corcoran, Conor Cronin, Paddy Gunning, Noah Hickey, Cian Humphreys, Daniel Long, Conor McMahon, Oisín Moore, Diarmuid O'Connell, Tiernan O'Lochlainn, Fionn O'Loughlin, Pierre O'Riordan and Darragh Teefy.** We also have **Betty Zimmermann** who joined our 3rd Class. We wish them all the best on their journeys through our school. We know they are going to be a brilliant bunch!!

Road Safety

Traffic and parking is obviously an issue each morning and evening for drop off and collection. There are 136 children on roll this year, our highest ever number, and the pre and after school facility continues to go from strength to strength in the hall. There obviously isn't a car space for every parent outside the school. We are restarting our **Park 'N Stride** initiative to encourage more children to walk some of the way to school (parents can park at the church, fairgreen or other places on the outskirts of the village). We are also asking parents to continue to respect the disabled parking space outside the hall and also the 'Drop and Go' space outside the old school gate (primarily used by the school bus).

Junior Activity Club

It's that exciting time of year when **'The Junior Activity Club'** start making plans for our Halloween and Christmas events. We are looking for parents to get involved to help make these special occasions for the children. If you are looking for a creative outlet, a place to have fun with the kids or a social way to meet new parents, give **Regina Heffernan** a text/call on 087-9950189. The first meeting of the year is on **Thursday 21st of September** at 8pm here in the school.

School Closure

Reminder that the school will close at 12noon for children on **Monday 24th of September** to facilitate staff meetings.

Student Council

Our process of School Self Evaluation (SSE) in Wellbeing has seen us introduce positive changes to school life, such as replacing our old uniforms with tracksuits and updates to the Healthy Eating Policy. We are also going to establish a Student Council which will provide an opportunity for students to make their voices heard more. Further information will be given to the children at our first school assembly this week.

Creative Schools

We were accepted into the Creative Schools initiative for this year and will form a cluster with the boys and girls national schools in Killaloe. Our theme is bringing 'Creativity to the Outdoor Spaces' in our school. Polly Sandenburgh will lead this project for our school.

Birthday Invitations

We continue to ask parents to please refrain from giving out birthday invitations during school times or asking teachers to do so, as from our experience, it can cause unnecessary distress to children.

Happy Art Classes

Happy Art classes will be returning to the school on **Thursday 28th September**. This fun and social class takes place after school, in the school, until 4.00pm and will run for 5 weeks up to the midterm. It is a fun and social class. Classes will cover all elements of drawing, painting, and crafts, focusing on the creative process. Music, games and activities are also incorporated into the classes. It is suitable for boys and girls from 5-12 years old, and will cost €50 per child or €90 for 2 siblings. Contact Leslie Hurley on 087-9439904 to book a place or find Leslie on eventbrite under 'Children's Happy Art Classes'!

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More News.....

Accelerated Reader

AR targets have been set for all children from 1st to 6th classes. AR is designed to establish a culture of reading in children through giving them autonomy over what they choose to read. It also allows us to monitor children's progress and provide feedback where required. When children are taking quizzes on books they have read, they must log into the correct Renaissance Login page for our school (there are many identical pages for other schools and a web search will not locate the correct one). The easiest way to find the correct page is under the 'Parents Section' of the school website under the 'Useful Information' tab. Please note that not every book published is on the AR system but all our class libraries only have books on the AR system. Use the website www.arbookfinder.com to determine whether a book is on AR or not.

Munster Minor Schools Swimming

The Munster Minor School's Swimming Championship will take place on **Sunday 15th of October** in UL Arena. There are U9, U10, U11 and U12 competitions and Swimmers will be able to enter 2 individual events from 50m Freestyle; 50m Backstroke; 50m Breaststroke; 50m Butterfly; and 100m Individual Medley. There will also be 200m (4 x 50m) relay races - medley and freestyle - for girls and for boys. Please make contact with the office by email if you would like us to enter your child into this competition.

Cumann na mBunscoil

5th & 6th class girls and boys will participate in the Cumann na mBunscoil Gaelic Football competition which begins in October.

Cross Country

Children in all classes are currently completing the **Athletics Strand** in PE. This is to prepare the children from 1st-6th class for the upcoming Cross Country competition which will be held in Lee's Road in early October. We will be holding trials this week to make up our girls and boys U10, U12 and O12 teams. **Running Club** takes place every Tuesday from 3-4pm for ALL children from 1st-6th class. Emphasis is on running technique along with building speed and endurance.

Student Teaching Practice

Our school facilitates student teachers from training college on placement each year. **Róisín Giblin** starts her extended placement with us this week. Róisín will teach in Senior Infants from 2nd-20th October and in 4th Class from 6th-24th November. We also have a large number of former students completing their transition year work experience and are looking forward to welcoming them all.

Continuum of Support

Parents of children who are in receipt of extra teaching support will get a chance to chat (phonecall or in person) to either their class teacher or support teachers in the next week.

House Keeping

School Tracksuit-Please ensure that all jumpers are clearly labelled as quite a number have already gone missing in the first week!!

Contact Details-Just a reminder that if you **change** your contact details during the school year, including your email address and phone number, to let Robina know as soon as possible. It is vital that we have up-to-date contact details for all parents in case of emergencies.

Absences-Please note that we are required to report children with 20 days or more absences in a school year to the Child and Family Agency, Túsla. If your child has been absent from school, an email or written note is required as these notes are used in our returns when explaining absences. (There is no need to ring the school to explain a child's absence as verbal explanations cannot be accepted when making our returns).

Contacting the School-Please note that our secretary, Robina Jones, works on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** from 10am to school end. Outside of these times the school phone is not answered as all staff are in class or on the yard. Email is usually the quickest and best way to make contact with the school both **during and outside** school opening times.

School Communications-Email is the predominant use of communication we use along with the Newsletter. We are also on Twitter so feel free to follow us on @broadford_ns.

Aladdin Library-All school books are now placed on our new Aladdin Library system. This allows us to track who is in possession of each school book hopefully cutting down on missing books. Big thanks to **Enid Wixted** and **Amira Cantillon** who both donated 2 large boxes of books EACH to our school libraries.

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Aonghus O' Brien



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