

BCNS ❄️ NEWS

21st December 2020



Dear Parents,

Christmas is almost upon us; it's been a wonderful first term back, despite all the challenges of planning to minimize risk of Covid-19 for children and families of the school.

Here, we share some news from across the school as we look ahead to a new year and our return to school in January.

Thank you for your support this year. Until we meet again in January, on behalf of staff and Board members, every best wish for Christmas and the New Year!... le gach dea-ghuí don Nollaig agus don Bhliain Nua!

Sarah FitzPatrick

Children's Christmas Performance

This year, we're sharing children's performances virtually. Parents of children in **Junior and Senior Infants** can access your child's performance on the Class Dojo. Parents of children from **1st to 6th** can access your child's recording on our website homepage Notice Board:

1st-3rd Class: Christmas Performance (21/12/20)

4th-6th Class: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas! Radio Play (18/12/20)

- Junior and Senior Infants recorded a very special collection of festive, winter songs!
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class performed a radio play, *Celebrate Winter* by Jennifer Reif. Children tell the story of woodland animals learning all about the changing of the seasons. They also performed Bualadh Bos together.
- 4th, 5th and 6th Class children performed a radio play, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, by Donald A. Reasoner Jr. A reporter interviews the Moore family after they experience a fascinating event.

We hope you enjoy seeing/hearing children's performance as much as we enjoyed preparing them!

Secret Santa Gifts for our school!

On Friday, 11th December, we accepted our first of three Christmas gifts to the school – a beautiful, **hand-made birdhouse**. Children noticed a family of robins visiting our new Willow Hut and decided the tree house should be located nearby! We've been busy providing bird-



-feed, monitoring which birds are visiting our new five-star hotel and researching the plants needed in the spring to encourage more birds to visit! On Saturday, 12th December, we accepted our second Christmas gift to the school – 30 **beech saplings** for a new hedge around the garden in front of the PE Hut. Thank you, Secret Santas!

Spotlight on Writing Workshop

Children have been writing daily, for a set time, about topics they choose, with guidance from their class teacher and support from their peers. From 1st to 6th class, the daily Writing Workshop has included a clear goal, a mini-lesson, writing/conferring time, and a share session across three genres: Recount (September), Narrative (October) & Procedural (November).

Children are truly enjoying Writing Workshop! Assessment of writing samples shows gains across key criteria, e.g., ideas, organisation, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation. Writing Workshop is the focus of our School Improvement Plan (SIP), part of School Self Evaluation (SSE).

Sarah FitzPatrick, Principal, Brannoxtown CNS

www.brannoxtowncns.ie; brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie

Board of Management

Our Board of Management met twice since the start of this school year, on October 13th and November 24th to support the school's reopening and ongoing development. You'll find **Agreed Reports** from each meeting on our Board of Management webpage: www.brannoxtowncns.ie/board-of-management/
Members of our Board of Management are:

Patron's Nominees: Ms. Deirdre O' Donovan (Chairperson) & Mr. Conor O' Toole.

Parent Nominees: Mr. Robin Ball & Ms. Mitzie Day.

Community Representatives: Cllr. Tracey O' Dwyer & Mr. Mark Egar.

Teacher Nominee: Ms. Dawn Heffernan

Principal & Secretary to the Board: Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick

School Policies: Parents' Feedback



Parents' feedback on our policies and procedures is always welcome. We've created a [Policy Feedback Form](#) for parents to share your input, especially while we can't meet in school. We're always interested to improve our policies so they are fit-for-purpose for our school community. We're currently working on the following three policies:

- [Antibullying Policy: Outline](#)
- [Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy: Outline](#)
- [Assessment and Reporting Policy: Outline](#)

Weekly Snapshots of children's learning



Each Friday, you'll find photos of children's learning during the week on our school Facebook account, [@BrannoxtownCNS](#). If you don't use Facebook, our website has a Facebook feed on the homepage which shows all posts: www.brannoxtowncns.ie. You'll find photo collages for weeks 10-15 here in this newsletter!

We share images of children's learning also on our school's Twitter page: [@BrannoxtownCNS](#).



Covid-19 School Inspection

On Wednesday, December 9th, Stephanie Fitzpatrick (DES Inspector), completed an inspection, 'Supporting Safe Provision of Schooling' (SSPS) at our school. The purpose was to check our protocols to safeguard children and staff in: *Planning, Staff Training, Control Measures* and *Child Protection*. Stephanie's feedback was very positive. Our school met and exceeded the Department's expectations to minimise risk of Covid-19 at our school. Following review by staff and by Deirdre Keyes (KWETB CEO) and with the Board's approval, Deirdre O' Donovan (Chairperson) signed-off on the Inspection Report for our school on December 16th.

Thanks and well done to all parents for your actions to protect children, including your use of the set-down area. To safeguard children, please continue to drive to the front of the set-down for children to get in/out of cars. Children should be collected in the set-down area; the school's insurance does not cover the area outside the set-down.



Our Covid-19 Response Plan is published on our website and is regularly updated:

www.brannoxtowncns.ie/school-policies/.

A Pocket Hug... for everyone!

Our third Christmas Gift for the school was delivered on December 17th for quarantining—a **handcrafted pocket hug for each child, staff member and board member!** Each pocket hug was lovingly created by Mitzie Day (Parent and Board Member) and comes with this little greeting:

*When you need to know that someone is there
Keep this in your pocket, safe and snug
It is indeed a very special hug.*



All children and Board members receive their pocket hug with the school's Christmas Letter. Huge thanks to Mitzie for her generous and heartfelt gift to the school, given the countless of careful stitching to give us 46 pocket hugs. More at: www.hundredthousandhugs.ie

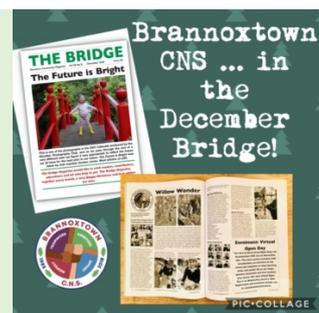


Class Dojo for Absence Notes

All schools are required to note the reason for a child's absence and the Class Dojo has worked very well for this purpose. Following our trial use of Class Dojo to communicate children's absences, we'll continue to use Class Dojo in this way for 2021. All other notes to the school are via the school email account: brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie. Messages regarding Busy Fingers Afterschool can be sent to: info@busyfingerscreche.ie.

The Bridge Magazine

We are indebted to Brian Bryne (Editor) and to the Editorial Board of the Bridge magazine for sharing our school news each month. The current Christmas issue features our hands-on work across the school with Beth Murphy to create a new willow hut, along with messy science experiments and progress with our Writing Workshop! Also featured: our celebration of Poland Day, Armistice Day, Origami Day and Thanksgiving last month, with parents providing key inputs.



School Wide Initiatives Green Schools & Active Schools

Updates on progress with school-wide initiatives are on the homepage Notice Board and dedicated pages on our website: [Active Schools](#), [Creative Schools](#) and [Green Schools](#) and coming soon.... Blue Flag!

Fire Alarm/Drill

The fire alarm was serviced in early December. Our most recent Fire Drill was on Monday, December 21st. Children exited the building safely and quickly to line up at their appointed place. Múinteoir Dawn Heffernan, Health and Safety Officer, reported that our exit took just under one and half minutes. Welldone, everyone!

Brannoxtown Community National School
Enrolment Open Days 2020/21
18th November 2020
20th January & 24th March 2021
Wednesday, 8pm
Meet parents and staff & find out about our:
• Outdoor play spaces
• Spacious classrooms
• Small pupil/teacher ratio
• Active learning, trips & hours
• On-site Afterschool Club & Preschool

Enrolment Details
BT Young Scientist, RDS Primary Science Fair, Social Inclusion Award & Creative Schools Award
www.brannoxtowncns.ie brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie

Enrolment

Our first **virtual Enrolment Open Day** was on November 18th. The zoom session included staff introductions, an overview of the school and snapshots of what learning looks and sounds like in our large classrooms and new outdoor play spaces. Our next virtual Open Day is on **Wednesday, January 20th**, then March 24th, 8pm. Registration and enrolment details are at: www.brannoxtowncns.ie. Current parents are invited to share details of the Enrolment Open Day with anyone who may be interested.

Snapshots of Learning: Weeks 13 to 15!

POP ART COLLAGES

PLANTING THE WILLOW HUT

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS

TANGRAM PUZZLES

WEEK 12 @ BCNS

Toy Workshop!

Weather!

Collage Art!

Science - Heat!

Week 13 @ BCNS!

Stringy Quadrilaterals!

Bia!

Christmas Around the World!

Junk Modelling!

Week 14! 5* Bird House!

Snowflake Symmetry!

3-D Shapes!

PIC*COLLAGE

Fairy & Fantasy Doors!

Drama Monologues!

Clay modelling!

Pocket hugs!

Creative Schools Workshops!

Week 15!

Temperature experiments!

PIC*COLLAGE