



## February Mid-Term 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds you and family safe and well. It's been a busy first half-term at BCNS in 2021.

Well done to children and thank you to parents for facilitating participation in daily Virtual School with your child(ren)'s teacher and classmates. Our small classes have been key to continuing children's learning on Zoom during this lockdown. Our thanks to parents for sharing your experience with us on email or via the Class Dojo. Feedback has been very positive.

This mailing includes learning resources for your child(ren) for when school resumes after the mid-term break, on Monday 22nd February. Children can bring these resources back to school when we reopen. Updates on some school-wide developments are included below, for your information.

The one-week mid-term break, from Monday 15th to Friday 19th February is a well-earned rest for everyone. Until virtual school resumes on the 22nd, on behalf of all of us, best wishes for a safe and relaxing mid-term break.

Le dea-ghuí (With best wishes),

Sarah

### Active Flag

This mailing includes two Active Challenges to help us achieve our Active Flag:

**1. Active Challenge 1** starts on Monday, February 22nd (for three weeks). Each child records their progress with daily physical activity using the large, enclosed 'Your Homework Challenge' sheet. The 'Active Homework Challenge: Exercises' sheet (one per family) explains exercises for each week of the challenge. Children can use our Active Schools Padlet for ideas on additional daily activities. The Padlet is available on our school's 'Notice Board': [www.brannoxtowncns.ie](http://www.brannoxtowncns.ie) and on our Active Flag webpage: [www.brannoxtowncns.ie/active-schools/](http://www.brannoxtowncns.ie/active-schools/).



**2. Active Challenge 2** starts on Monday, March 15th (for four weeks). Families record the combined totals of their walks and runs using the enclosed 'Brannoxtown CNS Community Challenge' sheet (one per family). Múinteoir Anne Marie leads this initiative and will help us to track the distance travelled across Kildare in kilometres. We'll develop our knowledge of the Kildare's geography also!

### Green Schools - Litter and Waste Flag

The final step for our school to achieve this flag is to host a 'Day of Action' with all members of the school community by March 26th. The Green Schools Committee has postponed this day (due to be held in January 2021) to early March. This on-site/virtual 'Day of Action' will bring all children together to research litter and waste around us and to come up with ways to eliminate litter and reduce waste. Múinteoir Dawn leads this initiative and will share plans with everyone on our next steps.

## Special Educational Needs

Special Educational Needs: Individual and small group support for children with additional needs is continuing daily with Múinteoir Anne Marie. Teaching and learning based on children's individual targets in reading, spelling, emotional regulation and study skills takes place on Zoom. A number of children are working on targeted programmes, including TTRS and Nessy, from home. School Support and School Support Plus plans are due for review and dates for review meetings will be scheduled after mid-term. Parents/guardians of child(ren) eligible for the home-based Supplementary Programme 2021 have been contacted this week. Múinteoir Anne Marie is available if you have any questions about your child(ren)'s support plan: [brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie](mailto:brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie) FAO: Múinteoir Anne Marie.

## Board of Management Meeting

Agenda items at our recent Board meeting (02/02/21) included discussion on progress with Virtual School and with the flood recovery. A draft policy document on **Health, Wellbeing and Safety** was discussed. This draft policy is available on our website. Parents' feedback on this and all our policies and procedures is always welcome. You'll find a [Policy Feedback Form](#) for parents to share your input, especially valuable while we can't meet in school.



## Bridge Magazine

Kilcullen's Community Magazine, The Bridge, available in Kilcullen shops, includes articles on local schools including Brannoxtown CNS. The current issue spotlights our Junior Room including learning through Play with Aistear, the early childhood curriculum framework. We are a Creative School and children's Fantasy Doors workshop in December features along with plans to incorporate these into children's outdoor play.

## Recovery from School Flood

Our first day of Virtual School was also the day our school flooded due to a burst pipe in the attic. We are indebted to the local Brannockstown community for their swift and invaluable work to clear the flood water. The recovery process reminds us that although we are a small school, we're part of a much bigger community with a very large heart. Repairs by the ATR Group include a new ceiling in one classroom, new floors in two classrooms the hall, stairs and landing, new joinery and fresh painting. All repairs are covered by our school's insurance (IPB) We're also fixing legacy issues with the 2013 building including insulation of attic pipes and tanks, to ensure our school building is better than before when works are completed. We're currently on-schedule for completion of works by February 28th.





## Class Dojo Portfolios

Well done to all children (and parents) for sharing your learning with teachers in your Class Dojo Portfolio. We'll continue to use Class Dojo along with Zoom for Virtual School during the school closure.



**kweth** **BRANNOXTOWN C.N.S.** **Community NATIONAL SCHOOLS**

**Brannoxtown Community National School**  
**Enrolment Open Days 2020/21**

**18<sup>th</sup> November 2020**  
**20<sup>th</sup> January & 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
 Wednesdays, 8pm

Meet parents and staff & find out about our:

- Outdoor play spaces
- Spacious classrooms
- Small pupil/teacher ratio
- Active learning, trips & tours
- On-site Afterschool Club & Preschool

**Ecellence Awards**  
 BT Young Scientist, RDS Primary Science Fair, Social Inclusion Award & Creative Schools Award

**@BrannoxtownCNS**

[www.brannoxtowncns.ie](http://www.brannoxtowncns.ie) [brannoxtowncns@kweth.ie](mailto:brannoxtowncns@kweth.ie)

## Enrolment

Our virtual Enrolment Open Day on January 20<sup>th</sup> included a half-hour of inputs by staff who remained available up to 9pm for parents' questions/queries. In addition to staff introductions, information was shared about our Junior Room, Special Educational Needs support and on-site Busy Fingers Preschool and Afterschool. For any prospective parents who missed the session, our third and final open Enrolment Day (for September 2021) is on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Thank you for sharing with any parents who may be interested in our school. The Webinar link is posted on our homepage: [www.brannoxtowncns.ie](http://www.brannoxtowncns.ie). The session will be recorded and shared with parents on request.

## Learning Snapshots: Weeks 17 & 18

