

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds you and your family safe and well.

We've had a joyful start to Term 3. The 'Run Around Kildare' challenge brings us outdoors most days and children really enjoy this additional mid-morning running break. Instead of trips and tours, we're welcoming virtual/on-site visitors to our school to share their experience and expertise with us. Here, you can read about recent and planned visitor sessions. Our second raised bed (installed over Easter) and our new bug home (a gift) have inspired children's play experiences outdoors which now feature plants and mini-beasts and lots of imagination! Now that our flood-works are complete, our focus is on additional learning spaces in the 1885 schoolhouse; planned works are outlined in this note. We hope to secure school transport from Naas via the School Bus Transport Scheme and we've been working with families to apply this week.

Looking to our return to school on May 10th, homework resumes with reading for all children and language and maths homework for children from 4th to 6th class. Children's homework items go home today (to quarantine) for after the break. We look forward to welcoming all children and parents back to school on May 10th.

Le dea-ghui,

Sarah FitzPatrick

Updates for Term 3

Active Flag: Run Around Kildare Challenge!

Children are continuing to take part in the annual 4-week running challenge, 'Run Around Kildare' in Brannoxtown CNS. As part of this important challenge in the Active Flag process, children are encouraged to run, walk or jog the distance to landmarks around Ireland. We adapted this challenge to suit our school and children worked together to select 10 villages and towns in Kildare to reach. We measured the distance to each place from Brannoxtown CNS. Each day children run, walk or jog during 'DEAR time' (Drop Everything and Run), measuring the combined distance travelled. Seven laps of the basketball court equals 500 metres and we have daily distance targets. We celebrate each town or village reached and are really enjoying the daily run on our schedule.



Active School Week

Our annual Active School Week is scheduled from June 14th -18th. It will include sport and active sessions and daily challenges. The 'Run Around Kildare' Challenge has been a great way to prepare for our Active School Week and we are all looking forward to it!

European Project: Blue Star

What is the European Union? How does it affect our lives? These are some of the questions we've been answering while exploring the language, food, culture and monuments of different European countries. To participate in the Blue Star Programme, we've been researching the history, geography, culture and institutions of European countries. All of our work to learn about the European Union, is part of our school's Blue Star Project Report, due for submission in May. We'll be celebrating Europe Day on May 9th and, fingers crossed, our first Blue Star Certificate of Achievement in June!



Afterschool & New Preschool!

Busy Fingers Creche manages our Afterschool Club, Monday to Thursday to 4:30pm. From this September, Busy Fingers will also provide the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme at our school. The ECCE Scheme provides early childhood care and education free-of-charge for children of pre-school age, from September each year. Children can participate in the

ECCE Scheme from 2 years and 8 months and continue until they transfer to primary school (up to 5 years and 6 months at the end of the pre-school year). The service is for three hours daily, 9am to 12noon. Some places are still available. To apply, parents can complete and return the form on our website: www.brannoxtowncns.ie/busy-fingers/



Community Connections

Our school is hosting one work experience student each week until the end of June. Many are **past-pupils** of the school. Students submit their completed Covid-19 health-check in the days before their visit (following Garda Vetting and school insurance checks) and work with teachers and children from 8:30 to 2:30pm, daily. While we can't get out-and-about in the locality and further afield, we're inviting visitors to share their experience and expertise with children in a planned indoor/outdoor session with distancing protocols or in a virtual session via the interactive whiteboard. We're currently planning 'visits' with staff of **Gilltown Stud**, with a parent bee-keeper on **Bees and Pollination** and with **Harristown House!** If any parents have an idea for a session that children will enjoy and learn from, please contact any member of staff, either by email or on Class Dojo. All children are in for a big treat when **Rani Grennell (Kings and Clowns Drama School)** joins us for five weeks of drama next term. Before then, we look forward to accepting a generous gift of books for all children from **Woodbine Books, Kilcullen**. Further details will follow when we return in May!

Bridge Magazine

You'll find snapshots of children's learning adventures in the **May issue of the Bridge**, Kilcullen's community magazine, available in Kilcullen shops. The May issue focuses on curiosity, magic and learning at Brannoxtown CNS!

A Visit from the Vet!



Junior and Senior Infants are learning all about the vet this month in Aistear. From treating pets with infections and injuries in the role play area to constructing 3D homes for pets, it has been a busy month of learning through play. Our thematic unit of work culminated in a special visit from a vet. Jennifer, a parent to children in our school, works as an equine vet. Jennifer shared lots of interesting information about her job and answered all of the children's questions. We learned about the day-to-day life of a vet and how to know when an animal is sick. We even got to meet the family hamster!

Bonjour! Comment ça va?

We've been busy learning French with the very best... Noella Beaumont from Harristown House Language School. Children from junior infants to sixth class have been learning French greetings, counting and colours during their six French lessons to date.

Children are chatting in French: *Bonjour! Comment ça va? Comment t'appelles-tu? Je m'appelle... J'ai ans. J'aime...* and enjoying learning about French culture. Our experience learning French has prompted us to reflect on countries and languages outside our own and to see ourselves as European (as well as Irish) citizens.



School Improvements

Following the January 11th flood, all repair works are now completed. Damages ~€80,000 required new floors, ceilings and joinery. Attic pipework has been replaced and/or insulated and tanks have been cleaned, covered and insulated. With fresh paint, bright new flooring and new technology (whiteboard, etc.) our school looks better than ever! The 1885 schoolhouse is also due a significant make-over. We secured an Emergency Works Grant ~ €60,000 to replace the floor and correct the drainage issue. A CCTV survey of the water drainage network and a test to re-design the soak-pit were recently completed. Following a tender process in May, works are scheduled for completion this summer. We're looking forward to the additional space and to resuming our cooking in the school kitchen!

School Calendar 2021/2022

School Calendar 2021/2022
(29/04/21)

The School Calendar for the next academic year is now available on the Notice Board on our school website. Junior Infant children will begin on Wednesday 1st September. Children from Senior Infants to Sixth Class will return on Thursday 2nd September.



Learning French!



The Vets!



Week 27



New Bug Hotel!



Light!



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