

BCNS



NEWS

June 2021: End of our third year at Brannoxtown CNS!

Dear Parents,

It's been a bumper term of learning and laughter at Brannoxtown CNS! Our final newsletter of the year captures some of the magic moments children enjoyed in Term 3. Although our movements outside the school were limited this year, our learning journeys took us far beyond our school grounds! We are very grateful to parent and community visitors who travelled to us (in person and via Zoom) to share their experience and expertise. We also sincerely thank temporary staff—Emma and Mary Frances who joined our team this term and contributed so much to our school.

To support parents, teachers have been sharing our learning stories on Class Dojo using 'Class Story' (for your child's class) and 'School Story' (for all children). Thank you for the positive feedback—we will continue to use Class Dojo in this way, next year. We'll also continue to use Class Dojo for parents to flag absences (planned/unplanned) for your child(ren) next year.

On a practical note, the school calendar and booklists for the 2021/2022 academic year are now available on the school website: www.brannoxtowncns.ie. We look forward to welcoming our new Junior Infant children on Wednesday September 1st, and all other children the following day, Thursday, September 2nd.

Until then, from the staff including Dawn, Anne Marie and Angela and from school management, we wish you a relaxing summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you and your child(ren) back to school after the break,

Sarah FitzPatrick

Active Week

Our annual Active Week took place from Monday 14th to Friday 18th June; it was indeed, very active! We began the week with **ball sports stations, games and dance** on Monday. Tuesday brought **ball skills and team-building** with a parent visitor, Paul Brady, a former Leinster Rugby Club Community Rugby Officer. On Wednesday, we continued with **fitness games, dance and yoga** with local community member, Mary Whelan.

On Thursday, Juniors completed a **fairy trail with workout stations** and continued fitness games and dance, while Seniors undertook **orienteering, teamwork and high-ropes challenges**, at Castlecomer Discovery Park. It was a week to remember! All children showed great teamwork and perseverance through the week. Huge thanks to Múinteoir Anne Marie for leading our Active Week from start to finish and supporting us all along the way. It was our best Active Week yet!



Sports Day & Cricket

Our School Sports Day was held on Friday, June 18th at Halverstown Cricket Club (HCC) on the grounds of Harristown House. We enjoyed a sunny walk to HCC from the school and back; our group included five adults to ensure children's safety. On arrival, we received a very warm welcome from Stuart Conroy, HCC Secretary and Hubert Beaumont, Harristown House owner, before children ate their snack and began the day's activities. Stations involved hurdles and obstacles, welly-throwing, balancing cups of water while running, tag rugby, etc. Next year, we look forward to organising cricket training for all children on the HCC grounds, following Stuart's invitation to our school!

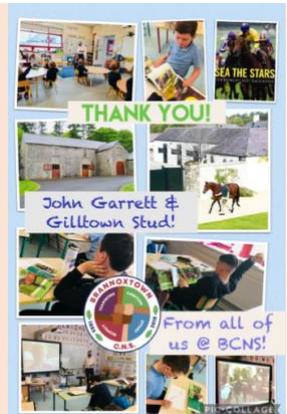
Imagination Station

Junior Infants to 2nd Class children enjoyed an on-site tour with Imagination Station on Wednesday, June 16th. Each child made a bee lava lamp and a 3D robot using recycled materials with Arty Marty. We played sorting games to learn about recyclable materials to support our green flag application.



Visit from Gilltown Stud

On Thursday June 10th, the Farm Manager at Gilltown Stud, John Garrett, shared his experience and knowledge with Junior and Senior groups in two sessions. During the sessions, children learned about the size and scale of the Aga Khan's farms in Ireland and France and the range of skills among its employees. Children learned about the breeding programme at Gilltown and one of the flag bearer stallions in stud there, *Sea the Stars*. Our school received gifts from Gilltown for children including the beautiful 2021 Aga Khan Studs publication and Gilltown peaked caps. We're already looking forward to an on-site visit to Gilltown Stud in the next school year.



A Visit from a Bee Keeper!

Karen Flynn visited our school on Thursday 3rd June to share her experience and expertise as a bee-keeper with children in Junior and Senior groups. We learned about the 97 bee species in Ireland and foods that would be 'off the menu' without bees! We marvelled at Karen's photos of how bees see flowers and we identified the key bee roles in a hive - worker, queen and drone. After exploring popular plants/flowers for bees in the Spring, Summer and Autumn, we examined honeycomb and tasted some of Karen's delicious honey! Our sincere thanks to Karen for all her planning and preparation.



Castlecomer Discovery Park

Children from 3rd to 6th Class travelled to Castlecomer Discovery Park for their tour on Thursday 17th June. Children participated in a range of activities including orienteering, high ropes challenges, archery and team challenges. The Park staff took great care of all the children on the day and



the children did a wonderful job of representing Brannoxtown CNS. A special thank you to John O'Sullivan for providing transport to the tour venue. We travelled in style!

Green Schools: Day of Action



Tuesday 22nd June was our Green Schools *Day of Action*. Everyone wore green on the day and participated in a range of activities that promoted environmental awareness and reusing, reducing and recycling our waste. In the morning, the Green Schools Committee met with Múinteoir Dawn to discuss everything we had achieved over the last two years. We then held a Whole School Assembly where the Green Schools Committee spoke to Junior and Senior Infants about all our achievements and the importance of taking care of waste. In the afternoon, children participated in litter picking around the school and designed fantastic Green School Mascots. We look forward to receiving our first Green Flag next year!

Drama with Rani

Rani Grennell, Speech and Drama Teacher, began drama lessons with all children in May. Children enjoyed a range of warm-ups and games to practice listening and speaking before exploring some elements of drama including role, character and relationships, situation, voice, movement, space and time. Children have prepared two performance pieces in their groups. Our recorded performances (Choral Verse, Mime and Short Plays) were shared with all children on graduation day, June 17th. They are now available on the Class Dojo app (School Story) for all families.

Sixth Class Graduation

Our Sixth Class children graduated on Thursday 24th June. To mark the special occasion, we celebrated with a pizza party and in-class celebration of our recorded school performances during the year. Children also enjoyed looking back over photographs of the 6th class during their time enrolled at Brannoxtown CNS in a photo story presentation, created by Múinteoir Dawn. All children formed a guard of honour for our graduates as they left school. At the set-down area, where parents joined our new graduates. We celebrated our graduates' **STAR** Qualities: Graduates' Star Qualities as: **Storytellers, Team-players & Thinkers, Achievers and Risk-takers**. Graduates have since returned to complete their tee-shirt signing and bid us all farewell. We wish them well in their new secondary schools: Cross and Passion College, Curragh Post-Primary School and Newbridge College.



School News

You'll find snapshots of children's learning adventures in the June issue of **The Bridge**, Kilcullen's community magazine, available in Kilcullen shops. We share learning stories through the year on the school's **Facebook** and **Twitter**: **@BrannoxtownCNS** and our website homepage, www.brannoxtowncns.ie includes the Twitter and Facebook Feed. The school's homepage 'Notice Board' includes reminders about the school calendar and special events through the year.

Twitter Feed



Facebook Feed



Notice Board

June Newsletter (29/06/21)	+
Active Week (14-18/06/21)	+
Board of Management Meeting (15/06/21)	+
Thank you to Woodbine Books, Kilcullen (11/06/21)	+
Gilltown Stud - Visitor (10/06/21)	+
Bee Keeping & Pollination - Visitor (03/06/21)	+
Consent for Organisations and Initiatives working at Brannoxtown CNS (13/05/21)	+

School Year 2021/2022

School Calendar
School Uniform
School Booklists
School Policies including Covid-19 Response Plan
Welcome from Principal (Video)
Welcome from Junior Room Teacher (Video)

Afterschool Club

Last week, we bid farewell to Suzanne Dowling who led our Afterschool Club for the past year, for Busy Fingers. During her year with us, Suzanne completed her Special Needs Assistant (SNA) training; we wish her every happiness in her new SNA career. Our new Afterschool Club leader is Sinéad Leydon. Sinéad lives locally; her daughter, Rosie, is one of our new Junior Infant children. Here, Sinéad shares a little information about herself and the learning/play spaces she has created for children in her care including for sensory play, structured play, outdoor activities, etc. For new parents considering the Afterschool Club, details are at: www.brannoxtowncns.ie/busy-fingers/

Hello to all,

I am so much looking forward to taking-on the Afterschool Club in Brannoxtown CNS this coming September. Here, I share a little of my background and work with you so you can get to know me before the new term rolls around.

- I have been working in the Early Years and School Age sector for 18 years. I currently manage and teach in a busy Dublin preschool.*
- Prior to this, I spent four happy years working as a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) in two different schools assisting children with a range of needs to access the curriculum and reach their potential.*
- I have worked with varying age groups throughout my career from tiny babies to teenagers and have always enjoyed watching them grow and learn.*
- I really believe play is key for all children, it is how we learn best, through hands-on experiences. I am a firm believer in sensory play and its benefits and I am an advocate for outdoor activities and the outdoor classroom.*

*These are some of the experiences and values I bring along on my new adventure in Brannoxtown CNS for the coming year. My values align closely with those of the school. I really am looking forward to meeting you all in September and hope to be welcoming lots of families to Afterschool Club this coming year. I promise it will be a year of learning and laughter and a place the children will always be welcomed with love and respect. With best wishes,
Sinéad*



New Mud Kitchen for the Junior Room

Staff and students in our fellow Community National School, Ard Rí CNS, Co. Meath, have been raising money over the last few months for a future student, Nahyan Javid, who has been diagnosed with cancer. His family hope to raise €375,000 so he can access a Vaccine Trial in America. As part of Ard Rí CNS's fundraising support, a raffle was held and Múinteoir Sarah was the lucky winner of a new indoor Mud Kitchen which will be installed in our Junior Room this September. We wish Nahyan and his family all the best with their fundraising and treatment.



Aistear Play in the Junior Room

Over the last few months, children in the Junior Room have been exploring Aistear themes: *The Vet's Surgery*, *Space*, *The Garden Centre* and *The Café*. Aistear play stations included the socio-dramatic play area along with construction, art and sand for children to explore the different stations using their language and maths skills. In



recent weeks, children enjoyed serving customers in the socio-dramatic area, creating space aliens and flowers in the art station, and building a Space Shuttle and Garden Centre in the construction area.

1885 Building: Upgrade!

The Tender has issued for renovation works on the 1885 schoolhouse. The works include diversion of drainage for the building and repair and restoration of the interior. After this, we will look to redesign the yard space in front of the building, with input from parents and the local village community group. When works are complete (early in Term 1), the Afterschool Club will be based there and have the use of a fully redecorated, very large classroom, along with toilets and a kitchen. All children will enjoy use of the school kitchen there for science experiments next year!