

Interview with Sinéad Leydon, Afterschool Club Leader

Interview by Ava Conroy, 6th Class

Did you always know you wanted to work in childcare?

I always knew I wanted to work with children either as a primary teacher or in early years education. One of my earliest memories is of Grandad telling me I should be a teacher; I think it stuck with me.

You have your own preschool in Dublin, how do you compare looking after very young children to looking after the older children at BCNS?

I suppose the biggest difference is the smaller children change so much between September and June and you really get to see the beginnings of the little people that they are, there are huge developmental leaps in 2 years of preschool. But our BCNS afterschool crew are already full-blown characters with a mind of their own, independence and totally different senses of humour.

Where do you get your art ideas from?

I don't really do 'set art ideas' in preschool because I believe in process over product. Children learn more from creating their own art than copying a template. Parents definitely prefer a piece of art their child made rather than a piece of art I made. Sometimes I use Pinterest or Instagram for the older children who enjoy doing set activities at summer or Halloween camp for example.

What is the funniest thing a child has ever said to you?

Too many to put in one answer... and some too cheeky for print in the school newsletter!

Have you always been very creative?

Yes, I suppose I have. I did art for my Junior and Leaving Cert. One of my favourite thing to create is sensorial tuff trays and educational materials of my own. I also love interior design and creative ideas for our home and garden.

What do you find most rewarding about caring for children?

Seeing all their own individual amazing qualities and being lucky enough to be part of so many little lives and families.

Do you think having a child of your own has helped you become a better teacher?

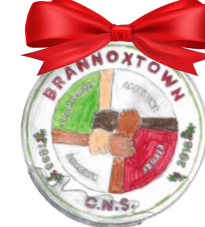
It's definitely helped me understand things better from both perspectives as a mum and a teacher. I feel being a parent has made me realise even more the importance of encouraging families to have an active role in school life.

What do you hope to accomplish in the new year?

Funny you should ask that, Ava. From next year, we hope to extend school services by offering a Breakfast Club and a bigger and better Afterschool Club (perhaps for five days). From September 2022, we hope to open our own ECCE Preschool. It's going to be a year full of adventures and fun! I'm so excited to be part of the great, growing team at BCNS! **087-3201730 & sineadleydon@yahoo.co.uk**



BCNS News



December 2021

Interview with Múinteoir Deirdre, Junior Room Teacher

Interview by Tom & Abdul-Waris, 5th Class

Did you always want to be a teacher?

Not really. At first, I wanted to be a singer and then a lawyer and when I reached 15, I realised that I wanted to be a teacher.

How do you find teaching a multigrade class at BCNS?

I love it because children of all ages build beautiful friendships and both the younger and older children learn so much from one another.

Where do you get your art ideas?

I get lots of ideas from teachers and from the wonderful art all around me. The most important thing for me is that children get to create their own unique and imaginative creations.

What is the funniest thing a child has ever said to you?

One child found an ingenious way of telling me I looked old saying, "Teacher, you have lines around your mouth when you smile and they're there even when you don't smile!"

What are your favourite creative activities?

My absolute favourite way to be creative is to play music especially with my friends.

What do you find most rewarding about your job as a teacher?

The children - always! I love being part of that light bulb moment when a new piece of learning clicks or when I see children show off their creativity and imagination. I also love the giggles and fun that children bring to the classroom and I love that no two days are ever the same!

What do you hope to accomplish in the new year?

I look forward to welcoming lots of happiness into my life, taking some time to enjoy nature and spend quality time with my family. It also wouldn't hurt if I could improve my organisation skills!



Dear Parents,

*It's been a wonderful start to our fourth year at Brannoxton CNS! **The Term 1 Friday collages in the next two pages tell their own story.** Look out for Junior Room Aistear themes, visitors and visits, and everyday magic moments full of active, joyful learning across the school. I believe happy children learn best. We are blessed with a community of happy, curious, creative children at our school. Learning is a joy for us all.*

*Earlier this month, we reached a big milestone in our school's development. **Renovations began on the 1885 schoolhouse to divert drainage and replace floors, funded by a DES Emergency Works Grant (€120,000).** We look forward to moving the Office, Staff Room, and Afterschool Club there there at the end of February, all going well. Our new space brings new opportunities. In January, we'll invite parents' feedback on additional school services - Breakfast Club, Holiday Camps and the ECCE (free Preschool) scheme. These services will be led by Sinéad Leydon. You'll find an interview with Sinéad on the back page along with her contact information.*

***Our school community continues to grow and flourish.** We welcomed a new Board of Management member this term, Eugene O' Brien (Dad to Holly and Tom in 5th and Luke in 2nd). Eugene joins Mitzie Day (Mum to Aidan in 1st and Ethan in 4th) as a parent nominee. Following a successful application to the NCSE, we'll welcome a new staff member to our team in January-a Special Needs Assistant (SNA). Our 52nd student joins us on January 5th.*

***We received three wonderful gifts from parents this term.** A donation of €1000 from the O' Sullivan family (parents to Ben in 6th) enabled us to purchase new ipads, screen protectors and keyboard-cases to support literacy and numeracy learning. The Stenson family (parents to Edith in Senior Infants, Sebastian in 4th and Matilda in 6th) donated a set of new soccer balls which was greatly appreciated by our lunch-time soccer players! More recently, the Corley Family (parents to Hugo in Senior Infants and Angus in 3rd) purchased three medical grade HEPA units and filters (Levoit Smart True HEPA Air Purifier: Core 400S Series) for our classrooms. We are hugely thankful for these gifts which benefit us all.*

*The most precious gifts to our school are, of course, the children, families and staff who, together, make up our very special and unique school community. On behalf of the staff and Board of Management, **I wish you and yours a very happy, healthy holiday and every joy in 2022,***

Sarah FitzPatrick, Principal



Second Term: 6th January to 8th April, 2022

School Reopens: Thursday 6th January

February Break (one-week closure): Monday 21st to Friday 25th February
 St. Patrick's Day (two-day closure): Thursday 17th & Friday 18th March
 Easter Break (two-week closure): Friday 8th to Friday 22nd April (half-day)



Mobile Library Term 2:
 18th January; 8th February
 8th March & 29th March



We love sharing
 special learning
 moments each week
 in our Friday
 Facebook Post!
@BrannoxtownCNS

