



BRANNOXTOWN CNS NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Spotlight on the Junior Room!

PLAYFUL LEARNING!

Since Halloween, we've focused on the Café and Post Office themes. Children built chairs, tables, and post boxes from blocks, exploring spatial awareness and teamwork. They created pizzas and Christmas trees in art, learning about seasonal celebrations. In role play, they practiced communication, served food, and learned about customer service. The small world Café and Post Office allowed children to wash produce, enhancing fine motor skills, hygiene, and healthy eating. At the Post Office, they filled out forms, posted letters, and used real stamps, gaining an understanding of the postal system's role in communication.



HANDWRITING STATIONS

We have continued to work on our letter formation by spending 5 minutes daily at each handwriting station: shaving foam, fine motor, sand tracing, whiteboard and worksheet. The boys and girls have been working very hard and we work on two letters a week. After Christmas we will change the station to include sentence strips and an iPad app that will continue to reinforce the pattern each letter makes. Thank you for the continued work on homework.

SANTA'S ELF CAM!

The Elf camera arrived in our classroom on Sunday night but we did not see it. Even Múinteoir Eoin did not see it. Suddenly we heard a big bang!!! An elf camera fell from the press. We all got a big fright! Then Múinteoir Deirdre arrived with a letter with a big red glitter "S" on the envelope. The letter was from Santa. Santa said not to touch the camera. He said he was looking through the camera to all the boys and girls. Finally Santa said the elves would come back that night to fix the camera and that the box that they left in the bin!! Those silly silly elves!

Happy Elf-mas from Junior and Senior Infants!!

Spotlight on 1st and 2nd Class!

SUPERSTAR WRITERS!

We are working really hard on our English skills. We wrote really cool phonics stories. Each week in school we work on a different phonics sound. We got to choose our own phonics sound and we planned a fun story. Múinteoir Eimear explained to us that we needed to use lots of the phonics words in our story. It was fun to write these stories because they were like nonsense stories! We shared our stories with the children in the Junior Room and we felt very proud when we read them our stories. It was a fun project to work on.

Shared writing by Sienna, Mary, Érin and Leo



OUR COSY LIBRARY CORNER

We think that we are very lucky in first and second class because we have a very cosy library corner in our classroom. It is a relaxing space in our classroom that we can go to and we can read our books there. We even have some really cute teddies that we can cuddle with when we read our favourite books. Mobile Library visits our school every three weeks. We love when our teacher reads stories to us and we love to read books that we check out from Mobile Library. Some of our favourite books are Paper Dolls, The Big Book of Fantasy Quest, Where's Wally? The Dot, The Twits, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Shared writing by First Class



PYJAMA & MOVIE DAY!

On Friday 6th December we had such a fun day in school. It was winter pyjama and movie day. It was so much fun! Everyone wore their favourite pyjamas to school. The parents association organised a special treat and some tasty hot chocolate for us. The class voted for their favourite Christmas movie and we relaxed with our tasty treats while watching the movie. The Grinch was the winner of our class vote for the movie to watch. We do so many fun things in our school.

Shared writing by Second Class



Spotlight on 3rd and 4th Class!

GRINCH STOP MOTION

For the last few days we've been making a stop motion. The stop motion is about the Grinch. We got into groups of two and each group created two scenes of the Grinch with clay and things around the classroom. We also made backdrops and a movie. Then, we put all sections of the Grinch together. Stop motion animates a lot of photos of every tiny movement in a scene. Tad and I made a feast and children playing. We also did voice overs for our scenes. In total, we took 160 photos. Other groups took between 200 and 400 photos!! Altogether, the video lasts 5 minutes - that's a lot of photos for just 5 minutes!! The Stop Motion videos were very effective and very fun to make and watch!

by Hugo



CHRISTMAS SONGS

This month we learned Christmas songs to sing. First, Múinteoir Lyndsey picked out the songs that we were going to sing.

The songs we sang were Walking in a Winter Wonderland, Santa Claus is coming to Town, Snow is Falling and All I want for Christmas is You in Irish. It was so much fun and we sang the songs on Wednesday when we wore our Christmas jumpers. It so fun learning the songs and the lyrics. My favorite song is Snow is Falling and I like it because it's so fun to sing

by Sophie



REINDEER CAKE POPS

3rd and 4th Class baked reindeer cake pops. First, Múinteoir called us up to crumble up the cake. Once we had done that, we mixed it with home made icing and melted chocolate. Then, we coated them in chocolate. After that we decorated them with pretzels and smarties and we left them to dry. When they had dried, Múinteoir put them into little bags to bring home.

by Robyn



Spotlight on 5th and 6th Class!

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914

We learned about the Christmas Day Truce of 1914. World War One was known as the Great War at the time. The war started in June 28 1914 and ended on the 11 of November 1918. The war went on for far longer than anyone imagined. In the trenches, life was tough so, on the 25 of December 1914 a German general stepped into no-man's land and said "halt!" Then, an English general went out into no-man's land and the two generals shook hands and made a truce just for Christmas Day. The enemy armies played football, talked and made friends, they dug graves for fallen soldiers and traded items like coins or helmets. But, when the day was over, they went back to their trenches and the war resumed. We found it very interesting to learn about The Christmas Day Truce of 1914.

By Angus, Isaac and Raz.



CHRISTMAS GAMES

On the 18th of December, 5th and 6th class invited the other classes to come and enjoy some Christmas stations and activities in our room. The activities included 'Pin the Nose on Rudolph', 'Reindeer Hooves', 'Ribbon Flip', 'Snowman Toss' and cookie decorating. 3rd to 6th baked the cookies the day before and everyone decorated a cookie each. Everyone loved the day and the school felt so festive! Well done to the senior room for organising such a fun day.

By Samuel and Oisín.



SECRET SANTA

🎄 On Tuesday the 10th of December, We had a wonderful time giving and receiving gifts with our classmates. The week before, we all picked out a name and bought them a small Christmas gift. On the morning of Secret Santa, we had Hot Chocolate and opened our presents. We set up the class with Christmas music and enjoyed it so much! We hope we can do it again next year! Merry Christmas from BCNS! 🎄

By Annika, Kitty and Jess.



What's New in Brannoxtown CNS?

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We wish to extend a huge thank you to the Brannoxtown CNS Parents' Association who continue to do so much work to support our school. Most recently, they hosted our PJ and Movie Day. The school was buzzing with excitement as children arrived in their PJs with cuddlies in tow and settled down for some popcorn, hot chocolate and a Christmas movie! We raised a wonderful €289.60. A big thank you to all our families who supported such a fun day. To add to this excitement, the PA received word that Tesco Monread selected Brannoxtown CNS to be a recipient of the Tesco Community Fund. We hope you can pop in and donate your blue tokens to the Brannoxtown CNS Box! Again, a huge thank you to our PA and to all our families. Your support means so much to us.



WHAT'S NEW IN OUR SCHOOL?

In the last 6 months, Brannoxtown CNS has made some exciting investments. In June, two new Promethean Interactive Boards were installed in our Junior and 1st & 2nd Class classrooms. It is our hope that by the end of 2025, all classrooms will be kitted out with a new Interactive Board. We have also purchased a full set of Collins Big Cat Decodable Readers to support our young readers from Junior - 3rd Class (a total of 648 books). Finally, we welcome the Department of Education's announcement that funding will be allocated for all schools to invest in STEAM resources.

PRIMARY MATHS CURRICULUM

As you may remember, on the 18th of October, our school closed for teachers to receive training in the delivery of the New Primary Maths Curriculum. The New Primary Maths Curriculum has a renewed focus of making Maths relevant to the children's lives. It encourages trial and error, playful learning and the use of hands-on materials for problem solving. Importantly, Maths is not just answering calculations as quickly as possible. It is about children being able to ponder over more challenging problems and apply their knowledge and skills to solve Mathematical conundrums! At school, teachers and pupils embrace this mindset and it's wonderful to see the hands-on, challenging and collaborative work that takes place in our Maths lessons. To find out more, click the following link:



2025 - DATES

We have lots to look forward to in the new year, including the Credit Union Quiz, Cumann na mBunscol blitzes and the FAI soccer blitz. We're also looking forward to Kindness Week and Seachtain na Gaeilge! Below are some important dates to keep in mind:

- 6th of January: Back to School
- Monday 3rd of February: Bank Holiday
Monday - no school.
- 20th & 21st of February: school closed for mid-term break
- 17th and 18th of March: school closed for St. Patrick's Day holiday.