



BCNS News!

JUNE 2024

What a Year!

Dear families,

Here we are again with summer holidays upon us, following another wonderful year at Brannoxtown CNS.

Our final term has treated us to some special moments: school tours for all, Culture & Diversity Day, Sports Day, trips to Microsoft Dream Space, Junior Coding, athletics, cricket, Movie Night and even a special visit from the ice-cream van!

Six years in and we once again have the opportunity to reflect upon how lucky we are to have such a positive, enthusiastic and supportive school community.

Together, the children, parents and staff make Brannoxtown CNS such a happy place to teach and learn.

From the staff here at BCNS, we wish our families a happy and fun-filled summer break and we cannot wait to see you all back at the end of August!

What's In This Term's Issue?

- Spotlight on our Classrooms!
- School Calendar
- PA News
- Back to School Checklist!
- School Fees

Farewell to Múinteoir Aoife

We are so sad to say goodbye to our dear Múinteoir Aoife. She has been an incredible teacher to our Junior & Senior Infants and she has been a valued member of our BCNS team! From all of us here at Brannoxtown CNS, we wish Múinteoir Aoife the very best in her new school and we hope she comes back to visit! Thank you Múinteoir Aoife for being an amazing teacher and colleague!



A Message from the BCNS Board of Management

The Brannoxtown CNS Board of Management would like to share a special word of congratulations to the BCNS Staff and Pupils. On the 2nd of May, the school received a visit from a Department of Education inspector to observe teaching and learning in action in the school. The feedback received was very positive and is a testament to the fantastic work taking place in the school. Here are some of the points that stand out:

- BCNS pupils are respectful, positive and happy children (well done BCNS pupils!!)
- A joy of learning was evident throughout the school.
- Active, hands-on and play based-learning was evident across all classrooms.
- The provision of appropriately challenging learning activities for all was evident.
- Very strong pedagogical skill were evidenced across all classrooms.

Looking towards next year, and as part of the School Improvement Plan, the BCNS team looks forward to developing their assessment for learning strategies by implementing digital portfolios for all pupils in the school.

Deirdre O'Donovan,
Chairperson BCNS BOM

Junior Room!

Junior Coding!

On Wednesday, the 1st of May, a very excited Junior and Senior Infant class boarded the bus to make our way to Old Bawn Community College to take part in a fun-filled coding and STEM day. The 4th Year Microsoft Dream Space ambassadors led the BCNS boys and girls through a series of coding challenges in groups. Our pupils worked so well together to solve any problem posed to them. Shrieks of excitement could be heard as the children got to grips with the coding challenges and managed to collect all the stickers as part of their challenge. Some of their Gaelge was also put to the test as they were given colour names in Irish during their coding activities!!! The boys and girls were treated like absolute royalty for the day and had great fun sitting in the secondary school "big" chairs. A fantastic day was had by all and there may have been a nap or two had on the bus on the way home!



Shaun the Lamb!

LAMB AND GOAT VISITORS!

By Juliet and Charlotte, Junior Infants.

One day Tiarnán's mum came in. She brought a lamb and a goat. We got to feed the goat and the lamb. We fed them with milk bottles. We got to pet the lamb and the goat. They were soft and woolly when we petted them. The lamb's name was Shaun. We all laughed when Shaun did a poop on the ground. The lamb and the goat liked to jump around. They were very hungry because they kept looking for more milk. We all took turns feeding them and petting them. We loved having the lamb and the goat in.

Agri-Aware Visit

In April, we were lucky enough to partake in a farm safety workshop run by Agri Aware. Ashley visited the classroom to teach us all about farms and the importance of safe behaviour on them. The children listened in rapt attention as they learned all about the hugely important work that takes place on farms and the hidden dangers that exist there. Ashley showed us the different ways in which we can remain safe when on and around farms. The most exciting part was when the children were encouraged to try on some of the safety equipment used on farms, wearing helmets, visors, protective gloves, protective masks, etc. This was a really fun and exciting day for the children, but also one that will hopefully serve to protect them in the future.



1st & 2nd Class!

Amazing Actors

During one drama lesson, our drama teacher Múinteoir Mauricio introduced us to cool stories from different countries. The story that Second Class focused on was Toontoony Pie from Pakistan. We were really excited but also nervous about doing a play in front of other people! The characters were very interesting. There was a fierce and mean king, an annoying bird, helpful queens and royal servants! Finally it was Cultural and Diversity Day and we performed our play in front of the parents. We were so proud of ourselves and overall we had a blast – Shared writing by 2nd Class

One day in drama Múinteoir Mauricio introduced us to stories from around the world. First Class focused on Tiddalick the Frog from Australia. We turned the story into a little play. We performed for other students in the school. Then on Cultural & Diversity Day we acted out the play for our parents. We felt a little nervous, emotional, happy and proud of ourselves. There were lots of funny characters in the play like the koala, the wombat, the snake and the kookaburra. It was an extremely fun experience - Shared writing by 1st Class



Cultural & Diversity Day

Cultural and Diversity Day is a fun, festive, family day at Brannoxtown CNS. Some of the parents came to our school to host a stand from their home country. The countries represented from our class were Scotland, Germany, England, Norway, USA, Nigeria and Ireland. There was so much amazing food to eat and we learned new things about all of the countries. We performed our plays for the parents and everyone in the school created a piece of Art for our Art Exhibition. It was so cool because our classroom was used as the Art Gallery. Cultural and Diversity Day is one of the best days in the school year.

Shared writing by 1st Class



Sports Day

We celebrated our annual Sports Day on Thursday 6th June. We were split into four different coloured teams. The teams were blue, yellow, red and green. There were so many different races and they were all so much fun. Everyone loved the water race the most. Everyone in the whole school took part in a water relay race and the funny thing was that there were holes in the bottom of the cups so the water was spilling out when we were running! After all of the races, we were so shocked to see and hear an ice-cream truck at our school. All of the students and teachers enjoyed a delicious ice-cream. It was a big treat after our busy Sports Day. Overall it was so much fun - Shared writing by 2nd Class

3rd & 4th Class!

Microsoft Dream Space!

3rd - 6th Class were so lucky to get not one but two trips to Microsoft Dream Space! Our Microsoft leaders were Timmy, Corey and Amanda. First, we did a survey to see our level of computational thinking and then on our second visit, we did another survey to see if the activities helped to improve our computational thinking.

When you finished the survey, you went to a different part of the room to play hangman. Once everyone arrived we received a computational thinking booklet. After the booklet, we got to complete Minecraft coding problems with an agent. There were pages in the booklet to guide us.

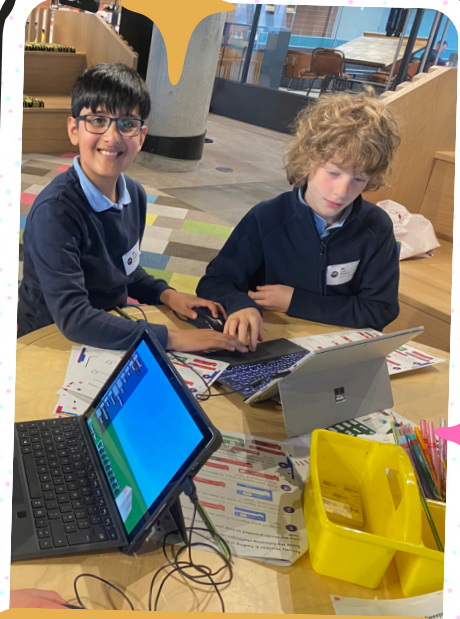
It was lunch after that and the pizza was delicious!

Finally, we worked with Sphero Indi Cars. They're little cars that scanned for specific colours underneath them. We could create a code to make our car start, stop, slow down, turn and even do a 360!

By Luke, Sophie, Marie and Killian.

Check out what we got up to at this link:

<https://youtu.be/ujtvXiwdTo4>



Dream Space!

Fís

Fís is a video creation competition for schools all around Ireland. First, we decided to do a news video because we thought it would be a fun end of year project and we watch CNN10 daily. Next, we made a deadline and our teacher Múinteoir Eoin put us into two groups of four and two groups of five. We each got a role and the roles were: actor, set and costume designer, director and cameraperson. First, we storyboarded our scenes and then we moved into scripting our scenes and giving sentences to the actors. Next, we started learning our lines. Finally, we started shooting all of the scenes on our green screen. An editing team of Aryan, Gaby, Jessica and Ciarán put the clips together and added music to the scenes. We hope to enter our video in the Fís competition - Wish us luck!!

By Amelia, Angus, Ciarán and Samuel

Scan the QR code or follow the link to see our video - <https://youtu.be/lba-NNP67Pg>



SCHOOL TOUR

For our school tour, we went to Just For Fun Kids in SETU Carlow where there were different activities like obstacle courses, monkey fighting, wrecking ball, ring the bell, tug of war and a reaction game. Our favourite was the monkey fighting. There were two teachers called Anya and Aliyah. They told us how to complete the activities and where we were going next! We ate our lunch in a lecture room which was cool. The drive there was 40 minutes and 40 minutes home. We all had a great day full of fun and happiness!!

By Annika and Joel



5th & 6th Class!

6th Class Tour

On Monday the 10th of June, the 6th class went to Dublin for their school tour. The 6th class met at the Sallins train station where Múinteoir Deirdre was waiting. Then we took the train to Heuston Dublin. Once we arrived, we went to Incognito Escape Rooms and played 2 games, Cabin in the Woods and Game of Stones. They were both so fun with jumpscare and quests. Afterwards, we went to a cafe in Dublin. We ordered crêpes and hot chocolates. It was so yummy - we devoured everything! Then, we toured Trinity College and from there went to do indoor rock climbing. Rock climbing was so fun. At the end of the day we walked to the train station which was only 30 mins. It was a great experience and we loved our last primary school tour together - it was a really special day out!

By Eloise and Makayla



6th Class Farewell

On the 20th of June, the class of '24 officially graduated. The Graduates were Mimi, Sarah, Makayla, MacKenna, Eshal, Emanuel, Tyler, Ethan, Paul, Eloise, Harry and Seb. They are all deeply missed, with Mimi known for her outstanding performances, such as drama and singing, Sarah for her sassiness and gorgeous art, Makayla for her energy and athletic brilliance, MacKenna known for her creative mind, Eshal for her artistic ability, Emanuel for his humour and comedy, Tyler for his funniness, Ethan for his uniqueness, Harry for his intelligence, Paul for his kindness and humour, Eloise for her care and artistic skill and Seb for his excellent speed and sportiness.

Most of the 5th class have been interviewed to answer what they will miss about the 6th class:

"They were all amazing and the classroom feels boring without them." -Era

"I'll miss Seb, because he is super funny and a great cousin!" -Sienna

"I miss the 6th Class comedy and laughs." -Oísín

The 6th class have always brought fun, excitement, entertainment and energy into the 5th and 6th classroom. They have always had a brilliant spark into the school, loved by pupils galore.

-By Kitty.

Senior Authors

In the last term, 5th and 6th class have been working on English projects. We started with creative quest writing, then did dragon projects, which consisted of doing research on animal adaptations and habitats. After the research, we wrote drafts of our projects, drew diagrams, pictures and maps and stuck everything together on a large piece of coloured paper. They were very detailed and well made.

For our quests, we made plans, then drafts and wrote it all up on iPads and paper. The ideas varied widely, but had the same idea of a hero looking for an object. We learned about different sentences, parts and styles of writing. The class also drew maps and characters. It was a very fun project with lots of great ideas. We used Seesaw, which is an education app we have on the iPads. We each have our own account which we submit work to our múinteoir, who then reviews it. It has been a great learning experience doing creative English projects.

By Oisín, 5th class





LOOKING TOWARDS 2024/2025



Brannoxtown Community National School

www.brannoxtowncns.ie
brannoxtowncns@kwetb.ie



Brannoxtown Community National School (CNS)

School Calendar 2024/2025

School Day:

Drop-off:	8:40am – 8:50am
School begins:	8:50am
Breaks:	Snack begins at 10:30am. Lunch begins at 12:15pm.
School ends:	1:30pm: Junior & Senior Infants 2:30pm: First to Sixth Class

Junior Infant phased enrolment:

Tuesday 27 th & Wednesday 28 th August (2 days):	9:30 - 11:00 (Bring snack only)
Thursday 29 th & Friday 30 th of August (2 days):	8:50 to 11:00 (Bring snack only)
Monday 2 nd – 6 th of September (1 week):	8:50 to 12:00 (Bring snack & lunch)
Monday 9 th September onwards, normal schedule:	8:50 to 1:30 (Bring snack & lunch)

Calendar Event	School Closure Dates (Inclusive)
School begins	Tuesday 27 th of August: Junior Infants only (9:30-11:00) Wednesday 28 th of August: All students (08:50 – 14:30) Monday 28 th of October – Friday 1 st of November (inclusive)
October Mid-Term Break One week closure	
Winter/Christmas Break Two-week closure	School closes on Friday the 20 th of December at 12 noon (1/2 day) School reopens on Monday the 6 th of January
St. Brigid's Day One day closure	School closes on Monday, 3 rd of February
February Mid-Term Break Two-day closure	School closes on Thursday 20 th – Friday 21 st of February (inclusive)
St. Patrick's Day Two-day closure	School closes on Monday 17 th - Tuesday 18 th of March (inclusive)
Spring/Easter Break Two-week closure	School closes on Friday the 11 th of April at 12 noon (1/2 day) School reopens on Monday the 28 th of April.
May Bank Holiday One-day closure	School closes on Monday, 5 th of May.
June Bank Holiday One-day closure	School closes on Monday, 2 nd June
Summer Holiday	School closes on Friday the 20 th of June at 12 noon (1/2 day)

Additional Days, Brannoxtown CNS:

*Families will receive advanced notification of any additional closures or half-days that may arise to facilitate election events, DES directed closures to engage with CPD, or half-in half-out

School Calendar

Junior Infants First Day First day for classes School closed for holidays Last day: Start of Summer Holidays

July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Class Teachers

Junior & Senior Infants: Múinteoir Eoin
1st & 2nd Class: Múinteoir Eimear
3rd & 4th Class: Múinteoir Lyndsey
5th & 6th Class: Múinteoir Deirdre
SET: Síle Cunnane & Kate Lyons

We are Grateful!

Support and community have been felt in abundance this year and for that, we are grateful. BCNS has a vibrant parent community that plays an active part in the life of our school.

Thank you to our PA for the time and energy they have invested in organising fundraising events to support our school. These events deepen the bonds that we share and enrich our school community beyond any monetary value.

Thank you to the countless parents who have contributed their time in so many different ways: setting up Culture & Diversity Day stalls, soccer coaching, gardening, yard work, classroom work and visits, decorating our school during the holiday season to name but a few!

And finally, thank you to all the BCNS parents for entrusting your children into our care. We are so grateful for each and every pupil in our classrooms - they are respectful, enthusiastic and keen learners they are a credit to their families.

What does my child need in September?

All workbooks, folders and copies will be provided by the school.

To make sure your child is ready for their return to school at the end of August, please visit:

www.brannoxtowncns.ie



There, you can find:

- BCNS Back to School List
- BCNS Uniform
- BCNS School Fees
- School Calendar