



BRANNOXTOWN CNS NEWS!

JUNE 2026

A message to our school community

Dear parents, guardians and pupils of Brannoxtown CNS, As another school year draws to a close, it is hard to believe just how quickly the time has passed. Looking back on the year, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible school community that we have here at Brannoxtown CNS. Thank you for your continued support, partnership and trust throughout the year. Together, we have created a school where our children can learn, grow and thrive.

This year has been full of memorable moments, exciting learning experiences and wonderful achievements. From our trip to the Gaiety Theatre and our fantastic Sports Day at Kilcullen GAA grounds, to our Hallowe'en Trunk or Treat, Winter Fair, and PJ & Movie Day, it has certainly been a great year! Along the way, our pupils have continued to impress us with their resilience, creativity, curiosity and kindness. It has been a privilege to watch them develop not only as learners, but also as caring and capable young people.

A huge well done to our Junior Infants, who have completed their very first year of primary school. We are so proud of how much they have grown in confidence and independence over the year!

A special word of thanks and congratulations also goes to our graduating 6th Class. You have been an important part of the Brannoxtown CNS story, and while we will miss you greatly, we are excited to see all that you will achieve in the years ahead. Please remember that you will always be a part of our BCNS family.

We hope you enjoy this final newsletter of the school year, which celebrates the many activities, achievements and memories from May and June.

On behalf of the entire BCNS team, thank you once again for a wonderful year. We wish you all a restful, happy and safe summer break, and we look forward to welcoming many of you back on the 25th of August!

Warm regards,
Deirdre & the BCNS Team!

What's In This Issue?

- Spotlight on our Classrooms!
- School Calendar
- Looking towards 2026/2027
- Learning Toolkits
- Photos



Sports Day!

This year, BCNS held its annual Sports Day at the fantastic facilities of Kilcullen GAA grounds for the very first time and it was a huge success! We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Kilcullen GAA for so generously allowing us to use their wonderful grounds. We would also like to thank all our parents and guardians for facilitating drop-off and collection directly from Kilcullen. We know it was a change to the usual routine, but we truly believe that it was more than worth it!

A huge thank you to the team from Active Kids Academy, who organised a brilliant range of activities and kept the energy levels high all day long. There was something for everyone, from soccer and rounders to STEM stations and an obstacle course that challenged the children's speed, agility and determination. One of the highlights of the day was undoubtedly the much-anticipated 6th Class versus Teachers tug of war, which provided plenty of excitement, laughter and competitive spirit!

Although it was one of the hottest days of the year, our pupils managed the conditions exceptionally well. They showed great resilience, teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the day and should be very proud of themselves. Sports Day 2026 was a wonderful celebration of fun, friendship and perseverance, and a fantastic way to end the school year!



School Tour!

We enjoyed a fantastic school tour to Castlecomer Discovery Park with 1st and 2nd Class. Excitement was high as we boarded the bus and set off for a day full of adventure and fun. Our day began with orienteering, followed by a sensory hunt through the beautiful forest. We then enjoyed our lunch outdoors in the forest before continuing our adventure. We had great fun on the outdoor trampoline and loved exploring the bouncing balls and tunnels. Next, we tackled the obstacle course, where everyone showed excellent determination, balance and coordination as they manoeuvred their way through the various challenges. Our final stop of the day was the Discovery Park Playground, where we enjoyed one last opportunity to play with friends before heading home. It was a wonderful day filled with laughter, teamwork and unforgettable memories.

Junior Room!



Trip to Kilcullen!

Last week, the Junior Room enjoyed a fantastic summer adventure to Kilcullen. We travelled on the Local Link bus from outside the school into the village, ready for a day of fun and exploration.

Our first stop was the playground, where everyone enjoyed playing with their friends. We then had a picnic on the benches before setting off on a summer nature walk around the GAA pitches. Along the way, we played games, explored our surroundings and even sheltered from a rain shower under the trees!

Next, we followed the Kilcullen Fairy Trail, stopping for lunch by the beautiful River Liffey and visiting all of our fairy friends. Our final stop was the Kilcullen Farm Trail, where we enjoyed seeing the farm animals up close.



TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC!

The Junior Room recently enjoyed a very special Teddy Bears' Picnic. The children were excited to bring their favourite teddy bears to school and loved introducing them to their classmates. We met lots of different teddy bears, each with their own name and story, and everyone enjoyed sharing why their teddy was so special to them.

Throughout the day, all of our learning was centred around our teddy bear theme. The children took part in a variety of fun and engaging activities and even created their own teddy bear hats to wear proudly. There was great excitement as we played a range of games, including some favourite parachute games with our teddies joining in the fun.

At lunchtime, the teddy bears stayed close by as they joined us for our picnic. The children especially enjoyed meeting Múinteoir Síle's favourite teddy bear, who came to school for the day too! It was a wonderful day filled with fun, friendship, imagination and lots of teddy bear cuddles.

1st & 2nd Class!

Our Amazing School Tour!

On Friday, 12th June, we travelled on a comfortable red bus to Castlecomer Discovery Park in Kilkenny for our school tour. We were so excited! Our class was split into two groups of 10 for our activities. When we arrived we sat on picnic benches and ate our snack. Everyone was talking so much about what we would do first. Our first two activities were the best ever. We walked through the forest until we reached the 'Woodland Adventure Area!' We got to bounce on the huge bouncy net and we had so much fun going around the obstacle course. We had to wear safety helmets when we were doing the obstacle course. It was so cool and everyone loved pulling themselves on the mining cart! Then we worked in groups of 5 on an orienteering adventure in the fairy village. We had to work together to find clues and build jigsaws together. We were so excited when Múinteoir Eimear told us that we had enough time to play in the playground before we got back on the bus to go back to school. It was the best day ever!

Shared writing by Second Class



A Love of Literacy!

We have worked hard on so many different writing projects this year and we are very proud of our amazing work. Now that we are in First Class, we have learned all about adjectives. They are describing words and they help to make your writing more interesting! We did a cool adjective project when we brainstormed lots of adjectives, wrote descriptive sentences and drew pictures to match the adjectives. Some of our favourite adjectives are majestic, eye-catching, shimmering, elegant and brave! We also learned how to write a report on an animal that we loved. We learned how to research information on the animal, we wrote down the main points and then we wrote a report to explain all about the animal. Some of the animals chosen were the red panda, anaconda, squid, capybara, panda, tiger and a Mexican red back tarantula! Shared writing by First Class



Highlights of School Life!

We were so excited when Múinteoir Eimear told us that we would have a teddy bear picnic when the weather was really hot and sunny in May. We had to bring in our favourite teddy bear from home and also our favourite book. On the morning of the teddy bear picnic we got a big surprise because Múinteoir Eimear told us that we would make rice krispie buns together to eat at the teddy bear picnic! Our teacher melted the chocolate and we helped to mix in the rice krispies and scoop them into the bun cases. While we were waiting for them to be ready we shared our favourite books and teddy bears with each other. We then planned a project for our book. We designed a new cover for our book and we wrote a new blurb for our book. When we were outside for the teddy bear picnic we read our books, played games and ate our delicious rice krispie buns. It was so much fun! Shared writing by Lochlainn, Amelia, Charlotte and Molly

School Tour

On the 2nd of June, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Class went to Castlecomer Discovery Park. When we arrived, we had our snack before meeting our instructor. He brought us into the forest where we played some fun team-building games like Heads, Shoulders, Knees and CONE! Next, we played a game called Maze. We were divided into five groups of four. One person from each group was blindfolded and had to make their way through a maze of trees. The rest of their team had to guide them safely through the course. After that, we took part in a challenge where we searched for wooden pieces hidden around the forest. The pieces came in five different colours to match each team's colour, and there were six pieces for every team. Once a team found all six pieces, they had to use them to build an animal. Then we had lunch in a large dome. It had a very cool echo, and everyone enjoyed trying it out! After lunch, we went down to the lake and climbed into pedal boats. We spent some time exploring the lake and racing each other. Ms Sofia and Suzanne even joined in and took a boat out on the water too! At the end of the day, we made our way back to the bus and headed home after a fantastic day full of fun, teamwork and adventure. It was a REALLLLLLLY fun trip! By Leo, April, Arianna and Erin

3rd & 4th Class!



PLAYBALL

At the beginning of May, we started Playball every Friday. Two very friendly sports coaches came to our school to teach us a variety of sports and skills. We spent two weeks learning each sport.

The first sport we learned was basketball. We practised passing, dribbling and shooting. Basketball was one of our favourite sports.

Next, we learned volleyball. We practised serving, digging, setting and spiking. We enjoyed learning how to work together as a team and improve our skills.

After volleyball, we moved on to GAA. We learned how to do a solo and practised many other important football skills.

Playball is a fun and exciting way to learn different sports, stay active and work with our classmates. Overall, Playball has been a great experience and we have really enjoyed taking part.

By Hugo, Tad and Leon.

OUR LOCAL AREA PROJECT

3rd and 4th Class have been working on a project about our local area. We have been researching, planning and developing our projects using the booklets that Múinteoir Sofia gave us. Some of us chose to focus on Naas, Kilcullen and Brannockstown.

We used iPads to gather information about our areas, including local landmarks, history, schools, sports clubs and places of interest. We also interviewed a local person to learn more about the area and how it has changed over the years. It was very interesting to hear their stories and experiences!

We then wrote our research in our refill pads before organising the information into our project booklets.

Once our projects were completed, we presented them to the class. Everyone had the opportunity to share what they had learned and show their work. We enjoyed hearing about the different local areas and discovering interesting facts that we did not know before.

By Sienna, Hunter & Billy



5th & 6th Class!

5th & 6th Class Debates

During the last term, the senior room took part in some really interesting debates. The topics we debated were "Generative AI does more harm than good," "Social media does more harm than good," and "Children under 16 should not have smartphones." We chose these topics because they are very relevant at the moment, with lots of countries thinking about changing laws around social media and phone use for children. It was really interesting to research both sides of the arguments because we learned not only about the dangers of AI, social media and smartphones, but also about the benefits they can have. We learned about credible sources and how to write a balanced argument. We worked hard to prepare our speeches, arguments and counter-arguments, and we had lots of fun trying to persuade our classmates and teachers. Overall, debating was a fun way to work on our public speaking skills and it made us think more deeply about important issues that affect young people today.



6th Class Farewell

Hi from 5th Class!

We want to pay tribute to our wonderful 6th Class of 2026. Over the years, you have all become such an important part of our school. You have made us laugh, helped us, played with us and created so many happy memories. It is hard to imagine BCNS without you and we know that we are all going to miss you very much.

On Thursday, June 18th, we said goodbye to our amazing 6th Class: Amelia, Angus, Annika, Aria, Aryan, Indi May, Isaac, Jessica, Killian, Luke, Razvan and Samuel. You have been our friends, classmates, teammates and role models. You have taught us lots of things, made us laugh and made BCNS a happier and more fun place to be. We have loved getting to know all of you and making so many special memories together.

Even though we are sad to see you leave, we are also excited for all the amazing things you will do in secondary school. We hope you make lots of new friends, have loads of fun and always remember your time here at BCNS. To our beloved Class of 2026, thank you for being such a special part of our school. As we have already said, and will probably say many more times, we will all miss you very, very much. Please come back and visit us! ❤️

6th Class Day Trip to Dublin!

On Thursday the 11th of June our 6th class went on their farewell day trip to Dublin. To start off the day we went to the Naas Sallins train station to catch the 8:50 train to Heuston Station, Dublin. When we arrived, we walked for 20 minutes to the Incognito Escape Rooms. From there, we split into two groups - one went to Cabin in the Woods (a horror-themed escape room) and Baker Street (mystery-themed). The escape rooms were a great experience, we totally recommend them! After that we travelled to Grafton St. to enjoy lunch at Bewley's Cafe. We had a wide selection of food choices, ranging from tomato and basil soup to pan fried sea bass. Following a delicious meal at Bewley's, we split into two groups again, but this time it was boys and girls. The boys went to shop in The LEGO store, Gino's Ice Cream and The Rolling Donut while the girls shopped at Spilt Milk, Brown Thomas and Starbucks. After a fun day, we took the 2:30 train from Heuston and got back to Naas at about 3:10, and said our goodbyes. It was an amazing day full of fun and adventures and a great way to round off our final year at BCNS! By Aryan & Indi-May

History - World War II

During the last term of school, the BCNS senior room learned about World War II, the Treaty of Versailles and Hitler's rise to power. First, we learned about how Jewish people's rights were taken away during the 1930s and 1940s through a gallery walk carefully organised by Múinteoir Deirdre. Next, we read the diaries and journals of real children who lived through World War II. Finally, we started our new class novel, 'Number the Stars' by Lois Lowry, which tells the story of the Nazi occupation of Copenhagen through the eyes of a young girl. Overall, we really enjoyed the book and would definitely recommend it.

CLASS OF
2026





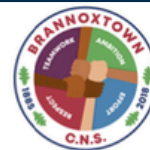
LOOKING TOWARDS 2026/2027



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Brannoxtown Community National School

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Brannoxtown Community National School (CNS)

School Calendar 2026/2027

School Day: ☑

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

Junior Infant phased enrolment:

Tuesday 25 th & Wednesday 26 th August (2 days):	9:30 - 11:00 (Bring snack only)
Thursday 27 th & Friday 28 th of August (2 days):	8:50 to 11:00 (Bring snack only)
Monday 31 st of August – Friday 4 th of September	8:50 to 12:00 (Bring snack & lunch)
Monday 7 th – 11 th of September	Full school day: 08:50 – 13:30

Calendar Event	School Closure Dates (Inclusive)
School begins	Tuesday 25 th of August: Junior Infants (9:30-11:00) Tuesday 25 th of August: Senior Infants – 6 th Class (08:50 – 14:30)
Child Protection Staff Training Day One day closure	School closes on Thursday 24 th of September <i>Department of Education assigned school closure for whole staff training.</i>
October Mid-Term Break One week closure	School closes on Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th of October (inclusive)
Winter/Christmas Break Two-week closure	School closes on Tuesday the 22 nd of December. School reopens on Wednesday the 6 th of January
Primary Curriculum Staff Training One day closure	School closed on Friday the 15 th of January <i>Department of Education assigned school closure for whole staff training.</i>
St. Brigid's Day One day closure	School closes on Monday, 1 st of February
February Mid-Term Break Two-day closure	School closes on Thursday 18 th & Friday 19 th of February
St. Patrick's Day One-day closure	School closes on Wednesday 17 th of March
Spring/Easter Break Two-week closure	School closes on Friday the 19 th of March School reopens on Monday the 5 th of April.
May Bank Holiday One-week closure	School closes on Monday 3 rd – Friday 7 th of May (inclusive)
June Bank Holiday One-day closure	School closes on Monday, 7 th of June
Summer Holiday	School closes on Wednesday the 23 rd of June.

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 etc.



LOOKING TOWARDS 2026/2027



Brannoxtown CNS

2026 - 2027 Calendar



AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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APRIL						
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30	31					

JUNE						
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KEY DATES						
	FIRST DAY					
	HOLIDAYS - NO SCHOOL					
	SCHOOL CLOSED - STAFF TRAIN					
	LAST DAY					

BACK TO SCHOOL - 2026-2027

As we prepare for the new school year, we would like to remind parents and guardians that all schoolbooks, workbooks and copies will be provided by the school under the Department of Education's Free Primary School Books Scheme.

The BCNS Back-to-School Learning Toolkits for all class levels are included on the following pages of this newsletter and outline the resources pupils should have upon their return to school.

To help families prepare for the new school year, the following information is available on our website:

www.brannoxtowncns.ie

- BCNS Back-to-School Learning Toolkits
- BCNS School Uniform Information
- BCNS School Contribution 2026-2027
- BCNS School Calendar 2026-2027



Department of Education Professional Training Days

As part of the ongoing rollout of the new Primary Curriculum Framework and other mandatory Department of Education training requirements, we anticipate approximately four to five school closure days during the 2026-2027 school year.

To assist families with planning, the following dates have already been confirmed:

- **Thursday, 24th September 2026** – Child Protection Training for Staff
- **Friday, 15th January 2027** – Primary Curriculum Framework Professional Learning Day

Further dates will be communicated as soon as we have been notified of them.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION FEES

As we prepare for another exciting school year, we would like to thank all parents and guardians for their continued support of our school community. The annual School Contribution plays a vital role in helping us to provide the additional educational experiences, resources and opportunities that enrich school life at BCNS. The School Contribution helps fund a range of valuable supports and resources, including:

- Tournament and competition costs, including entry fees, referees and officials
- Arts and creative initiatives
- Educational subscriptions and digital learning licences
- Assessment and screening resources
- Gardening projects and equipment
- Art and classroom resources
- Personal stationery for pupils
- Aladdin Frame
- Photocopying and printing
- Pupils' personal accident insurance cover

The School Contribution for 2026-2027 reflects an increased investment in Aladdin Frame, a secure, GDPR-compliant platform for communication and photo sharing. This investment ensures that we can share and celebrate school life safely and securely with families, while also protecting children's personal data and privacy.

The School Contribution for BCNS for the 2026-2027 school year is **€80 per pupil**.

We kindly ask families to make full payment by:

Friday, 25th September 2026.



JUNIOR AND SENIOR INFANTS BACK TO SCHOOL 2026/2027



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Brannoxtown Community National School (BCNS)

Back to School List 2026/2027: Junior Infants & Senior Infants

1.	Junior Grip Triangular pencil	X 4
2.	A pencil sharpener & eraser set	X1
3.	Small whiteboard eraser	X1
4.	A set of crayons/twistables/triangular colouring pencils	X 1
5.	Large glue stick (e.g., Pritt Stick)	X 4
6.	Children's scissors	X 1
7.	A set of whiteboard markers (minimum three markers)	X1
8.	Pencil Grips	X2
9.	B5 Mesh Wallet	X2
10.	A3 Mesh Wallet	X2
12.	A4+ Mesh Storage Wallet	X2

**Please ensure ALL your child's belongings
are clearly labelled with his/her name and class.**



1ST AND 2ND CLASS

BACK TO SCHOOL 2026/2027



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Brannoxtown Community National School (BCNS)

Back to School List 2026/2027: 1st & 2nd Class

1.	Junior Grip Triangular pencil	X 4
2.	A pencil sharpener & eraser set	X1
3.	Small whiteboard eraser	X1
4.	A set of crayons/twistables/triangular colouring pencils	X 1
5.	Large glue stick (e.g., Pritt Stick)	X 3
6.	Children's scissors	X 1
7.	30cm ruler	x1
8.	A set of whiteboard markers	X6
9.	A4+ Mesh Storage Wallet	X2
10.	B5 Mesh Wallet	X2
11.	A3 64 Page Coloured Scrap Book – example (https://www.abcschoolsupplies.ie/product/supreme-a3-large-64-page-coloured-scrap-book)	x1

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3RD AND 4TH CLASS

BACK TO SCHOOL 2026/2027



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Brannoxtown Community National School (BCNS)

Back to School List 2026/2027: 3rd & 4th Class

1.	Small scissors	X 1
2.	Colours (Twistables or similar)	Pack
3.	Whiteboard markers	X 6
4.	Pencil	X 3
5.	A pencil sharpener & eraser set	X 1
6.	Pens: Blue x3, Black x3 & Red x3	X9 total
7.	Ruler (30cm)	X1
8.	Large Glue Stick (e.g., Pritt Stick)	X 3
9.	Tin Whistle – Key of D (only if not purchased last year)	X 1
10.	A4+ Mesh Storage Wallet	X2
11.	B5 Mesh Wallet	X2
12.	Small whiteboard eraser	X1
13.	Subject Dividers – 5 Part	X1
14.	A4 Ring Binder	X1
15.	A3 64 Page Coloured Scrap Book – example (https://www.abcschoolsupplies.ie/product/supreme-a3-large-64-page-coloured-scrap-book)	x1

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5TH AND 6TH CLASS

BACK TO SCHOOL 2026/2027



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Brannoxtown Community National School (BCNS)

Back to School List 2026/2027: 5th & 6th Class

1.	Small scissors	X 1
2.	Colours (Twistables/colour pencils or similar)	1 Pack
3.	Whiteboard markers	X6
4.	Pencils x 6	X 3
5.	A pencil sharpener & eraser set	X 1
6.	Pens: Blue x3, Black x3 & Red x3	X9 total
7.	Ruler (30cm)	X1
8.	Large Glue Stick (e.g. Pritt Stick)	X 3
9.	Mathematical Set with compass	X 1
10.	Calculator	X1
11.	Tin Whistle – Key of D (only if not purchased last year)	X 1
12.	A4+ Mesh Storage Wallet	X2
13.	B5 Mesh Wallet	X2
14.	Small whiteboard eraser	X1
15.	Subject Dividers – 5 Part	X1
16.	A4 Ring Binder	X1
17.	A3 64 Page Coloured Scrap Book – example (https://www.abcschoolsupplies.ie/product/supreme-a3-large-64-page-coloured-scrap-book)	x1

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A Word from the BCNS Parents' Association

Dear Parents, Guardians, and School Community,

As we wrap up another fantastic school year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the amazing achievements made possible thanks to you—our wonderful families, teachers, and staff who have supported every event, fundraiser, and initiative with incredible enthusiasm.

It's All About the Fun and Inclusion!

This year, the Parents' Association focused on making school life more fun, inclusive, and enriching for every child. We ran a variety of exciting events that not only brought smiles to faces but also helped raise a staggering total of €2,435.31! 🎉👏

Here's a look at what we achieved together:

- 🛍️ Bag 2 School (Sept): €106.50
- 🎨 Crazy Hair Day (Oct): €312.31
- 🎃 Trunk & Treat (Oct) Fundraiser: €318.00
- 🎬 PJ & Movie Night (Dec): €455.20
- 🛍️ Bag 2 School (Feb): €90.00
- 🧦 Crazy / Odd Sock Day (Jan): €300.10
- 🎬 Movie Night (Apr): €577.00
- 👕 Pre-loved uniform sale (Jun): €276.20

Each of these events brought joy, laughter, and a strong sense of community while helping fund meaningful projects in our school.

Where Did the Money Go?

Every euro raised was carefully used to directly benefit the children and their school experience. Some of the highlights include:

- 🌲 Winter Fair with drinks & treats.
- 🍦 Ice Cream Treats for all students on Sports Day
- 🏊 Support for Playball activities & swimming

A Huge Thank You

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to every single parent, guardian, teacher, student, and local supporter who got involved, donated, participated, and cheered us on. These successes would not have been possible without your energy, generosity, and care.

🍰 We can't thank Ruth's Homebaked Kitchen for another 6th Class Graduation Cake – a sweet send-off for our graduating students.

Together, we made sure that the needs of the school and, most importantly, the children always came first. 💖 As always, we are looking for new PA Members to help support the school and children.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and well-deserved summer break!

With gratitude,

Your Parents' Association



SPORTS DAY – JUNE 2026!

