BRANNOXTOWN CNS

October Newsletter

23rd of October 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON THE JUNIOR ROOM

LITTLE HANDS, BIG LEARNING

In the Junior Room, our little hands are always busy! Each morning, the children begin their day with tabletop activities designed to develop their fine motor skills. From threading, cutting and sticking to playdough, puzzles, construction and using tweezers, there is always something to keep little fingers busy! These activities help strengthen the small muscles in the hands and fingers, improve hand-eye coordination and develop the control needed for writing, drawing and using scissors. Our morning activities also provide opportunities for the children to work independently, solve problems, build confidence and develop their concentration and perseverance. While these activities might look like simple play, there is so much valuable learning taking place. It's lovely to see the children's enthusiasm and sense of achievement as they practise new skills and proudly show us what they can do each day!

AUTUMN ADVENTURES IN KILCULLEN

The Junior Room recently enjoyed a wonderful autumn adventure to Kilcullen, where we brought our classroom learning outdoors for a fun-filled day! As part of our autumn theme, the children became nature detectives, searching for signs of the changing season. We spotted colourful leaves, explored our surroundings and collected autumn leaves to use in our upcoming autumn art activities. One of the highlights of our trip was our very own Gruffalo Hunt, inspired by our much-loved story 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. The children loved exploring and imagining which woodland creatures might be hiding nearby! We also enjoyed a lovely picnic together and, of course, a visit to the playground, which was a big hit with everyone! It was a fantastic day of learning beyond the classroom and we made special memories together.

SOMETHING SPOOKY BREWING IN THE JUNIOR ROOM

Our Junior Room has taken on a spooky look this October as we explore the themes of autumn and Halloween! One of the most popular areas in our classroom is our Witch's Kitchen, where the children have been busy dressing up, making magical potions, casting spells and letting their imaginations run wild.

The Witch's Kitchen is a wonderful way for the children to use the new vocabulary we have been learning during our lessons. It also provides lots of opportunities for conversation, storytelling and imaginative play.

As the children play together, they are learning to share, take turns, listen to one another and work as a team. These everyday interactions help build friendships, confidence and important social skills.

There has certainly been no shortage of imagination, excitement or magical ingredients in our classroom lately! It's lovely to see how much learning happens through play.

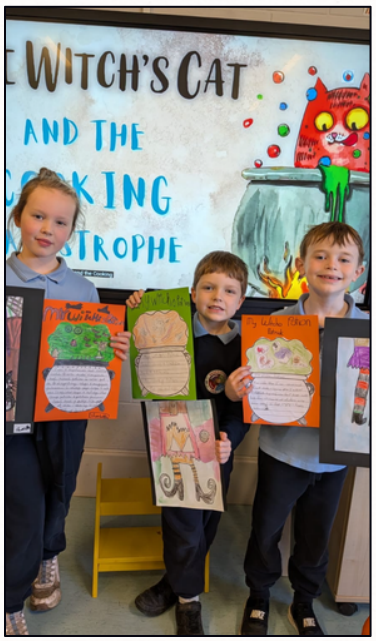






SPOTLIGHT ON FIRST AND SECOND CLASS!

OUR HALLOWE'EN PROJECT





Múinteoir Eimear read a really fun Halloween book to the class. It was called 'The Witch's Cat and the Cooking Catastrophe'. The cute cat follows recipes to make some funny potions so we were excited to write our own recipes and create our own weird potions. We worked together to brainstorm weird and strange things that might go into our potion. We suggested dragon scales, spider legs, butterfly wings, toxic slime, zombie blood and a poisonous apple. So many weird things! Everyone pretended that they were a witch and we had to say if our witch was a kind, happy, funny or scary witch! Then we picked our weird ingredients and wrote our Witch's Potion. They sounded so funny when we shared them with each other. The second part of our Halloween Project was a piece of Art. Everyone designed and drew a witch. It was so much fun decorating the witch with funny tights and pointy black boots. We used water colours, colouring pencils and markers. This was such a fun project and we were very proud of our work. Shared writing by Second Class

WRITING ABOUT AUTUMN

One of the projects that we have worked so hard on since the beginning of the school year and that we are most proud of is the independent writing that we did about autumn and the lovely pictures that we drew to match our writing. We went on a short nature walk so we could observe all of the different colours that we can see in autumn. Lots of us learned a new word when we learned about deciduous trees. We loved walking on the fresh, crunchy autumn leaves. Everyone in the class brainstormed words about autumn and then we wrote some descriptive sentences to describe an autumn picture that we drew. Here are some of the descriptive sentences we wrote – I see a deciduous tree with a fluffy squirrel inside. The mouse is snoozing soundly under the bright, crescent moon. The spooky decorations are covered in colourful, crunchy leaves. Shared writing by First and Second Class.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

We were so excited to celebrate Grandparents Day in September. We worked so hard at the beginning of the school year on so many different things and we were really looking forward to showing all of our work to our Grandparents. The projects we were most excited to show them were our self-portraits and our independent writing about autumn. We planned to design something special to give to our Grandparents when they visited our classroom. We designed a heart mobile. The first heart was decorated with our fingerprints using paint, in the second heart we drew a picture of us with our Grandparents and in the third heart we wrote a special message for our Grandparents. It was so much fun to spend time with our Grandparents in our classroom and we felt very proud when we
showed them where we do all of our learning. Shared writing by First Class



SPOTLIGHT ON THIRD AND FOURTH CLASS!

THE BRONZE AGE

This term, 3rd and 4th Class learned about the Bronze Age. We learned that Bronze Age people lived in circular houses called roundhouses and that the Bronze Age came after the Stone Age. We also learned about how they made bronze from tin and copper. After learning all about it, we made a Bronze Age village out of cardboard and recyclable materials. Some of us built farms for the village and different kinds of houses. We built a field with grass and lollipop sticks for the fence. We worked really hard on this project, and we really enjoyed doing it!

Written by Leo, Holly, Amelia and Abril.





GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

This term, 3rd and 4th Class learned all about ourselves and one another. We made Polaroid cameras to learn about each other. This was so much fun! We loved designing them and putting fun facts about ourselves on them! We also made Minecraft self-portraits and guessed who everyone was. Can you guess who's who? We had a snowball fight with paper to get to know each other. We wrote a fun fact about ourselves on the snowballs and guessed who the fun fact was about! Together, we also decided on our class charter and made a collage out of magazine cuttings to represent our charter and help us remember and follow it each day!

Written by Lochlainn, Fionn and Conor.

THE TWITS

3rd and 4th Class started their first novel this term, The Twits by Roald Dahl. We learned so much about the kind of people the Twits are, and we have decided that they are 100% twits and have no respect for anyone or anything! Mr Twit wants to create the first upside-down Muggle-Wump monkey circus! He's the worst! We have done lots of work on The Twits. We made wanted posters of the Twits, did descriptive writing and wrote book reviews. We loved reading The Twits and can't wait to see what our next novel will be!

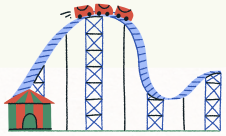
Written by Sienna, Michael and Nolan.



THE MINPINS

5th and 6th class started reading The Minpins by Roald Dahl. As we started to understand the characters, we wrote paragraphs about scenes, characters and the plot. While we went through the book, we created beautiful artwork about the tree that the Minpins live in. We created fold out doors in our tree bark that we made with oil pastels to reveal our own personally designed rooms and houses that we painted with watercolours. We also used the description in the book to draw pictures of the Gruncher - a horrible orange-spitting, smoke-blowing, alligator-faced, hairy-legged beast that eats all living creatures in its path.

by Tad & Hugo



STEM ROLLERCOASTERS

A few weeks ago we started learning about the science of stunts and centrifugal force. After that we made contraptions and tested them outside. The first one was a bucket and the second one was a plate with strings attached to it!! We swung them upside down and centrifugal force kept water in the bucket and the objects on the upside-down on the plate.

Then, we got to pick partners and build a rollercoaster together. We had 2 or 3 days to work on them and then Múinteoir videoed them. We had to use a marble to test them. Some of them did not work on the first try but in the end all the groups got them working perfectly! Just one more thing - if you ever want to build a rollercoaster hire 5th and 6th class to do it!

by Edith and Scarlett



5TH AND 6TH CLASS SPOOKY STATIONS

In 5th and 6th class, every year at Hallowe'en we put together stations. First, we plan - we brainstorm ideas and pick the best, most practical and fun. Next we split up into teams. Each team gets a station each. On dress up day, all the other classes visit our class and play games such as Floury Grape or pin the spider on the web. There's mystery boxes, slime, throwing games and the Witches' Kitchen. So much preparation took place and on the Thursday, the younger classes had so much fun - they even got to decorate cookies and make playdough monsters. It was lots of hard work but it was so worth it. *By Robyn*



BRANNOXTOWN CNS

School News!

MUSIC GENERATION

Music Generation at BCNS

Over the past few weeks, we have been having great fun with Music Generation Kildare! Every class has been learning to play different musical instruments.

The Junior Room and First and Second Class have been learning drums with Luke. They love playing games like "Keep the Beat, Clap!" and drumming along to songs like "Thriller" by Michael Jackson. When asked what they thought of the lessons, First and Second Class gave them a big 10/10!

Third to Sixth Class have been learning the ukulele with Lisa every Tuesday. First, we learned the strings using the rhyme "Good Children Eat Apples". Then we learned chords and played songs like "Ho Hey", "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and "Spooky Scary Skeletons".

Everyone at BCNS really enjoyed learning new instruments and playing music together. A big thank you to Lisa and Luke for making it so much fun!

TRUNK OR TREAT!

On the last day before mid-term, we dressed up in Hallowe'en costumes and had so much fun!!! We listened to music, had fun at the spooky stations and loved Trunk or Treat. All the costumes turned out amazingly and it was an awesome day!!

At BCNS, we celebrated Hallowe'en with Trunk or Treat. Trunk or Treat is a BCNS tradition where the Parents' Association decorate their car boots or "trunks" with a spooky theme. All the kids go around and visit each trunk and they talk to the other people and students and there's music, facepainting and fun!!! This year we saw amazing designs like Skeleton School, Pirate Treasure and Dia de los Muertos.

On the last day, each classroom got to vote on a spooky movie that they want to watch and we are treated to popcorn as well! We all watch a movie and have tonnes of fun on the last day of school before mid-term.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 4th — **No School** Curriculum Training Day

Nov 25th–26th — **Parent-Teacher Meetings**

Nov 27th — **Gaiety Panto - Robin Hood** 3rd – 6th Class

Dec 9th — **Gaiety Panto - Robin Hood** Junior Infants – 2nd Class

REMINDERS

Early Collections:
If your child is being collected early from school, please ensure this is communicated in advance through Aladdin. Thank you for your cooperation.

School Uniform: We kindly remind parents that children should wear the correct school uniform, including the school crest on their navy sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan. The school tracksuit consists of navy tracksuit bottoms, a navy jumper and a blue polo shirt. **Please note that leggings and branded apparel are not part of the school tracksuit.** School crests (€5) are available to order through the school office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Healthy Lunches Reminder: As we progress through the tender process for the Hot School Meals Programme, we remind parents to provide healthy, balanced lunches for their children. Water is the only drink permitted in school. Thank you for your continued support.


PIC•COLLAGE

BRANNOXTOWN CNS

Parents' Assocation



BRANNOXTOWN CNS

Happy Mid-Term!



