

## . Carol singing at Sandymount

Lovely for our 6th class boys to have their annual carol singing visit to the day care /residents of Sandymount centre - this is a lively tradition going strong for the past 22 years so we thank Leilagh and staff for the warm welcome and we wish all at Sandymount a happy Xmas.



huge thank you to our amazing catering ladies - Natasha / Lisa and Liz ★★ who cook up the lovely hot meals each day for our boys from school food company ❤️ - The menu is working well with the soup very popular over the winter– Please re-order for 1st week in January and will roll over from there– Happy Christmas ladies

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Thanks to all our pupils , families , staff and school community for the great spirit and togetherness shown over the past term. Thanks to our B.O.M. under Chair of Mr Pat Teehan, Fr. Anthony our Chaplin, our Parents' Association, our hardworking staff of teachers and S.N.As, Ita our secretary, Mick our caretaker and Lorraine and Marcella who always keep our school looking so well.

Holidays begin on Friday 22nd December with infants finishing at 12.20pm and all other classes at 12.30pm .

School reopens on Monday 8th January 2024

## St. Brendan's Boys P.S.

Christmas 2024



### Santa called to see the boys !

He really arrived in style this year , ringing his bell up the yard being driven by Ernie Bailey. Santa met all the boys on the school yard and then we all went to the hall for the traditional Christmas draw. Santa led the boys in a few Christmas carols before picking out the winning draw ticket—First prize of €150 was won by one of our new Ukrainian families so congratulations to them. Santa and the boys picked out the rest of the tickets ( see photo of prize-winners ) then he visited the classrooms giving the boys a yummy selection box each - Many thanks to our wonderful Parents Association St. Brendan's Boys School, Birr for managing to call the North Pole and getting Santa to visit on this busy week ☐☐



## Christmas concert 2024

Massive thanks to all involved in our concert this year :  
The amazing staff who give so much of their time , patience and energy in practicing and supporting behind the scenes. Highlight from the cuteness and tradition was the infant production of “ Sleepy Shepherd” so well done to Ms Pilkington , Ms Collins, Ms Kenny and Ms Sullivan for directing along with all the staff support. The songs and tunes from First class and Third classes were amazing and well done to all the boys who practiced so hard. Fifth class then rounded of the concert with their impressive “ Countdown to Christmas “ production in which the boys sang so well and delivered their lines with great timing. Guest appearances from Mr Crofton , Ms Stack and Ms Ryan were definitely a talking point ! Special thanks to Ms Makim for the lovely background on stage ,to Caretaker Mick for setting up the stage ( chairs from Martin Walsh of Marian Hall ) and for having the school look so well with our cleaning staff Lorraine and Donna. Thanks to friend of the school Dickie Donnelly for supporting with the wonderful hall lighting. Thanks to our parents association for supporting and fundraising ,the wonderful Majella Killeen who encourages our boys to sing and perform the lovely musical and instrumental pieces - with support from Music Generation Offaly and of course our parents and families for packing out the hall for 2 concerts And the stars of the show - our boys ☆ for bringing the Christmas joy and spirit 🎄🎵

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir

*Niall Crofton*



## Roscrea/Birr School Completion Programme

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. The excitement is building as we reach the end of our first term, and what a busy term it has been for the School Completion Programme.

This term, Margaret Blake and Rachel Moloney delivered six sessions of the SCP 'Preparing to Transfer to Post-Primary School Programme' to the sixth-class boys. During these sessions, they covered topics such as: making new friends, emotions and empathy, dealing with stress, managing time and getting ready to move on to post primary school. SCP looks forward to continuing with this programme next term.

Some boys from sixth class participated in our 'Let's Read Pal!' programme. This programme took place weekly in Birr library for five weeks. During this time, the boys were matched with Transition Year Students. Together, they worked on a project of their choosing. On completion of their programme, the boys presented their project on 'Lamine Yamal' in St. Brendan's Community School.



The LifeSkills Programme was delivered to Mr. Kennedy's fourth class by Margaret. This nine-week programme discussed topics such as smoking, vaping, self-esteem, communication, assertiveness and Good Decision Making.

We were delighted to introduce baby Raeya to Miss Dooley and the boys in second class. The boys are participating in the 'Roots of Empathy Programme'. Facilitated by Margaret, the 'Roots of Empathy' programme helps children to understand their feelings and the feelings of others by helping them to regulate their emotions and relate to one another. It also looks at the baby's development during their first year. This programme will continue for the rest of the school year. Along with her mam Mary-Kate, baby Raeya visits the boys every third Thursday. We are so grateful to Mary-Kate for sharing the development of Raeya's first year with us.

