



St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



September



Welcome to September's Newsletter

Mean Fómhair

Dear parents and children,

We have all settled into the school routine again. The junior infants are enjoying the yard, restricted as it is, and it has helped them to settle into big school! Welcome to all of the new children that joined us this year.

Aistear in full swing!



Your support is always appreciated and most so when you support your child's learning. Please continue to take the time to listen to your child read, sign their reading log, sign their homework journal and check over the homework. Homework is an opportunity to engage with your child and you get to see first-hand if all is going well.

See reading is fun!

Mr Callaghan's class can testify to that! They are reading the 'Boy at the Back of the Classroom'.



Welcome to Ms Mc Cabe, Ms Clarke and Ms Fagan who have joined us this year. We hope they will enjoy their time at Balrothery NS.

The building project is in full swing and it is very exciting to see how quickly it is all taking shape. The contractor and in particular, the site manager is very helpful and we work within our bubbles. So far so good! Thank you for your support with this and in particular thank you to our immediate neighbours for their understanding.



Classrooms are beginning to take shape, it is very exciting.

Parents' Committee: A coffee morning was held on Friday the 29th of September for parents of our junior infants. It was a lovely way for parents to meet with each other. The committee also presented the school with a cheque for €8600. We are so grateful to the committee for all their hard work last year and to you the parents who supported their events. This money will be used to purchase more chrome books, a bank of reading books, some resources for those with additional needs and some PE equipment. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Plans are already in place for a Sponsored Spooky Walk, Design a Christmas Card and most exciting a Christmas Fair on the 3rd of December.

Dates for your diary:

- **5th October – Parents’ Committee AGM 7.30 pm all are welcome**
- **11th October – Enrolment Ceremony 5.30pm at St Peter’s and Paul’s Church for children making their First Holy Communion**
- **13th October – Maths Week**
- **18th October – Commitment Ceremony 5.30 pm at St Peter’s and Paul’s Church for children making their Confirmation**
- **27th of October – Last day of school before mid-term break. Children will take part in a Sponsored Spooky Walk all are invited to dress up that day. (No clown costumes, no masks allowed!)**
- **Parent/Teacher Meetings will take place on the 21st and 22nd of November. The schedule to book your time slot will open soon**
- **Christmas Fair 3rd of December**

Please note that the Department of Education recommend that pupils do not go on holidays during term time. We carry out our standardised tests in May each year. Pupils on holiday will not be tested. Teachers cannot facilitate extra work for holiday time. It is very easy to suddenly be at 20 days. All children who miss 20 days or more, are automatically added to the Túsla Attendance Report which is submitted twice a year.

Board of Management:

A board meeting was held on the 28th of September. The Board was updated on current staff and their class allocation for this year. There are 324 pupils attending this school. The Annual Admission Notice and the following policies were ratified by the Board – Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, Safety Statement and Risk Assessment and the School Tours/Excursion Policy. These are available to read on our website.

The current Board of Management disbands on the 30th of November, a new Board comes into effect on December 1st. So we are looking for nominations from two parents, a mother and father. The information on this has been sent to you via Aladdin and by email. The work of the Board is very interesting. It would give you an insight into how we as a school interact with outside agencies, how the school is managed. The Board makes decisions in relation to staff, policies, plans and many more areas. Your role as a parent on the Board is to share your thoughts and opinions to contribute towards making positive decisions that will affect the children in the school.

Child Protection:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in the corridor. Mrs Murphy is the DLP and Mrs Callaghan is the DDLP. The Annual Child Safeguarding Statement Review and Checklist and the Annual Review of the Anti- Bullying Policy have been completed and notification of this has been sent to Archbishop’s house, the Parents’ Committee and it is available on our school website for all parents.

School website: Remember that our school website will have up to date notices and I hope you can take the time to look at it. You can google it by searching for St Oliver Plunkett’s NS or Balrothery NS and it will pop up. You can also click [here](#).

Admission Process: Our admissions process for 2024-2025 will commence on the 6th of October. Application forms will be available on the website that day. Please let others know this is happening and that we are open for applications for junior infants and for school places up through the school for 2024.2025.

Student Council/ Yellow Flag: Elections have been carried out to choose members of the Yellow Flag/student council. This gives the children opportunities to develop their leadership skills.

Our Focus Areas 2023-2024: One of the focus area continues to be Oral Irish and we are busy promoting the language in all classes. Our aim is to get the children to appreciate the language and use it as much as they can. Each class has certain phrases that they are using. Ms O Mahony organised our first Aoine Iontach last Friday, BINGO as Gaeilge is a definite hit! We continue to work on problem solving in maths with a particular focus on the language of maths. Our whole school oral language theme has been Myself, My Friends and My Family – Mé Féin and in October we will look at Houses and Homes – Sa Bhaile. The children learned how to write a report and will continue with this in October.

This year all the schools in Ireland will begin to look at the New Primary Maths Curriculum. We are in the familiarisation phase. There will be a learning curve for all with this, as we will begin to explore maths in a variety of way e.g. in our environment, through scientific investigation and through technology. You can find out more information [here](#).

Well Being: Each Wednesday the senior classes go on a walk to the field to take part in some gentle running. The walks will also visit local areas of historical interest/nature, follow up work with the integration of art will take place.

Green Flag: The children in 5th and 6th took part in a Coastal Clean Up activity. The children investigated the types of litter found on the coast, collected some and also looked in the rock pools at the biodiversity on our doorstep. 5th/6th class, with help from senior infants, harvested some potatoes, onions and carrots.





News2Day: Ms Andrews' class featured on News2Day. Read more [here](#)

School Calendar is available on school website [here](#)

There is lots going on!

Please remember we are here to support your child and welcome any questions or concerns that you might have. You can email the office, office@balrotheryns.com and if you would like to talk with a teacher please just ask.

Thank you.

We are looking forward to a great year.

Mrs Murphy