



St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



January 2024

Éanair

Welcome to January's Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all well. Spring is in the air and we look forward to the weather getting better. The children are doing well at school enjoying the yard even though it is more restricted. The building work is moving along smoothly and we can see the shape of the new rooms now, roof work is also beginning, very exciting! Thank you for your continued support in relation to this.

Dates for your diary:

February 1st – St Bridget's Day and Grandparents and Others Day starts at 11.30 - all welcome. Thank you for the biscuits, cakes and buns. Grandparents and others will be met at the top of the hill by 6th class pupils who will escort them to their grandchild's classroom.

February 6th: Safer Internet Day and if you google Webwise [here](#) you will see lots of information for parents.

February 15th and 16th school is closed for half term.

National Parents Council are hosting online seminars on the transition from primary to post primary school [here](#) – Feb 1st and Feb 2nd. Registration in advance is needed.

Agreed BOM Report January 2024: The Child safeguarding oversight report was shared.

Wellbeing – This was discussed in light of the surveys conducted. The Student Council were a focus group and their feedback is important, this will inform some activities going forward. Staff have begun the process of analysing all the results and these will be communicated with you along with our action plan. In the short term the pupils have asked for more mindfulness so we have introduced Mindfulness Mondays. Information about the New Primary Maths Curriculum was shared. You can find more information [here](#)

The updated School Self Evaluation Report and the School Improvement Plan was shared.

This is available to read on our school website, www.balrotheryns.com [here](#)

A fundraising endeavour was agreed, it was decided that members of the Parents Committee and BOM would form a subcommittee to run this, the aim being to upgrade our

current building. In tandem with this a report will be sent to the Department of Education outlining the need for an upgrade- this is the architect's responsibility. The Parents Complaints policy and Staff Complaints Policy were ratified. The Parents Complaints Policy is on our website [here](#). The Haddington Rd hours (CPD hours for staff) was shared with the BOM.

The treasurer gave a detailed financial report. The Career Break/Job Share policy was shared with BOM in advance of our next meeting where all applications will be considered. The next BOM meeting is on the 22nd of February.

Traffic – We ask that you please do not park at the front of the school, this is for the Crèche cars only. Some cars are doing u turns at the front of the school while children are trying to cross the road. I am worried someone will get knocked down.

Our school is in existence for 75 years this year so we are gathering memories of how school was in the past, either here or elsewhere. All memories needed!

Mr Callaghan and Ms Andrews, with the help from all the staff, are busy collecting stories from the past. If you have any stories about school in the “olden days” and/or any memories of school connected with Balrothery NS please email them on to 75yearsbalrotheryns@stoliverplunketts.info. We would love old photos as well.

Read on to see what has been happening this month.

Kind regards,
Mrs Murphy

We celebrated catholic schools week with a daily theme. The overall theme was service in our community and how we might support each other and our community. We looked at how we might support our friends, our families, our pets and our environment.



Confirmation: Congratulations to 6th class who took part in the Ceremony of Light. It was a lovely evening.

Beat the Blues – The Student Council/Amber Flag/Yellow Flag committee got together and planned a Beat the Blues Day. This was held on January 26th, the children dressed up in colourful clothes, brought a teddy with them, engaged in Gaeilge – Aoine Íontach and had a treat. It lifted all our moods! The staff had pastries and tea/coffee. A lovely day for our school community.



Lego – The children continue to explore with Lego. This involves working together, planning and designing to make wonderful creations! The engineers of the future.



Mr Fahey's 6th Class visit to the Dáil, Seanad and the National Art Museum



Beautiful day in Merrion Square.



Learning all about the Seanad.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. It is available on our website www.balrotheryngs.com. The website has current information on it. There is a rolling banner with notices that has reminders about events coming up. This is the best way to check what is happening at school.