



# St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



## February 2024



## Feabhra

### Welcome to February's Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all well. Spring is in the air and we are hopeful that the weather will improve. Many thanks for your continued support with the building works and with school life in general. It is much appreciated.

The BOM met on the 22nd of February. The Child Safeguarding Oversight report, the Attendance, Anti- Bullying updates and Principal's report were shared. The Board approved the launch of a Facebook/Instagram page with an IDonate link to start a fundraising campaign to raise funds to upgrade the existing building. More detail to follow. All leave applications were approved. The accounts are ready to be shared with the accountant, the annual audit/ Financial Statement will be submitted to Archbishop's house. The following policies were ratified – Social Media Policy, Custody and Separation Policy and Fundraising from the Public Policy. These are available on our school website.

#### Dates for your Diary:

Engineer's Week – 1<sup>st</sup> March – 8<sup>th</sup> of March. We are asking you to support your child with a project, the Big Idea. Children can design anything that reflects their Big Idea. E.g., design something for our new school or design something that might help our environment or help a person with additional needs. The list is endless! All Big Ideas welcomed. This should be submitted by March 7<sup>th</sup>. Photos can be sent to

[engineersweek2024@stoliverplunketts.info](mailto:engineersweek2024@stoliverplunketts.info). Alternatively, children can bring in their project to display in the school. Projects can be done individually or as a group. All submissions receive a night off homework voucher, 3 cash prizes for the junior end and senior end, class prize of a movie afternoon or a PE afternoon for the class with the most Big Ideas!

Seachtain na Gaeilge is also coming up, starting for us on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Wear green on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> March. (Lá glas)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of March – sponsored walk around the village with easter eggs hunt.

Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March – school will close at 12 for infants and siblings and 12.30 for all others. School reopens after the Easter holidays on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April.

I would ask that children are only collected early in exceptional circumstance e.g. an appointment that cannot be facilitated outside of school hours which of course can happen.

If children must leave early an email to the school office [office@balrotheryins.com](mailto:office@balrotheryins.com) needs to be sent in advance so that the children can be ready for collection. Leaving early is for exceptional circumstances that cannot be avoided. Thank you.

Read on to see what we have been doing this month.

Mrs Murphy

Our focus areas continue to be the New Primary Maths Curriculum – maths talk. As a parent you can ask your child how they worked a maths problem/sum out, this will encourage maths talk. If you are doing the shopping with them, ask which item is better value and why?

We are promoting spoken Irish and making an effort to use it as much as we can. Aoine Iontach is a great success, bingo as Gaeilge goes down very well.

Our Oral Language theme is hobbies/caitheamh aimsire and our writing genre is poetry. We continue to work hard on our presentation and cursive handwriting. Mindfulness Monday has been included as pupils had asked for more mindfulness.

Many thanks to all who came to the Quiz on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, there was a great turnout and great fun. Thank you to the Parents' Committee for all their hard work. They raised over €3000, thank you all for your generosity.

### Good News:

The building is moving along smoothly, there is a roof on some of the rooms so you can really see it taking shape now.



Watch this space, we are about to launch a Facebook page along with an IDonate link. Our fundraising campaign of sponsor a brick €100, is to raise funds to upgrade the existing building as best we can so that both sides both new and old look similar. Your name could be displayed on the foyer of the new building for ever more! More detail to follow.

Safer Internet Day was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

Here is some great art work to share messages about safe internet use. Social Media is a useful tool but we know that it can cause problems. Keep an eye on those phones!



We celebrated St Bridget's Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.



We celebrated Catholic Schools' Week with the theme serving our community. The children had a daily activity and a prayer assembly was held. We also hosted Grandparents' Day which was very enjoyable. Fr John McNamara took the time to visit us on Ash Wednesday and blessed all the staff and children with ashes.



Chinese New Year – the year of the dragon.

The children dressed up in red and one class received some lucky chocolates. Yummy!





Each year we have a focus on Friendships during Friendship Week. The Stay Safe programme, anti-bullying lessons/discussions and lessons on positive friendships and how to be a good friend are carried out all through the year with a particular focus during Friendship Week.

The Parents' Committee served the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> with hot chocolate /tea and supplied breakfast goodies for the whole school. It was a lovely morning and something we hope the children remember.



Some lovely art and good/kind friendship awards:



We had an assembly and sang together – one school one voice, some of the 6<sup>th</sup> class volunteered to play the ukulele.



**Green Flag Committee:** Ms O' Mahony and her class took part in the Active Travel Consultation which took place in the Heritage Centre. They had the opportunity to share what they felt the village needed.



6<sup>th</sup> class, Mr Fahey's and Ms O Mahony's are busy and have presented their projects for JEP to some scary dragons! Well done to all groups who showed great creativity and presented their projects using powerpoint presentations and posters. Very professional.



**Well Being:** Cross Country season is upon us. 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> have been taking part in early morning training at the field. We have had up to 57 children there at 8.30 on a Tuesday and Thursday. Their first race was in Donabate and all enjoyed it. If for any reason this training has to be cancelled you will receive a message via Aladdin that morning.

Ms Duffy's and Ms Andrews' classes are taking part in an Explorer Education Workshop. They are looking at creatures in the ocean. Ms Duffy's class were very excited when they got to dissect a squid.





Mr Fahey's class visited the Dáil and the Senad.



What a great photo!

So it was certainly a busy but enjoyable month.