



St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



April/May 2024



Welcome to our Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all well. Thankfully we have finally seen a change in the weather. The children are doing well at school enjoying the yard and learning lots of new things. We have had an exciting and busy month.

Standardised tests in Literacy, Spelling and Numeracy will take place as usual in May. The Department of Education advises that children should not miss school to go on holiday.

Please continue to come to school on time, the gate opens at 9.10 and school starts at 9.20. If your child needs to leave early for an appointment please email the school well in advance. We seem to have a lot of children leaving early so please remember that learning takes place all the way to 3pm, your child may miss out, so unless it is an appointment we ask that children are present every day for the full day.

As a school we continue to familiarise ourselves and the pupils with the New Primary Maths Curriculum.

Our whole school themes for May will be ag siopadóireacht (shopping), People who Help Us.

Our writing genre is explanation writing.

Mindfulness Mondays to support the Wellbeing of our pupils is in place.

We ask that you continue to monitor the homework and listen to your child read. This will support their learning across the board.

The school extension is flying along, the windows are nearly all in so internal work will commence.

Our fundraising activities continue with the wonderful energy of our Parents' Committee who are behind the drive for funds to upgrade our existing school building. The Music Bingo night was a success so thank you to all who supported on the night and to those that supported via Aladdin. It is really appreciated.

Here is a QR code if you would like to donate to the upgrade of our existing building.



To generate funds, we are inviting people to “Buy a Brick”. Everyone can now literally be a part of our school and our history by purchasing a brick! A brick will be engraved with the persons or name of their family or business. These bricks will be displayed on a wall inside the extension for all to see. The cost of an engraved brick is €100. We realise that everyone will not be in a position to purchase a brick, please note that we will gratefully accept any donation. A receipt via email will be issued to all supporters. [Here](#) is a link to our video – some great photos are part of it! Thank you

Thank you to Minister Darragh O'Brien who visited our school on Friday the 12th of April. It was a memorable moment in the history of Balrothery NS. He has supported our endeavours for a very long time and indeed has advocated for us with Norma Foley on our behalf. We appreciate all his interest and efforts. The children did us proud with the choir singing beautifully, the wonderful poems written by many children in the school and indeed the pictures drawn to illustrate their hopes and dreams for our new building – swimming pools, slides and playgrounds were high on their agenda! To read some of the wonderful poetry please click [here](#)



So what else will be happening and what has happened.....

Dates for your diary: Link to our School Calendar [here](#)

School is closed from Monday the 6th of May to Friday the 10th of May

First Holy Communion is on the 25th of May

School is closed on the 31st of May – vacation day

Sports Day – 7th of June in the Man O War GAA Club

New Junior Infant Induction Day – 11th June – Ms O'Neill's, Ms Gleeson's and Ms Maguire's classes go home at 12 o'clock that day.

Graduation 6th class is on the 21st of June at 7pm

Cross Country Season

The cross country season came to an end on the 24th of April with over 40 pupils taking part from Balrothery NS. Early morning training with Mr Callaghan, Ms O'Mahony, Ms

Duffy and Mrs Murphy really paid off. Well done to all. Our next athletics outing will be on the track.

Confirmation took place on the 18th of April. It was fabulous occasion, thank you to the Parish team and in particular Fr. Donal who celebrated the ceremony with us. The choir were great under the directorship of Mrs Callaghan, this made the occasion even more special.



Our choir in action



First Confession took place in the school hall on the 19th of April. The pupils said their prayers and sang their songs with lots of gusto! Thank you to Ms Folan, Ms Clarke and

Joyce for preparing the pupils so well. Thank you to Fr John and Fr Tony who celebrated the ceremony for us.



Spelling Bee- we have our very own spelling whizz kid. One of our 6th class pupils represented our school at the Spelling Bee Competition. There were 40 children involved. Some of the words were very difficult.



Balrothery NS 75 Years -We continue to ask for old photos or stories to be emailed to 75yearsbalrotheryns@stoliverpunkletts.info. We are gathering lots of good information to add to our book. Our facebook page has other photos with lots of memories, it might be worth look at!

Our facebook page Oliver Plunkett's Primary School -

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557551471267>

We held a special coffee morning this month where retired teachers and principals and neighbours came and shared their stories.

Lots of stories were shared by these two ladies – Cora and Joy.



Tidy Towns and Balrothery NS working together planting our lovely planters at the front of the school.



The finished product!



Using our local amenities:

Ms Andrews' class visit the local mobile library every Tuesday. The mobile library visits each Tuesday and is there from 2 until 3.



GAA girls -

Well done to the girls' GAA team who made it to the semi-finals of Cumann na mBunscoil. They tried their best on the day, worked well as a team but it simply wasn't their day.

Well done to the Boys' Gaa as well, their season was short but definitely sweet! They all enjoyed it. Big thank you to all their coaches.

Ms O ' Neill, Ms Clarke, M O' Mahony, Mr Fahey and Ms O Neill.



Thank you to all the staff for all they have done thus far this year.

Thank you to the parents and wider community who continue to support us.

Have a lovely week off.

Kind regards,

Mrs Murphy