



# Balrothery NS Newsletter

## January/ February 2023



Dear Parents and Students,

I hope everyone is keeping well and that we are all looking forward to brighter days ahead now that spring has sprung. It has been a very busy time in school since the turn of the new year. The children have been busy learning and we had a lovely time celebrating Friendship Week during the month of February.

We have had a couple of changes to our staffing since our last newsletter. Congratulations to Deborah on the birth of her baby son. Shauna Orange is covering her maternity. Mr Hall has left us for pastures new and is enjoying life on Inishturk Island. Lisa Prout has replaced Mr Hall for the remainder of the school year and we are delighted to welcome both Lisa and Shauna to our staff.

**We are looking for donations of Lego. If you have any Lego at home that you are no longer using and would like to donate, we would be extremely grateful. Please drop it in to the school or contact the school.**

Read on to find out more about what has been happening in the school over the past couple of months and what to expect in the days ahead.

- **Dates for your diary:**

- Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>- Parent's Committee Table Quiz in the Balrothery Inn starting at 9.15pm.

- Monday March 6<sup>th</sup>- Staff training for the New Primary Language Curriculum. Infants and their siblings will go home at 12.10pm and the remainder of the school will go home at 12.30pm.
- March 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>- Engineers Week. All children will complete a STEAM project and we will have some guest speakers visiting the school.
- March 9<sup>th</sup>- we will have our first Cross Country race of the year in Newbridge House in Donabate for children from 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> class.
- March 13<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup>- Seachtain na Gaeilge. We have a variety of events planned for the week, culminating with our concert in the hall on Thursday.
  - March 17<sup>th</sup>- the school will be closed for St. Patrick's Day
  - March 31<sup>st</sup>- the school will close for a half day for our Easter holidays

# News and Events

## Catholic Schools Week and Grandparent's Day

We had a great week celebrating Catholic Schools Week with the highlight being the return of Grandparent's Day. It was lovely to welcome all the grandparents back into the school. The children loved hearing stories from days gone by and the grandparents all enjoyed a well-deserved cup of tea in the hall afterwards.



The children in Ms Hernon and Ms Maguire's 2<sup>nd</sup> class celebrated their First Confession in the Church on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This was a lovely celebration and the children really enjoyed singing their songs and making their First Confession. Well done to all involved. The Communion will take place on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Parent-Teacher Meetings took place in early February. It was great to welcome parents back into the school and have a face-to-face chat.

Mr Grant's class continue to take part in Tech We Can lessons. These are provided by KPMG and give the children a great insight into the role technology plays in our life and the potential job opportunities that exist in this field.

Mr Fahey and Mr Grant's class have been busy working on their JEP project. JEP (Junior Entrepreneur Project) is a wonderful opportunity for the children to work on a business idea. Mr Fahey's class presented their ideas to the Dragons and the project that was chosen was 'Family Tiles'. Watch this space for more information!



The children were busy learning all about the story of St. Brigid and her cloak. Some classes also spent an afternoon making St. Brigid's Day crosses-check out the pictures!



GAA training has begun for both boys and girls. This takes place after school on a Wednesday with Mr Fahey, Ms O'Mahony, Ms O'Neill and Ms Hernon. Matches will begin this month.

The school soccer league is now complete. Well done to both the boys and girls team on another successful season. We also have the Spar 5-a-side competition to look forward to.

The children in Ms. Duffy's class have been busy with their Discovery lessons as well as planting sunflowers. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour as we move into the summer months.



Well done to the children in 4th class who organised a bake sale on Sunday 10th February to raise money for their lunch time club with Ms. Calnan. The children showed amazing initiative as they organised the whole event outside of school, baking delicious treats. They were delighted with the money raised and now they can purchase some resources, games & materials to benefit their lunchtime club. Thank you to all the parents who helped & encouraged the children.



The children in 1<sup>st</sup> class have been busy carrying out Science experiments and exploring both standard and non-standard units of measurements in Maths.



As part of Safer Internet Day on 7th February 2023, the children from 3rd-6th class engaged in interactive workshops exploring Internet Safety with cybersafekids.ie. Each session was targeted at the 4 different age groups and focused on equipping the children with core digital literacy skills including navigating social media, messaging apps, gaming, how to protect personal data and their digital footprint, healthy balance, online reputation and cyberbullying. The children enjoyed this important learning.



We had a great week celebrating Friendship week. The children really enjoyed all the activities that were organised by the Amber Flag Team led by Ms Maguire. The highlight was the Breakfast Morning which took place on the Friday. Thanks to the Parent's Committee for providing breakfast for all the children in the school. Wacky Wednesday was another highlight of the week-again well done and thank you to all involved.

The children in 6<sup>th</sup> class had a busy month preparing for and then completing their entrance exams for their new school for next year. This is an exciting time for the children.

Over the past month, we have been working with CyberSafeKids.ie to assess our school's approach to online safety. Members of our school management, teachers and students from 3rd -6th class engaged in an online assessment to see where our school stands on our online safety journey, which is measured against best practice.

There are 3 levels of award for schools depending on the results of the assessment: CyberAware, CyberSmart and CyberChampion. We are very pleased that our school received 'CyberSmart' status

We had great fun in the school celebrating Pancake Tuesday. Check out the pictures below of our future chefs!



Well done to the children in 4th class who organised a bake sale on Sunday 10th February to raise money for their lunch time club with Ms. Calnan. The children showed amazing initiative as they organised the whole event outside of school, baking delicious treats. They were delighted with the money raised and now they can purchase some resources, games & materials to benefit their lunchtime club. Thank you to all the parents who helped & encouraged the children.



Assembly takes place in the hall on every second Friday. We focus on a particular theme and the children receive awards including 'Student of the Week' and 'Gaeilgoir don Seachtaine'. Check out our prize winners below.



The children in 6<sup>th</sup> class celebrated their Ceremony of Commitment. This was a lovely ceremony and the children are now looking forward to their Confirmation which will take place on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The children from Mr Grant's and Ms O'Mahony's class continue to rehearse for the National Children's Choir. It is wonderful to hear such lovely singing in the school. Thanks to Ms. Duffy, Mrs Callaghan and Ms Farrell for all their hard work throughout the year with the choir.

We have been doing great work this year working on our Gaeilge and the children are really enjoying our Aoine Íontach. We had great fun playing Bingo with the whole school last Friday. Our theme was Bia. The children have also been working hard on Raidió na Ridire and have been busy delivering a weather report as Gaeilge every day.