



Balrothery NS Newsletter

April/ May 2023



Dear Parents and Students,

I hope everyone is keeping well and enjoying the wonderful weather we are currently experiencing. We have had an extremely busy last couple of months and we are all looking forward to more busy and exciting times ahead during the last few weeks of the school year.

Well done to all the children on completing their Standardised Tests. This can be a difficult time for some students but the children all worked really hard and completed the tests to the best of their ability.

We have made a decision to end written homework for the month of June. Children may still have learning, phonics, reading etc. but there will be no more written homework. Homework Club is over for the year and will return in September.

The children are all looking forward to their School Tours which will take place throughout the month and to Sports Day, which will take place on Friday, June 16th.

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:

May 31st and June 1st- Infant Induction

June 2nd- The school will be closed for a vacation day

June 5th- The school will be closed for the June Bank Holiday

June 12th- 16th - Active Week

June 16th- Sports Day

June 22nd- 6th class graduation

News and Events

Confirmation

The 6th class children had their Confirmation Day on Thursday 18th May. It was a wonderful day for all and a huge thanks to Mr Fahey, Mr Grant, Suzanne and Karen for all their hard work in preparing the children for this special occasion.

Intercultural/ Arts Week

Drummer Dave

Our Intercultural Week started with a fantastic day of drumming with Drummer Dave. Every class came to the hall for a 45 minute drumming session. We learned how to keep a rhythm and also learned about where the drums came from, what they are made from etc. This was certainly a fun day for all.



Other activities

We had lots of other activities throughout the week including our annual Intercultural Parade. Each class wore the colours of the country they were studying and displayed the art work they were working on.

The children from Ms Andrews class and Ms Duffy's class went to Dublin to visit the Chester Beatty Gallery and the National Gallery. The other classes in the school had virtual gallery tours online. Thanks to Ms Patterson for organising this wonderful opportunity for all the children.

Intercultural Day

Intercultural Week culminated once again in our Intercultural Day. This was a fantastic event and it was great to see so many parents, grandparents, siblings etc visit our school and see all the wonderful work that each class has completed. We were also delighted to welcome a group of dancers from Loreto Balbriggan to the school to perform.



UCD Athletics

We travelled to UCD for the Cumann na mBunscoil athletics on Wednesday 24th May. We had over 30 children competing across a number of events and we were delighted to see the boys U-12 relay team take home the gold medal. This is the first time in over 10 years we have won a cup at this level-well done to all involved. Andrew Ursu also came 3rd in the U14 boys long jump-well done Andrew.



Ms Folan's Class

Ms Folan's class have been partaking in many outdoor activities and they even had a Teddy Bear's Picnic. They also had outdoor Maths and literacy lessons too. It is great to see our beautiful grounds being used as outdoor classrooms.

Green Flag

We received yet another Green Flag for our school this year. The theme for this year's flag was Global Citizenship Travel. A huge amount of work goes into achieving this flag each year. Well done to Ms O'Mahony, Suzanne, Tommy and all the Green Flag Committee for their continued hard work throughout the year.



Local History Week

We had a wonderful Local History Week this year. The children really enjoyed the local history walk around Balrothery and the children from 3rd to 6th class also learned all about the history of Balbriggan during their history walk around the town. Thanks to Mr Caffrey for all his work in organising an enjoyable and educational week for all.

National Children's Choir

The children from Mr Grant's and Ms O'Mahony's class took part in the National Children's Choir this year. There was much practising throughout the year and it was brilliant to hear lovely singing echoing through the school. The choir then performed in the Regional Final in Ardee. This was a fantastic evening for all involved. Following that six of the girls were picked to go and represent our school in the National Concert Hall. Huge thanks to Ms Callaghan, Ms Duffy, Ms O'Mahony and Mr Grant for all their hard work throughout the year.



JEP

Mr Grant and Mr Fahey's class are busy putting the final touches to their JEP projects and we can't wait to see the final product which will be available to buy very soon. Mr Fahey's class are currently taking orders for their 'Famtastic Frames', while Mr Grant's Summer Fun Bags are in the final stages of production

.Amber Flag

We received our second Amber Flag earlier this month and once again this is something that fills us with immense pride. Ms Maguire and the Amber Flag Committee have worked tirelessly throughout the year and have ensured that well-being is at the heart of all we do here in Balrothery NS.

GAA

The girls and boys GAA seasons came to an end this month. Both teams played to the best of their ability throughout the year and all the children really enjoyed representing their school throughout the season. Well done to all involved.



Ocean Explorers Projects

Ms Duffy's class have been busy working on the Ocean Explorers Project and they went to Balbriggan Library to showcase the work they have done throughout the year. They also took part in a Beach Cleanup-well done to all involved.

First Holy Communion

The children in Ms Hernon's and Ms Maguire's classes had their First Holy Communion ceremony at the end of April. The children all looked splendid in their outfits and we had a great party back in the school following the ceremony,

Cross-Country

Our cross-country season came to an end with the Fingal League final which took place in ALSAA at the end of April. The children all ran their hearts' out and we look forward to taking part in the league again next year.

Irish Wheelchair Association

We had a number of visitors from the Irish Wheelchair Association come to our school on May 26th. Conor, Isabelle and Stephen spoke to the children from 5th and 6th class about the work the Irish Wheelchair Association carry out and the difference this work has made to their lives. We raised over €530 for the association on the day-huge thanks and well done to all.



Lego

We recently used money raised through the Parent's Committee to purchase Lego STEM sets for all the classes from Junior Infants to 6th class. These Lego packs have proved very popular with the students and provide a great opportunity for the children to learn important science and technology skills. Huge thanks to Ms Andrews for all her hard work in sourcing and organising this fantastic resource. We also had a wonderful Lego display in the school. Taragh O'Connor who is a member of our Parents Association brought a huge array of Lego to the school for the children to play with. It was a great opportunity for the children to see the amazing things that can be done with Lego.



Thank you for reading,

Mr Callaghan and all the staff at Balrothery NS