



September 2020

Dear parents and children,

We have all settled into the new school routine again and we have been blessed with good weather. The children have adapted well to the new norm. They have been great at washing their hands, using the hand sanitiser, staying in their pods, staying in their class bubble and staying in their designated play area. You can see that this is a lot to put on young shoulders but you should be very proud of the children as they have helped us a lot. It is terrific to be back at school and great to see the children playing on the yard.

The staff is delighted to be back as well and even though the teaching time is shortened due to the new routines they have shown great creativity and ingenuity in engaging with the children supporting the transition back to school.

We are doing our best to keep everyone safe and to keep the school covid free. Your support has been great as regards keeping your children at home if they are sick and your prompt collection of children if we have called you. It is much appreciated. Please continue to support us by keeping your child at home if they have a new cough, a change in their sense of taste/smell, a temperature or a fever. I am attaching advice for parents from the HSE also.

If you need to collect a child early, drop in forgotten lunch or books you can still do so. Please e-mail your child's teacher or the office to let us know, then come to the front door and press the buzzer. Your child will be brought down to you or Muriel will deliver for you.

I hope your child is happy to be back at school with their friends and teacher.

Important: There is a new Admissions Policy on our school website. The process by which a person applies for a place at the school has changed. If you are talking to anyone please let them know. They can download the application form from our website and post the form to school. The applications are open from Friday the 2nd of October until the 30th of October. Applications received after that date are deemed to be late applications. Please spread the word.

Thank you.

Ms Murphy

Parents' Association



socially distanced!

A big thank you to the Parents' Association who have supported the school all through lockdown and now again at the beginning of the school year. They held their AGM via Zoom. I am delighted to receive a cheque on behalf of Balrothery NS for €3350 that we will use towards the purchase of laptops for the children. We are aiming to build on our ICT skills bringing what we all have learned during lockdown a step further. It was lovely to see some of our new parents on Zoom and I would encourage all to join or volunteer at some stage. The Parents' Association is planning the Christmas Cards fund raiser and a sponsored Halloween dress up walk. Sponsorship cards will be sent home soon, please note there is no expectation on children to go knocking on doors for sponsorship. It is only within the family and again there is no pressure to produce lots of money. The children will go for a walk in their Halloween costumes and the Parents' Association will have a treat for the children. It is our version of trick or treat !

A further photo will follow with devices once purchased.

The Sack of Balbriggan: The 100 year commemoration is taking place this year. Two local men were shot on the 20th of September 1920 by the Black and Tans. It is part of our local history and Ms Andrews' class did a historical walk around the town learning about this event and about the history of Balbriggan.



Curriculum:

We are concentrating on the well-being of the children this term. This has been identified as a priority for us. Children are having free play, mindfulness, PE, art and music all to create a relaxed learning environment for all. All curriculum areas are being addressed but at a slower pace due to hand washing routines, staggered breaks and outdoor learning experiences.

Marathon kids: Mr Callaghan has registered the school for this. This will commence shortly.

Tommy has been working hard on our outdoor space which is amazing and always admired by visitors. This natural environment is so good for the students and encourages us all to look after our wildlife and to appreciate the beauty and calmness of green space. To support social distancing, we have feet on the yard for lining up time, there is great fun with these!

Thank you to Tommy.



Ms Mc Kiernan's art work.



Ms Kiernan;s making schools at Aistear. Tá mé ar scoil.

6th class nature scavenger hunt. 6th class went up to the local park and investigated flora and fauna living in our locality.



Acceptable Use Policy

This has been ratified by the BOM. Please take the time to read it on our school website. Some teachers may invite your child to bring in a device as we are aiming to continue to build on the ICT skills we all learned during lockdown. **Mobile phones are not allowed. Please wait for teacher to invite your child to bring it in. Please note not all teachers will offer this. We are dipping our toe in the water!**

Homework policy: We are reviewing our homework policy at the moment and a link to a survey was sent to each family. Please check your notices/e-mails for this link. Thank you.

Music lessons with Kevin are commencing for Mr Callaghan's class for 6 weeks. The children will learn how to play the ukulele.

Parking

Please remember to park away from the school. Please do not block driveways. The staggered starts and finishing times have improved the situation but on wet days it descends into chaos again. I ask that you park away from the school on wet days, the children will be fine. It is much safer for them to meet you away from the school gate.

Finally dates for your diary:

Jersey/wear your own clothes day Friday the 9th of October for Goal. (€1/€2 to be donated online)

Friday the 23rd October Halloween sponsored dress up walk. Cash can be given to the school for this one.