



# St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



## November



## Samhain

### Welcome to November's Newsletter

Dear parents and children,

This has been another busy month for the pupils at Balrothery NS. We were so excited to have Mairéad McGuinness MEP visit our school on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. She spoke to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes and showed great patience and a genuine interest in the pupils' questions and opinions. It was an honour to have her visit our school. Mrs Kennedy and her class, as part of the Bluestar programme, organised this visit.

We held our Remembrance ceremony on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. The choir sang beautifully. Thank you to everyone who contributed from the readers to the choir to the tin whistle players.

We have had a creative month. As you know we are a creative school meaning we receive funding to support the Arts in the school. Read on to see what the pupils have taken part in this month.

Science Week was an exciting week with STEM projects in class and science workshops from outside companies.

The student council under the direction of Mr Callaghan and Ms Kiernan organised a Show Racism the Red Card day. We all dressed in red, ran around the village to highlight to all that we don't engage in racism. Pupils came up with creative slogans and made banners.

Parent-teacher meetings will take place today Wednesday and tomorrow Thursday. I hope you found the Aladdin Connect App useful for making your appointments. It seemed to work well from our end. We decided to hold the meetings earlier in the year so if there are any issues that need to be addressed there is time to do so.

The new Board of Management has been appointed and officially begin their role on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Our next Board of Management meeting is the 20<sup>th</sup> of January. A report from the Board of Management was e-mailed to all families this month.

Thank you to the Parents' Association and to yourselves for supporting the quiz night. €700 was raised on the night. The next big event is the Christmas Fair which is this coming Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of December from 2pm to 4.30pm. Santa will visit. Children can buy Christmas presents for their parents, there will be an art and craft room and a second -hand toy room. The hall will be in full festive spirit with the choir singing and goodies and hot drinks to enjoy. We are still collecting toys and goodies.

Ms Áine Flannery joins our staff from Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December to teach Ms Markham's infant class. She will be their teacher until the last week in June. Ms Flannery is a fully qualified teacher with experience. Thank you to Ms Collins who has taught the class this month, we wish her all the best as she joins Balscadden NS to take on a learning support role.

**What's next? Dates for your diaries:**

Parent/teacher meetings Wed 27<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> of November. Children from first class to sixth class will go home at 2.45pm.

Christmas Fair: Sunday 2-4.30pm December 1<sup>st</sup>

School closed: Monday December the 2<sup>nd</sup>- in-service training for staff on the New Primary Language Curriculum.

Christmas Plays dates and times: **Wed 11<sup>th</sup>** Ms Kiernan 10am, Mr Callaghan 11.30, **Friday 13<sup>th</sup>: Mrs Kennedy 10am, Ms O Mahony 12 noon, Ms Gleeson 1.30pm**

School closes on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of December for Christmas holidays. Infants and their siblings go home at 12. Infants and siblings must be collected at the classroom door by an adult (that is someone 18 or above), all others at 12.30.

Thank you

Mrs Murphy



Some of the pupils sharing their project work with

Mairéad McGuinness. Ms O' Mahony's class had studied European countries, Mrs Kennedy's had made buildings.

Creative School



6<sup>th</sup> class learning to play the Ukulele. The aim is to have a Christmas Song

ready for our school carol service.

Mr Callaghan's class taking part in an expressive dance class with Monica, an experienced dancer who has danced in Germany and Spain. Mrs Patterson is working towards the development of a sensory path which will promote expressive movement for all.



All classes took part in Science Week. This year we focused on STEM. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and maths. Classes under teachers' directions posed a scientific question, then using their skills in technology, engineering and maths set about illustrating their findings. Well done to everyone, the science exhibition was brilliant.



Friction and materials. Below pupils using a motor and electricity



to investigate colours. What happens when the colours of the rainbow spin?

## STEM Projects



Any Koala bear would be delighted to live in these enclosures!



Try and design a box that will allow you to drop an egg without cracking!



Senior infants learned that plants need water, soil and sunlight to grow. They investigated

chemical reactions using food colouring and washing up liquid and a cotton bud. Try it at home and see what happens?

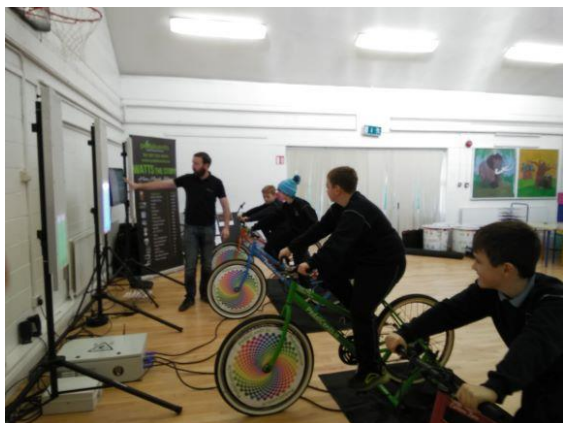
Infant classes took part in Brickz 4 Kidz workshop. Using lego they made rockets



Some senior classes made unique pieces of art using energy created by cycling, spinning drums and paint.



Some learned how much energy was needed to power the everyday electric utensils in our homes making the pupils aware that energy is made by burning fossil fuels or by renewable energy but that it takes work to make it!



Show racism the red card:

Enjoying the run around the village.



Bhí sé ag cur báistí but that didn't deter us!



Slogans were designed by the children to teach us it is important that we consider our language around other ethnic groups.



**Sport:**

**Marathon kids 2019:** The pupils went to Santry to take part in the Marathon kids. A great day was had by all .

**Curriculum :**

**Next month's theme is :** Oral Language: Océidí Speisialta ( special occasions) , Christmas and toys

**Writing genre:** Persuasive writing e.g. advertisements, debates

**Cursive handwriting** is our focus also along with presentation skills.

**Numeracy:** Problem solving. You can support your child with this by downloading an app called Brilliant. It has puzzles to solve developing critical thinking skills. The skills needed for the future!

**Congratulations we collected 258 shoeboxes this year. Barbara Dolan kindly organises this each year. Thank you for your generosity.**

**See you at the Christmas Fair.**

