



St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



October



Mean Fómhair

Welcome to October's Newsletter

Dear parents and children,

It is hard to believe that we will be on half term next week.

It has been a great beginning to the school year. The children have focused on problem solving in maths, tables, mathematical language, the new primary language curriculum, Jazz and song singing, handwriting and speech marks in their reading fluency. Great work being done by teachers and pupils. This year parent/teacher meetings will take place on the 27th and 28th of November. We will use the Aladdin Connect for the scheduling of meetings this year. The invitation to book your time slot will be sent to you via Aladdin Connect. This is our first time to use this application so I expect teething problems. Please contact the office if you do not have the App **after half term**. A time can be allocated through the office if you do not have the app. I am hoping to send out the invitation during half-term. It will be released to larger families first. Appointments with learning support teachers will be made by learning support teachers on an individual basis once class teacher times are complete. Morning slots will be added **after** half term as not all teachers are available in the mornings. Hopefully it will make the scheduling easier. Some classes will be doing Christmas Plays this year in the school hall. Parents can come and watch these plays and you will receive notification of the day and time after the Halloween break. We will host a carol service for the children only at school not in the church this year. Please note not all classes will do plays. This is very much at the discretion of the class teacher. Don't worry there will be plenty of Christmas activities for all the children.

Thank you to Matt Sheeran, outgoing father rep for the Board of Management for his hard work and dedication. Leo Matteo joins the Board and Aisling Hamilton will continue her good work on the Board. The rest of the Board members will be announced on the 19th of November once the community reps have been proposed and once the teacher rep election has taken place.

The Parents' Association held their AGM and this was well supported. It is great to see some new parents joining the association and it is much appreciated.

What's next? Dates for your diaries:

Quiz Night Balrothery Inn: Friday 8th of November at 8pm €25 a table

Parent/teacher meetings 27th and 28th of November. Invitation to schedule through Aladdin App next week.

Christmas Fair: Sunday December 1st

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

School reopens on Monday the 4th of November. Have a great Halloween and I hope everyone has a good rest.

Mrs Murphy

Maths week 2019

The children took part in maths trails and other maths activities throughout the week.



Making 3D shapes out of something tasty!



As part of maths week pupils took part in a chess 'quick game' competition. It was great fun. Congratulations to the last three pupils who made it through to the final after many games.



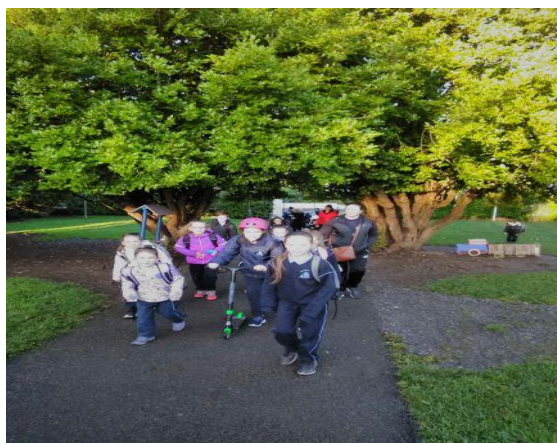
Chess lessons will commence for Ms O Mahony's and Mr Caffrey's class

after the mid-term break.

Climate action week

Well done to everyone. It was a great week with the pupils really making efforts to walk, cycle or scooter to school. Teachers created an awareness around ways in which we can make a difference. Thank you for not using tin foil or plastic for the week. Our bare food week was a great success. Hopefully this is the start of a small change in all of us to make a choice that

can make a difference. The winning class for walking, cycling and scootering to school was Ms Kiernan's class.



Mrs Kennedy's class is taking part in the Blue Star Programme.

The pupils worked together to produce some great landmark buildings. Each group presented their work to some classes. The Blue Star programme is a programme designed to educate children about Europe and to develop an understanding of politics.

Well done everyone.



Discovery Group learning how to bake:



Another group using ipads to research a project. We are working on integrating ICT into the curriculum.



The Christmas Card Fundraiser: The children enjoyed designing their own Christmas Cards and these have been sent on to the company who will produce the cards ready for sale in plenty of time for Christmas. Again thank you for supporting this.

Sport:

Marathon kids and Run a mile continue with the children getting fitter day by day. Great runs at the Cross Country on Thursday with Cathal Stonebank having a fantastic race to finish 6th. Isabel Butler had a strong race and came in third with Caoileann Coone close on her heels. Well done to all who participated.

Curriculum :

Next month's theme is : An Teilfís and The Environment : Oral Language themes

We will focus on the genre of narrative (story writing)

Our music focus genre is electronic dance and we are beginning to look at music literacy e.g. learning the names of music notes. Mr Callaghan's, Mr Hall's and Ms Byrne's classes will begin Ukulele lessons. Ms Kiernan's class have begun the recorder. At the last two assemblies each class performed their song and today the roof was lifted with 'We will rock you'!

Creative Arts: We are a creative arts school and the area that the children have chosen is dance. Plans are for some dance workshops in November.

Halloween

The children enjoyed dressing up for Halloween, the Parents' Committee are very appreciative of your contributions, it all helps to fund those extras for the children.

Thank you for supporting the pumpkin fundraiser.



