



St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



September



Welcome to September's Newsletter

Dear parents and children,

We have all settled into the school routine again. The junior infants are enjoying the yard and this has helped them to settle into big school! Welcome to all of the new children that joined us this year.

We have been lucky with the lovely weather and this has helped us all to get back into school mode.

Your support is always appreciated and most so when you support your child's learning. Please continue to take the time to listen to your child read, sign their reading log, sign their homework journal and check over the homework. Homework is an opportunity to engage with your child and you get to see first hand if all is going well.

The Department of Education recommend that pupils do not go on holidays during term time. We carry out our standardised tests in May each year. Pupils on holiday will not be tested. Teachers cannot facilitate extra work for holiday time.

The 6th class are starting out on their last leg of their primary school days. Presidential elections have taken place, appointments to the Student Council/Yellow Flag Committee and this week the Green Schools Committee and the Sports Squad will be put in place. This gives the children opportunities to develop their leadership skills.

Dance has started for the pupils in infants up to 3rd class. This class takes place once a week and we ask for a contribution of €12 for this. This payment covers two terms of dance. (A request will be sent.)

We are hoping to have some support in the teaching of gymnastics this year. I will let you know if this happens.

One of our focus areas is music and this year we are delighted and excited to announce that we have organised for three classes to learn the Ukulele. Ms McCrudden is leading this project and this will commence after the Halloween break. Ms Byrne's, Mr Callaghan's and Mr Hall's classes will take part and if all goes well we would love to extend this to other classes. A big thank you to an anonymous donor who has donated €1000 euros towards the purchase of 40 Ukuleles. This is such a generous donation and has allowed us to commence this music project. Thank you.

All Boards of Management are due to be renewed this year. With this in mind there will be a meeting on the 14th of October at 8 pm to elect two parent reps to the Board. A father and mother rep are nominated at this meeting, then seconded at the meeting. If there is more than one person nominated there is a ballot at the meeting. If anyone has any questions around this please do not hesitate to contact me.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in the school porch. Mrs Murphy is the DLP and Mrs Callaghan is the DDLP.

Looking forward to a great year.

Mrs Murphy

Parents' Association: A big thank you to the parents' association for all their hard work. They will donate on your behalf €4800 this year, they have already given €1000 before the holidays for a new set of jerseys and to help with the cost of buses. The money this year will go towards the payment of Ukulele lessons by a company, this will kick start our music project. The remainder will be used to purchase some IT equipment for the senior classes. We as a staff are working towards the integration of technology in the classroom to enhance teaching and learning so some extra devices will be useful. Thank you.

Building Update

The Department has approved the new design team's improved design. This will now go to planning. This is good news. The Board will be in touch with the Design Team and ascertain a timeframe within which this will happen.

The consultant working on the replacement of windows and doors project in the existing building is waiting on the preferred tenderer to revert with clarification on pricing of one aspect of the project.

Important dates:

AGM Parents' association 8pm on Thursday the 4th of October.
Board of Management election of Parent Reps 14th of October at 8 pm
Movie afternoon: 20th of October
Pumpkins for sale 24th and 25th October
Quiz Night Balrothery Inn: Friday 8th of November at 8pm
Christmas Fair : Sunday December 1st
School closed: Monday December the 2nd- in-service training for staff on the New Primary Language Curriculum.

Cross Country took place last Thursday. We had lots of great runners with some of our pupils coming in the top ten positions. The run a mile and the Marathon Kids programmes are in full swing.

Our school environment: Mrs Kennedy 's class designed and constructed a bug hotel that is located at the back of the school. We have a super environment for creatures at the front of the building so now we plan to develop wild life habitats to the rear.



Congratulations to Siobhan O' Connor on receiving player of the match in the final on Saturday. A great achievement and well deserved.

