



September 2017

Dear parents and children,

We are all settled into the school routine. Welcome to all the new infants in Ms Markham's and Ms McKiernan's classes. It is lovely to see them running around the yard enjoying themselves. They are learning lots of new things and we hope they feel part of the school community. Welcome also to all the new children who have joined the school this year.

The AGM of the Parents' Committee took place on Tuesday the 19th of September. A huge thank you to you all and to the committee for all their hard work, commitment and your generosity. The Committee have given the school a cheque for €7,500 so that resources for your children can be bought eg aistear , outside resources, ICT resources, PE equipment , novels and much more.

Many extra -curricular activities will start with the Cross Country being the first this year. We are always looking for parents to support and help out. If you are interested please let me know. All helpers must be Garda Vetted , this is an easy process.

A questionnaire went out this week as we are asking for feedback on homework. Thank you for your feedback.

Please remember that the door is always open and all members of staff including myself, are happy to speak with you if you have any concerns, worries or questions. If you need a longer more private conversation please ring ahead to make an appointment.

The building project is still in limbo. I wish I could deliver a different message. There is a planning permission application for prefabs with Fingal and we are hoping that this process is complete in early December. The prefabs are for 5 classes i.e the classes in existing prefabs and the class in the hall. They will also accommodate the special education team. The Board of Management continues to work with all relevant parties in relation to the main building project.

Thank you.

Ms Murphy



School journal

Thank you to all who sponsored a page in the journal. I hope it brings some business your way. The journal has a list of the school holidays, policies and the code of behaviour in it. It is useful for writing messages to teacher and it has readymade absence/late notes.

2017/2018 Curriculum

We will continue to focus on Oral language, reading fluency, spellings and handwriting. The New Primary Language Curriculum Oral English and Irish is in use in junior infants up to 2nd class. There is a leaflet attached to the newsletter to explain more about this.

In numeracy we will continue to focus on problem solving and tables with an added emphasis on the language of maths. We are looking at measurement also.

Gaeilge: We will continue our emphasis on oral Irish. This year we will focus on providing more opportunities for writing in Irish.

Music: *We will begin the process of looking at the music curriculum as a staff this year.*

Payment online

This has been very successful and its use will be expanded as the year goes on. The request for payment is a generic text/e mail. When reminders are sent please let us know if we have made a mistake or if you want to clarify the request. There's absolutely no problem doing that. There will be a reminder of payment due to art and craft, homework journal which will include voluntary contribution this time. From then on reminders will only go out for art and craft, homework journal and other payments as they arise.

Party Invitations

We as a staff have discussed the issue of party invitations and have decided it is in the best interest of all the children that invitations are not given out in the school. Please do not put the class teacher in a compromising position by asking him/her to distribute invitations. Invitations should not be distributed in the yard. Thank you for your support in this matter

Kids Marathon Training.

Children in Ms Hannon's, Ms Andrews' and Mr Caffrey's are training each day following a programme of running. They are taking part in the kids marathon. They are running most days and already you can see the fitness levels rising.

GAA:

Siobhan O Connor from the Man O War GAA continues to coach in the school. This is great for all the children and each class will get their turn throughout the year.

Green flag, Yellow Flag and Student Council

These committees are being established at the moment. Plans are afoot for lots of different activities that will focus our minds on our responsibility as Global Citizens in relation to energy. Activities are planned to address friendship and inclusiveness.

Balrothery Community Council

Thank you to the committee for making the entrance to the school so much better. The new tarmacadam and barrier has improved the entrance in a big way. A further congratulations to them in securing funding for the provision of a playground and MUGA for Balrothery. This will benefit the children of the village and also the school as I am sure we will make great use of the facilities.

Healthy eating policy.

All the children have great lunches. Remember to pack that extra piece of fruit for fruit break.

The policy is available on the website.

Please remember that chocolate products are not allowed hence cereal bars with chocolate are not allowed.

Crisps and any crisp like snack are not allowed.

Water is the best drink for your child. Juice is fine once it is taken at eating times.

Chewing gum is banned and should not be brought into school.

After school activities

Modern dance, homework club, tin whistle and basketball.

For more details enquire at school office.

Parking

Please remember to park away from the school. Staff now park away from the school entrance in the interest of safety. Please do not use this as an opportunity to park outside on the yellow lines.

Sickness

If your child is sick and unable to come to school please keep them at home. If they come to school we will phone you if they are genuinely sick. If you say to your child that they can ring if they feel sick, they will inevitably want to ring. Hence trust your own judgement, you know your child best. Keep them at home or send them in. We will look after them and call you if necessary. Thank you.