



September 2016

Dear parents and children,

We have all settled into the school routine again and we have been blessed with the good weather. Please remember that school starts at 9.20 and it is important to be on time. If your child is late please let the office know or simply write a note in the school journal.

As you can see the building is still at a standstill which is very frustrating for us all. Negotiations are ongoing and there will be news shortly. The staff has worked really hard to make their rooms bright and welcoming. The fencing in the yard has been rearranged so that playtimes and play spaces are fully in operation which is great for the children. Thank you for your patience and understanding with this.

The AGM of the Parents' Committee is Tuesday the 27th of September at 8 pm. Please support. You can volunteer to help at any of the occasions without having to commit to the committee. The more the merrier and it's a great way to get to know other parents.

The junior infants in Ms. Farrell's and Ms. Hannon's are becoming part of the school community. They have started to learn lots of new things, are enjoying playing on the yard and even looking forward to homework. They are most welcome and we are delighted that they are part of Balrothery NS.

The sixth class, Mr Callaghan and Ms. Markham's are commencing their last year in primary school. They are working hard and are stepping up to their new responsibilities. Opportunities are available for them to become members of the Green Flag, Student Council and Yellow Flag committees. They also have become prefects and help the younger children on the yard.

Parents are always needed to help eg matches, cross country, day trips etc.

If you would like to become a volunteer for anything in the school you will need to go through Garda Vetting. This can be done through the school. Please ask for a form.

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.

2016/2017 Curriculum

We will continue to focus on Oral language, reading fluency, spellings and handwriting. Children in infants learn cursive writing and this year it is great to see senior infants and first class using cursive handwriting.

In numeracy we will continue to focus on problem solving and tables with an added emphasis on the language of maths. Children will get a problem or problems to do at home each week. Please check these and support your child.

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

SPHE : We intend to focus on children's well being and health. Walk Tall, RSE and Stay Safe will be taught throughout the year. As a staff we have decided that children will have a surprise break on a regular basis. This may involve exercise or mindfulness or simply some down time.

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 Mr Callaghan's, Ms Markham's and Ms Andrews are training each day following a programme of running. They won't run a marathon but they will partake in the last mile of a marathon. Date to be confirmed.

Cross Country:

Balheary Park

Dates for this year

20th Oct 2016

16th Feb 2017

4th April Morton Stadium

There will be one more date in March.

Mr. Callaghan will continue to coach the cross country team.

Soccer :

Ms Taylor, Mr Callaghan, Ms Andrews' and Ms Markham's are receiving coaching from coaches from the FAI each Wednesday.

GAA:

Siobhan O Connor from the Man O War GAA comes in on a Friday to coach Ms Ms Kiernan's and Mr Caffrey's class.

Green flag

We are setting up our new committee at the moment.

Our theme this year is Global Citizenship. We will work on where we fit into the world, teach the children that what we do affects others even if they are far away. Some work has been done last year so we are looking forward to some new activities around this.

Yellow Flag

We were awarded our second yellow flag in June. We are very pleased with our work in this area and we need to continue with it this year. The yellow flag programme promotes inclusiveness and it encourages us to appreciate all the differences there are between us. We in Balrothery NS encourage the children to show respect to each other. We need two parents for this committee if anyone can spare an hour once every six weeks.

It is important to chat to your child and encourage your child to tell you about their day in school. If your child is experiencing any difficulties academically or socially please come and talk to us.

Healthy eating policy.

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.

Remember to pack an extra piece of fruit for fruit break.

After school activities

Modern dance, homework club, tin whistle and choir.

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