



November 26, 2015

Dear parents and children,

It has been a busy month at school. The children are all working hard on their reading fluency, maths problems, cursive handwriting, oral language to name but a few subject areas. It is great to see the support the children are getting from home as this can make all the difference in your child's education.

November is a month to remember those who have died in our families. The children with your help have written the names of loved ones on leaves and these are displayed on our remembrance tree and on our sacred place in the school porch. This Friday the junior end of the school will have a short remembrance ceremony, the choir will sing and the children will bring up their leaves to the altar. The school tin whistle group will play for us.

As we enter December, a busy month where everyone becomes a little more frazzled it is most important to keep the safety of our children in mind particularly on wet days. Traffic at the front of the school is an ongoing problem. There are yellow chevrons on the road that mean you cannot park there at any time regardless of the weather. These measures are in place to keep your child safe. Please help the school by adhering to the road markings at all times. Parking a safe distance from the school and walking the children to the school gate is a good option.



Christmas Fair:

Come to the Christmas fair on the 6th of December 12 until 3 and get in the festive mood and support your school at the same time. The choir will sing a selection of carols, there will be various stalls with Christmas Crafts, a Make and Do room for the children, toys and books for sale and lots more. It's always great fun. Any donations of raffle prizes, toys, books etc gladly received.

Parents' Association

The association on your behalf has given a cheque for €800 to the school to purchase more supplementary readers for 3rd/4th class and the infant classes. This is super as this will help to improve reading fluency. Thank you for your support of all fundraising activities as without your help none of this would be possible. The association is constantly working to support the children in Balrothery.

Science Week 2015

The children experienced a week of science activities during science week 2015. A variety of experiments were on view at our science exhibition. The children made lava lamps, tested friction, learned all about sound waves, showed us how plants drink and much more. Many thanks to Ms Farrell with Ms McKiernan's support for organising this event. We are working towards our Discover Science and Maths Award again this year.

The infant classes visited Imaginosity where they took part in a science workshop. The children were very excited about their school tour, especially their journey on the bus!

Teri Ryan came and did experiments with the infant classes also. They learned all about solids, liquids and gases in a fun and interactive way.



Green flag



The Green Flag committee are up and running. The latest competition with **cash prizes** is to design a Christmas ornament from recycled material. The closing date is next Wednesday the 2nd of December.

1st prize €20

2nd prize €15

3rd prize €10

There are some €5 prizes and then some spot prizes.

All ornaments will be displayed in the hall.

School Stars Competition

Two girls from our 5th class took part in the school stars competition. This is a competition similar to the X Factor and our girls really showed they had that. To a packed audience in the TLT both girls sang their hearts out and stunned the crowd with their beautiful voices.

Out of approximately 400 children one of our girls came 2nd. A great achievement! Both girls have a bright future ahead of them.



School Building

The ongoing saga! The tender for the main builder will now be opened in December as extra information re school site was sought which again has pushed the date back. We will get there eventually.

Important dates for your diary

Communion preparation masses: Wednesday the 2nd of December.

Confirmation preparation: Ceremony of Enrolment Tuesday the 12th of January @7.30pm.

Book fair

Thank you for your generous support of the book fair. It was another successful year. It meant that we could restock our libraries as we get 'book credit' for each book bought by the school community. The library and class libraries are looking great.

Gaeilge

Tá na paistí ag déanamh an iarracht ag labhairt gaeilge timpeall na scoile. Each week Mr Caffrey gives the school a new phrase to learn and use during the week. The children's fluency is really improving. Ar fheabhas!

Essay writing: The children in Mr Callaghan's and Ms Andrews' wrote an essay entitled 'what my life will be like when I get older'. Residents from Hamilton Hall came to visit and gave the children sweets for their participation.

New staff: We would like to welcome back Ms McKiernan who now teaches 1st/2nd class. We have a new member of staff, Mr Hall who is covering for Ms Nugent. We hope both teachers are happy in their new roles in Balrothery.

Congratulations to Ms Nugent who had a baby girl, Amelia.

Dates of class shows (also on the website)

Tues 15th Dec: Mrs Kennedy's at 10 am

Ms O Mahony's at 11.30am

Ms Gleeson's at 1.30pm

Wed 16th Dec: Ms Farrell at 10 am

Ms Hannon at 11.30am

Ms Markham at 1.30pm

Thurs 17th Dec: Ms Taylor at 10 am

Ms Andrews at 11.30am

Ms McKiernan at 1.30pm

Fri 18th Dec: Mr Callaghan at 10 am

Mrs Callaghan at 11.30am

