

September 2015



Balrothery N.S.



Dear parents and children,

We have all settled into the school routine again and we have been blessed with the good weather.

The junior infants in Ms. Farrell's and Ms. Hannon's are becoming part of the school community. They are enjoying playing on the yard and even look forward to homework. They are most welcome and we are delighted that they are part of Balrothery NS. We would like to welcome all the new children to the school as a few others have joined us up through the school.

The sixth class, Mr Callaghan and Ms. Andrews are commencing their last year in primary school. We hope they have a great year where they learn a lot and step up to the responsibilities that go with 6<sup>th</sup> class. Already the prefects are doing a great job.

Please take the time to read our website, check out policies such as anti- bullying, healthy eating, code of behaviour and many more. The website is up to date and is a good way to keep informed of what is happening at school. I'd like to draw your attention to BOM report 2015 and School Self Evaluation Report 2015 which is under the Home, principal's page.

The children have been learning about friendship this month and a great way to make friends is to partake in local activities. The village is becoming more vibrant with many activities, clubs and committees working hard.

As you know building work hasn't started. However there has been preparatory work going on. We are still in limbo as regards a definite starting date but things are moving ..... very slowly!!

I like to encourage the children to think of others less fortunate than ourselves. So we fundraise for charity. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of October we will do a jersey day ( if no jersey simply wear a t-shirt. Do not go out and buy a jersey)for GOAL in aid of the refugees. We will have a start of year mass also for the senior end of the school. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October we are taking part in a Céilí for Carers where the children will learn how to dance the American Wake. A donation of €1/€2 will be much appreciated for both charities.

I hope that all the children have an enjoyable year.

Ms M Murphy

#### Parents' Committee

There will be a coffee morning this Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October for all parents at 9.30am. Drop your child to school and then go to the hall for a cuppa and a chat. This is an opportunity to get to know other parents. The parents' committee AGM is at 8pm on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. Venue: School .Please attend, give your support and if you are interested join the committee but don't feel you have to. Attendance at the AGM is important.



Pumpkins will be for sale on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

#### School Improvement:

Our target areas are oral language, reading fluency and writing genres. The theme for October is 'Clothes'. Ask your child to discuss current fashion trends, describe their favourite outfit, what materials clothes are made from, clothes in the past compared to clothes in the future.....

Reading fluency is an area that will need your support. The children are given a set piece of reading to practice at home. The aim is that the children can read that piece fluently, changing their voice/intonation, stopping at full stops and so on. Please sign their reading log to say that you have listened to your child read.

Writing genres: In September and October the children are learning how to do report writing. This writing genre is based on fact.

Numeracy : Children will practice their tables each day. Work on the area of problem solving is ongoing . Children will get a maths problem to solve at home each week. Questionnaires: As part of school improvement it is important for us to get feedback from parents. A questionnaire will be given to some parents in 1st, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class.

Target subject area: SPHE has been chosen by the staff as an area we want to prioritise over the next three years. This subject is social, physical and health education. We are at the planning stage with this but we will keep you informed as we progress.

### Green flag

We are setting up our new committee at the moment. Our theme this year is Global Citizenship. It was with great pride we received our Green Flag in June 2015. Well done to the committee and to Ms O Mahony in particular. We would like to have a parent representative on the committee so if you are interested please let me know.

**Irish Flag:** As part of the celebrations of the 1916 centenary the Irish Defense Force delivered the Irish flag to our school and read the 1916 proclamation. The 6<sup>th</sup> class children received the flag and gave a short history lesson to the senior part of the school. At some stage throughout the year the children will learn about the history of 1916.



**Walk/cycle to school :** It is great to see children walking to school. The bicycle shed is definitely being used. Keep up the good work.

**Sprint and Throw Day:** The children went to Balheary Park on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September to experience athletics. They enjoyed throwing the javelin and shot putt. They ran some sprint races also. Cross Country season will start soon, no dates yet.

Ms Andrews' class has started a class blog. Children from any class are allowed to log on and comment. Ms Andrews monitors the comments. They come to her e-mail address first and she will allow or decline each comment. It is a great way to interact with 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class and learn about what they are doing. The blog address is [msandrewsclass15.blogspot.ie](http://msandrewsclass15.blogspot.ie)

### After school activities

Irish dancing : Tuesdays

Modern dance: Thursdays

Taekwondo: Tuesdays

Homework Club : Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Choir: Mrs Callaghan will let the children know when this will commence.

For more details enquire at school office.

### Yellow Flag

We were awarded our yellow flag in June. We are invited to the award ceremony on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2016. We enjoyed our work this year with each class participating at some stage during the 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. This programme links in with our chosen new subject area SPHE. We hope that we are developing a culture of respect for each other within the school. We will begin our new committee shortly. If you would like to be our parent representative on this committee please let me know. Many thanks to Ms Calnan for leading this work last year.

A message to all of us is to think before we speak or pass a comment as remember we the adults have a powerful influence on how our children view the world and the people in it.

### 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.

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

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

### Parking

Please remember to park away from the school. Keep our children safe.

### 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