



November 2013 (Available on website, read it in colour)

Dear parents and children,

The parent/teacher meetings were successful. A few questions were asked. It's a great opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns.

1) use of skipping ropes on the yard

Children from 1st up to 6th are allowed to skip on designated days only and in a designated area. Younger children cannot bring ropes onto yard for health and safety reasons as often they will play with the rope and not skip or they accidentally hit another child while skipping. The skipping workshop was so successful that we have a huge interest in skipping. A great way to keep fit. Many thanks to Ms O Mahony who organised this workshop.

2) Reckless parking and driving particularly on wet mornings continues. I again would plead with people to park a safe distance away from the school even when it is raining. Keep our children safe.

3) Shoeboxes : It is fantastic to see how generous you have been with the shoeboxes. Comments have been made about the reward of a night off homework as this can upset children who haven't brought in a box particularly in the younger classes. This is a fair comment and we will look at it for next year. We have a tradition of supporting the shoebox collection and will look at the reward offered for next year. We collected 190 boxes. Fantastic.

4) Please remember to sign your child's reading log as this is our way of knowing that your child is reading at home. Thank you.

The children raised over €400 for Temple Street this month. Well done. Ms McCrudden organised this.

Yellow Flag Award An award given for our work on diversity and inclusion. Read all about it on the website.



This week's Irish phrase (frásaí na seachtaine)
Excuse me:

Ghabh mo leithscéal



Christmas Fair this Sunday the 1st Of December from 12 until 3.

Come and get yourself into the Christmas mood, easy and relaxing Christmas shopping, lots of fun for the children and you will be supporting the school.

Come and see our Christmas decorations designed and made by the children using recycled materials.

Again you have been most generous in your donations of books and toys. Thank you.

School Building Update

The Board of Management is tendering for a design team. This takes time. We hope to have a team in place early in the New Year. I will keep you up to date as soon as any other details emerge.

The Book Fair

The book fair was well supported. This has meant that the school could buy €1300 worth of books. We are continuing to stock our library. Many thanks.

Christmas Card fund raiser

The Christmas Cards are gone to the printer and the children are very excited about receiving their cards.

Extra- Curricular activities:

Chess club: Ms McHale runs this at lunchtime.

Basketball: Ms O Mahony, Ms Taylor, Mrs Kennedy and Ms McHale run this on a Tuesday after school for 5th and 6th class girls.

Choir: Mrs Callaghan does choir on a Wednesday after school. The children are preparing to take part in the Peace Proms. A cross border initiative where choirs from southern and northern Ireland come together to sing.

Spanish: Ms Rooney runs Spanish classes after school on a Thursday.

Tin whistle: Ms Burns holds this class on a Tuesday after school.

Irish dancing: Tuesday after school, Breda Gibbons.

Modern Dance: Thursday after school, Karen Graham.

Athletics: After school on a Wednesday, Alison Browne

Cross Country:

Balheary Park

Dates for next year

Tuesday 11th of March @ 10.30

The final is in Morton stadium on Tuesday 8th of April @ 10 am

Again well done to all the children who raced in Balheary on a very cold day. We look forward to our next race.

Science week 2013

The children enjoyed science week and we held our science exhibition in the school hall on Friday the 15th of November organised by Ms Farrell. The children loved explaining their experiments. Thank you to Teri Ryan who came and did experiments with some of the classes showing what happens when a chemical reaction occurs.



Chess

We have a chess teacher, Maurice O Connor , who teaches Ms O Mahony's and Ms Taylor's. This is paid for out of the voluntary contribution fund. It will be extended to Mrs Kennedy's class and Ms Whyte's class in the New Year.

Remembrance Ceremony:

Our annual remembrance ceremony took place on Friday the 29th of December. It is a ceremony that 3rd class up to 6th class attend. The children partake in the ceremony by reading, singing and this year a group played the tin whistle. We remembered all the people in our school community and in our families that have died. Thank you to Fr Paul for his support.

Christmas Plays Timetable

Ms Callaghan's j/s infants: Fri 13th Dec @ 11.30

Mrs Callaghan's 3rd class: Mon 16th Dec @ 11.30

Mrs Kennedy's 6th class : Mon 16th Dec @ 1.30

Ms McHale: Jun Infants: Tues 17th Dec @ 11.30

Ms Taylor's 5th/6th class: Tues 17th of Dec @ 1.30

Ms McCrudden's & Ms Farrell's : Wed 18th @ 11.30

(both classes together)

Ms Whyte's 4th class: Wed 18th Dec @ 1.30

Mr Callaghan's senior infants: Thurs 19th @ 10.15

Ms Moore's 1st class: Thurs 19th Dec @ 11.30

Ms O' Mahony 5th class: Thurs 19th Dec @ 1.30