



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

Dear parents and children,

This has been a busy half term for us all here at school. The children are well settled now and deserve a good rest as do we all. Hence school closes this Friday the 25th of October for half term at the usual time and we open again on Monday the 4th of November.

The children are invited to dress up on Friday and donate €1/€2 in aid of Temple St Hospital. They can bring 2 or 3 treats to enjoy. It will be a lovely day to mark the beginning of half term.

Parent/teacher meetings will take place on Wednesday the 20th and Thursday the 21st of November for all classes. A letter will go home on Tuesday the 6th of November to allow you to confirm an appointment.

In general if you wish to speak to a teacher please make an appointment as it is very difficult for a teacher to concentrate on a discussion when a class is waiting for their teacher. It can be disruptive and a more appropriate time would be more productive.

The children are a credit to you with their lovely healthy lunches. Thank you for your co-operation in this respect. It is wonderful to see the children eating lovely sandwiches and fresh fruit. Keep up the good work.

We plan to have a remembrance ceremony in school in November. We will remember all the people who have died in our families. The children were given leaves to decorate and they were invited to write the name of a family member on the leaf. These leaves will be displayed in the school.

I wish you all a safe and happy half term.

Ms M Murphy

Read on to learn more about new ideas from the Parents' Committee to raise money for the school.



Halloween safety

The local Garda visited 5th class to speak about the importance of keeping safe at Halloween. Ms O Mahony's class will visit Flemington Community Centre on Friday for the launch of the Balbriggan Halloween Festival.



Oíche Shamhna

This week's Irish phrase (frásaí na seachtaine)
An chlós (the yard)

Ghortaigh mé mo chos, lámh, cheann... (I hurt my foot, my hand, my head.....

Thug sé/sí cic dom. (He she/he kicked me.)

Thug sé/sí puc dom. (He/ she hit me).

Annual Shoebox appeal.

Each year Balrothery NS takes part in the shoebox appeal. This year we would like to be even more generous than ever. Try your best to make up a shoebox for a child this Christmas. All shoeboxes to be returned by the 6th of November. There is a night off homework for anyone that brings in a shoebox.

The AGM of the Parents' Committee was held on the 22nd of October. There was a great turn out and this support was appreciated by the committee. As it is a two year cycle the committee remains the same. Teri Donaghy is the chairperson, Joyce Denver is secretary and the treasurers are Sarah Sheehan and Suzanne Bowes. Declan Keane, Barbara Dolan, Patricia Connolly and Eithne Gordon and Gráinne Rutherford are also committee members. Other parents volunteered to be helpers at the meeting and the generosity of people was appreciated. The committee has decided to fund raise towards a new library for the school when the new build is complete. They have a target of €2000.

Christmas Card fund raiser

This week the children had great fun when they each got to design their own Christmas card. Families will be able to order Christmas cards of their own child's design for this year's card writing.

A sample card of your child's card and an order form will be sent home in the coming weeks. This is a new fundraising initiative in the school so hopefully you will all love the cards, something very special to post to family and friends this Christmas!

Keep December 1st free for our first ever Christmas fair at the school.

Skipping Workshop: Wed 5th and Thurs 6th Nov for everyone. A contribution of €2 would be appreciated.

Cross Country:

Balheary Park

Dates for this year

Tuesday 19th of November @ 10.30

Tuesday 11th of March @ 10.30

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

The first race of the season took place on Tuesday the 22nd of October. Your voluntary contribution paid for the registration of 50 children to take part in cross country this year. The children ran very well with both boys and girls finishing in top ten positions. Well done to everyone involved and keep up the good work. This Friday there will be a fancy dress cross country race for children from 3rd up to 6th around the school. This will be weather permitting!



Science week 2013

The teachers are busy planning science week which runs from the 11th to the 15 of November.

An exhibition will be held in the school hall on Friday the 15th. All will be welcome.

Maths Week 2013

Children enjoyed maths trails around the school organised by Mr Caffrey and Ms Farrell.



National Tree Day

Ann Lynch from Heritage Ireland visited the school and carried out workshops with the children from junior infants up to second class. The children learned how to name the trees we have in the school. They examined leaves, bark and looked at the variety of colours on our trees. The children did some lovely artwork as a follow up activity.



Ms O Mahony's class was instrumental in promoting tree week. As a green flag school it is so important that we learn what we have on our doorstep. The children in 5th class adopted a tree in the school. They learned all about that tree. I believe lots of tree hugging took place! They are in the process of completing their tree projects.

Music

The children in Mrs Callaghan's, Ms Whyte's and Mr Caffrey's classes are learning to play the tin whistle. One of our new teachers Ms Burns has taken on this project. I am looking forward to hearing their tunes.