



September 2013

Dear parents and children,

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

We have had great news from the Department of Education. They have given the Board of Management a grant to replace the prefabs. The job will go to tender, planning permission will go in and hopefully building will commence in the new year. It is a very exciting time for the school.

The junior infants in Ms. Callaghan's and in Ms. McHale are becoming part of the school community. They have started to learn their new sounds, 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.

The sixth class, Mrs Kennedy's and Ms. Taylor's are commencing their last year in primary school. They are working hard and are stepping up to their new responsibilities. They applied to become part of the Sports Squad and were all successful. This means that they are now in charge of PE equipment distribution, collection and storage. Other opportunities are available for them to become members of the Green Flag and Yellow Flag committees. They also become prefects and help the younger children on the yard.

This edition of our newsletter has reminders about existing school rules and policies. Please take the time to read all the articles.

We would like to welcome our new teachers Ms. Whyte and Ms. Burns. We hope they enjoy teaching in our school. Welcome back to Ms. McHale. We are delighted to have her back with us.



Reminders

There will be no school on Friday the 4th of October due to the upcoming referendum.

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.



Each week the children learn a new Irish phrase. This year the phrases will be on the newsletters if you would like to practice them at home.

Slán go foil (see you later)

Móra duit ar maidin (good morning)

Agus duit féin (and the same to you)

Thit mé sa chlós.

Green flag

We are setting up our new committee at the moment. Our theme this year is 'Biodiversity'. We will learn about the plants and animals living in our environment and ways in which we can enhance our school to encourage plant and animal life to flourish in our school.



Walk to school on Wednesdays

We will continue to promote this each Wednesday. We would love to see more children walking to school. It is a great way of waking up the mind and it reduces traffic congestion at the school. It is fantastic to see that the numbers of children walking and cycling to school has increased over the last few years. It means that we all doing our bit to combat climate change. Keep up the good work!

Cross Country:

Balheary Park

Dates for this year

Tuesday 22nd of October @ 10.30

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

Mr. Callaghan will continue to coach the cross country team. Mrs. Murphy will support him.

There is an opportunity for your child, only from 3rd class to sixth class, to run two mornings a week at 9.10 am. The days are Tuesday and Thursday. The training will only last for ten minutes but is a nice way to start the day. Please remember if it is raining the training will not happen. Some children do not enjoy the races but they are most welcome to come and run on these mornings.

Yellow Flag

We were awarded our yellow flag in June. We are invited to the award ceremony on the 12th of November. 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.

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.

A new Yellow Flag committee will be set up this week.

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.

After school activities

Irish dancing : Tuesdays

Modern dance: Thursdays

Taekwondo: Thursdays

For more details enquire at school office.

Parking

Please remember to park away from the school. New lines have been painted in front of the school by Fingal Co Council.

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