

November 30, 2012

Dear parents and children,

The children are in full swing now with the feeling of Christmas coming upon us all!!

Many classes are beginning to practice for their Christmas dramatics. We will let you know all significant dates as soon as possible.

The school calendar should be available next week. Details to follow.

Traffic at the front of the school is an ongoing problem. It is particularly dangerous on wet days. There are yellow chevrons on the road that mean you cannot park there at any time. 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.

#### Child Protection

At times we need parents to volunteer to give lifts to children e.g. for communion practice or for matches. We are now required only to involve parents who have gone through the process of Garda Vetting. This is simple. I give you a form to fill out, I send it away and I receive a letter to confirm vetting. All of the information is confidential and it is only seen by me, Mrs Murphy. Please contact the office if you can volunteer. Thank you.

Read on to learn about all the interesting things that took place in the month of November.

The yellow flag. ( Diversity)

The yellow flag committee has been busy looking at the questionnaires. The questionnaires ask for your opinions in relation to racism. They are anonymous. A box will be left in each classroom for the questionnaires. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire.

Thank you.

#### The Website

Remember to check out the website for the latest news. Simply google Balrothery NS. Here you will be able to read our newsletter in colour. There's lots of other news there as well.

Check out our attempt to make a Guinness World Record for speed stacking.

#### Science Week 2012

The children experienced a week of science activities during science week 2012. We are in the process of applying for our fourth discover science and maths award. Ms Farrell and Mrs Calnan led the way this year and coordinated a very successful week.

Mrs Callaghan's class made ovens, water wheels and wind turbines from recyclable materials. This workshop was free with Fingal Co Council.

Ms Callaghan's, Ms Farrell's and Ms McCrudden's classes visited imaginosity. They had a great time playing but they also partook in science experiments.

We had a science visitor who came to school and brought his liquid nitrogen with him. It was fascinating. He made a banana freeze; he made ice-cream and volcanoes. The children were very excited.

On Friday we held our annual science exhibition in the hall. Each class demonstrated and spoke about their experiments to all the visitors.



### Walk to school on Wednesdays and Foot on Friday.

The children are great for walking to school. Keep up the good work.

Walking to school helps with the ongoing traffic problems. Again it is so important not to park on the yellow lines outside the school.

### Green flag

The Green Flag committee was heavily involved in the organisation of our Eco- Friendly House competition. It was wonderful to see all the amazing designs and each house showed a true understanding of the use of renewable energies, conserving heat and recycling everything from our water to our waste. Well done to all.

1<sup>st</sup> prize: Caitlin Kearns

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Shauna Brady

3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Cian and Erin Fanning.

Lots of spot prizes were given. Trish Kennedy from Fingal Co. Council was very impressed and this work has really helped us in our quest towards our fifth green flag.



### Cross country

Unfortunately the race was cancelled due to the weather. It is hoped that this race will take place in March. All money was returned to the children.

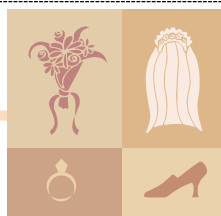
Training takes place on Monday and Wednesday within school time and Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9 am. Weather permitting!

### Chess

Ms Moore's and Mrs Callaghan's class have completed a six week block of chess with a chess tutor Maurice O' Connor. We hope to extend this opportunity to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class in the new year.

### School pets

Our school is now the proud owners of two guinea pigs. The children are enjoying helping to take care of them, especially petting them. Carrots, apples and cabbage seem to be their favourite treats.



### Dates for your diary:

Dress Down Day Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of Dec. in aid of Dyslexia and Diabetes. €1/€2. This means children can wear their own clothes.

School closes @ 12.30 on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of December for the Christmas holidays.

### Book fair

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

### November, a month of remembrance.

On Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November a service was held in the school hall. We prayed for all the people in our families that have passed on. The children were invited to write the name of a loved one on a leaf. These leaves were decorated, hung on a tree and displayed in the hall. The service was led by Fr Eugene. The school choir sang beautifully. A special mention was given to Ms Larkin and Cian Maloney, RIP.

### Cricket

Cricket starts for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class boys and girls on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2013 for 5 weeks from 1.10pm to 2.35pm. Cost is €10. This includes coaching and transport. A note has been sent home with the children.

### Gaeilge

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

