



St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



Samhain/Nollaig



Newsletter for November/December 2021

(available on our new and improved website at www.balrotheryns.com)

Dear parents and children,

This has been another busy time for the pupils at Balrothery NS. We are again experiencing a change in our protocols with the introduction of mask wearing by pupils in 3rd up to 6th. This is a requirement by the Department of Education. Well done to the children as it isn't easy to adjust to mask wearing. However it is another tool we can use in the fight against covid, it will help to keep the children, staff and wider community safe. The children throughout this pandemic have been at the forefront of change but have risen to the challenge again and again. They are a group of children that will be forever mentioned in the history books in the future. Each and every one of them should be proud of their contribution thus far. The school community continues to adhere to our procedures and protocols so thank you to all for this.

Thank you to Darragh O' Brien , minister for housing, local government and heritage, for visiting the school this week. He is in touch with Norma Foley to try to progress our school building project. Let's hope we see some movement on it in 2022. Kevin Tolan and Warren Power have spoken to him about the lack of pedestrian crossings in the village and about the speed limit which is currently 50km outside the school. The Green Flag committee are working on the Global citizenship travel award and continue to promote walking, cycling or scootering to school. We have made an application for a cycle and scooter parking facility at school. Hence we need the roads to be safe for the children. Ms O Mahony and the Green Flag committee will conduct a walkability audit on Wednesday the 8th of December with An Taisce. The committee will highlight road safety issues in the village.

Please note dates for your diary:

Wednesday the 8th of December: Walk, Cycle or scooter to school (save the earth one day a week!)

Friday the 10th of December: Christmas Jumper/Christmas Pyjamas day. Money raised to be shared between "Keep it lit for Lar" (tractor parade on the 2nd of January) and the Children's hospitals. We are asking for a €2 donation via Aladdin. A payment request will be sent. (voluntary)

Friday the 17th of December: Panto for all the children, Red Riding Hood online from the Helix. Thank you to the Parents' Association for sponsoring this event. The children can bring treats and watch the panto from the comfort of their classroom. The Parents' Association can do this due to your support and it is much appreciated. Thank you to Mylan Europe, Mc Dermott Laboratories Ltd for a donation of €500 to the school. We are always looking for new members to join the committee especially our new parents. If you have any interest please contact the office.

Christmas Holidays: School closes for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday the 22nd of December half day and reopens on Thursday the 6th of January 2022.

Ms O' Neill's will finish at 11.50, followed by Ms Gleeson's at 12, Ms Mc Kiernan's at 12.10. Thereafter it will be by surname A-L 12.20 and M-Z at 12.30.

Read on to see what has been taking place in school:

Well -Being Week

Well Being Week was organised by the Amber Flag committee led by Ms Duffy, Ms Folan, Mr Fahey and Mr Callaghan. There were different activities each day as the committee was keen to involve all talents that the children have. There was mindfulness, meditation, art and dance, Whacky Wednesday, Tasty Thursday, cross country running/walking and Fun Friday. It was a very enjoyable week and we hope your child benefitted from it.

Whacky Wednesday had some crazy outfits!



Getting ready for their run!



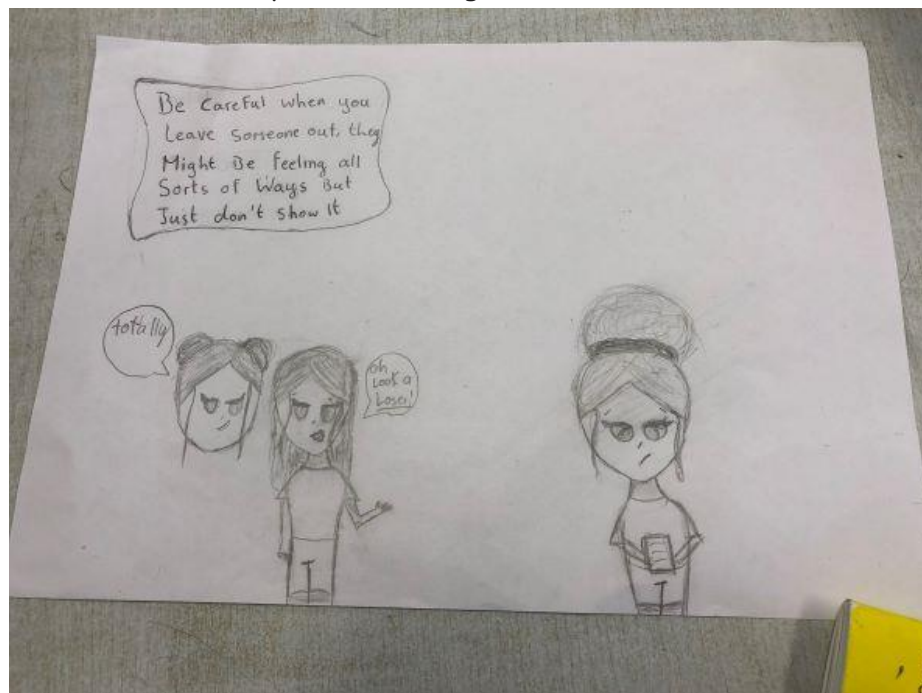
Runners in action.



Some interesting dance moves by Ms Duffy and her class.



Pupils in 5th/6th class were very creative with stories and art to show how bullying can take place. Their art has an important message.



Creative writing and art:



Well done to everyone for this enjoyable week.

November is the month we remember those that have passed on. The children coloured leaves and wrote the names of those that are special to them on the leaves. The pupils in Ms Maguire's class made lovely remembrance flowers.



We have had a creative month. As you know we are a creative school. We receive funding to support the Arts in the school. A group of pupils from 6th class have started to work with Dave West, Artist,

on mosaics for the school. This project started two years ago. Classes took part in dance lessons, then we looked at our local history, then we looked at how a sea creature moves and made clay versions of sea creatures. The mosaics will reflect all of these smaller projects. Mrs Patterson is leading this work.



Science Week, led by Ms McKiernan, was an exciting week with STEM projects and experiments happening in the classrooms.

5th class looked at energy and forces.



catapults in 6th class



The younger children learned about dinosaurs and made some dinosaurs shapes with Lego with a company called Bricks4kids.



Playgrounds of the future were designed.



Mr Fahey's class took part in an Engineer Ireland programme. The pupils worked in teams, created new sustainable product ideas that could be used in the future to make our world a better place from "Binjamen", a bin that has sensors to detect which bin the waste should go to encourage recycling, a heating system that converts farm manure into a gas that can be used in other ways, a shop till that kills germs on cash, particularly covid! Another group made a prosthetic hand and one group made an irrigation system to harvest water.



As part of this project Mr Fahey organised for an engineer to give the pupils a talk on being an engineer.

Well done to everyone in 4th class.



Ms Folan's class made some maracas.



Mr Callaghan's class had a zoom meeting with Olympian, Michelle Finn. She is also the national cross country champion 2021. Michelle spoke to the children about her journey to becoming an elite athlete. Her talk was inspirational.



The Community Garda Visit.

The Community Garda gave a talk to 5th and 6th class pupils on anti-bullying and cyber bullying. It is important that 5th and 6th class pupils hear this message especially in relation to cyber bullying.



Finally congratulations to Ms Farrell, Ms Andrews and Ms Flannery on the birth of their baby boys.

Keep safe everyone and enjoy the run into Christmas, we will all be ready for the break when it comes!

Mrs Murphy