



# Balrothery NS Newsletter

## March 2023



Dear Parents and Students,

I hope everyone is keeping well and looking forward to a nice break over the Easter Holidays. It has been a very busy term for all and we are all looking forward to some rest and relaxation.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter celebration and I hope the Easter Bunny comes to all your homes. Well done on all your hard work over the last couple of months and I am looking forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Read on to find out more about what has been happening in the school over the past couple of months and what to expect in the days ahead.

**We are still looking for donations of Lego. If you have any Lego at home that you are no longer using and would like to donate, we would be extremely grateful. Please drop it in to the school or contact the school.**

The Spanish students will be coming back to Balrothery this summer. If anyone is interested in hosting a Spanish student please contact Annette Thompson on 087 7872826.

### Dates for your diary:

Monday April 17<sup>th</sup> – the school will re-open at 9.10am following the Easter Holidays

April 18<sup>th</sup>- Gardai from Balbriggan Garda Station will visit the school to mark the children's bike with their Eircode. This will mean their bike will be traceable should it ever be stolen.

April 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> – We will celebrate Local History Week in the school. A local historian will come to talk to the children and we will go on historical walks around the village of Balrothery and the town of Balbriggan.

April 29<sup>th</sup>- First Holy Communion at 11am in St Peter and Paul's Church in Balbriggan followed by refreshments back in the school after.

May 1<sup>st</sup>- The school will be closed for the May Day Bank Holiday

May 8<sup>th</sup>- The school will close for a half day to accommodate teacher training on the New Primary Language Curriculum

May 8<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>- Intercultural/ Arts Week. We will celebrate diversity through the Arts culminating with our Intercultural Day on Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>

May 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>- Standardised Testing- Literacy

May 18<sup>th</sup>- Confirmation at 11am in St Peter and Paul's Church in Balbriggan

May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> – Standardised Testing- Numeracy

May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>- Infant Induction

June 2<sup>nd</sup>- The school will be closed for a vacation day

June 5<sup>th</sup>- The school will be closed for the June Bank Holiday

June 12<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> – Active Week

June 16<sup>th</sup>- Sports Day

June 22<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> class graduation

# News and Events

Ms Andrews 4th class have been very busy writing and illustrating stories to include in their very own Class Book which is now being published. They really worked hard and enjoyed the writing process. They are very excited to see their finished book.

We just recently purchased 30 new iPads here in the school. The funding was a combination of money provided by the Dept of Education and money raised by the Parent's Committee. This was a big investment for the school but we are looking forward to creating great content with our new devices. Thanks once again to the Parent's Committee for all their hard work throughout the year.



We had a fantastic Seachtain na Gaeilge here in the school with many wonderful events taking place. The highlight was definitely the ceolchoirm in the halla and Ms Maguire's class stole the show with their version of 'Freed From Desire' sung as Gaeilge.



We gave 'Racism the Red Card' in school this month. The children all wore red and we went on a march around the village to show that we stand against racism in this school. Our Yellow Flag Committee continues to celebrate diversity and we are all really looking forward to our Intercultural Day in May.



We had a great day celebrating World Book Day. Many children dressed up as their favourite book character and the children from Ms O'Mahony's had a trip to the library.

We celebrated National Tree Week here in the school during the month of March and the children from Ms O'Mahony's class went up to the field behind the tennis courts to investigate the tree trail.



Engineers Week was a huge success in the school this month. Each class carried out a design and make project-these were then displayed down in the hall for all the children in the school to see. Ms Andrew's class also had a visit from two people who work in the field of engineering. This was an interesting and informative talk.



We continue to do great work on the Green Schools Flag here in the school. We have a team of litter pickers who work to keep our school grounds beautiful. The children have also been busy planting flowers and vegetables this month. Ms O'Mahony's 5<sup>th</sup> class and Ms Folan's 1<sup>st</sup> class worked together on this project and we are really looking forward to tasting their produce in the next term.



Mr Grant's class continue to take part in Tech We Can lessons. These are provided by KPMG and give the children a great insight into the role technology plays in our life and the potential job opportunities that exist in this field. The final lesson will take place in May and will focus on technology in toys.

We were very lucky to have an Olympian visit the school this month. Oliver Dingley competed in both Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 in the diving competition. He gave a great presentation to the children and hopefully this might inspire some future Olympians from Balrothery NS in the future.



Mr Fahey and Mr Grant's class continue to work on their JEP project. Mr Fahey's class are eagerly awaiting supplies so they can begin to produce their 'Family Tiles'- watch this space. Mr Grant's class are working on 'Summer Boredom Bags' and again we can't wait to see this project launched.



The children in Ms Hernon and Ms Maguire's 2<sup>nd</sup> class are busy preparing for the Sacrament of Communion which will take place on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

The boys and girls have both started playing matches in the Fingal Schools GAA League. They are training hard and we are looking forward to seeing some positive results after the Easter holidays.



The boys and girls soccer teams took part in the Spar 5-a-side competition in Gannon Park in Malahide. There were 2 boys teams and 2 girls teams and they all played their hearts out and had a great day. One of the boys teams won all three matches but their goal difference wasn't enough and they failed to qualify for the next round.

The children from Mr Grant's and Ms O'Mahony's class continue to rehearse for the National Children's Choir. It is wonderful to hear such lovely singing in the school. Thanks to Ms. Duffy, Mrs Callaghan and Ms Farrell for all their hard work throughout the year with the choir.

The children took part in two cross country races this month in Newbridge House in Donabate. There were some great performances and we all had a great time despite the weather. We are looking forward to the final race in ALSAA on April 26<sup>th</sup> and we are praying for better weather on the day.



The Parent's Committee ran an extremely successful Table Quiz in the Balrothery Inn at the start of the month. Thanks to the Parent's Committee for all their hard work in preparation and to everyone who took part on the night. There was over €2000 raised and that money will be used to ensure the children have access to the best resources available.



Assembly takes place in the hall on every second Friday. We focus on a particular theme and the children receive awards including 'Student of the Week' and 'Gaeilgoir don Seachtaine'. Check out our prize winners below.



The children in 6<sup>th</sup> had a visit from Fr John who carried out confessions with the class. This was a lovely morning in preparation for the Confirmation which will take place on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

We have been doing great work this year working on our Gaeilge and the children are really enjoying our Aoine Íontach.

Thank you for reading and have a great Easter Holidays,  
Mr Callaghan and all the staff at Balrothery NS