



**December 2020**

*Dear parents and children,*

*The staff at Balrothery NS wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. It has been an historic term but we are all delighted to be open and back together again. Thank you for your continued support through this Covid time. Hopefully we will all be back to normal again soon. The staggered opening and closing times will remain as will pods and class bubbles next term. Children will bring home their locker bags and some books home in the infant classes. The pencil cases will need to be replenished and bags cleaned out .*

*School closes this Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12 for Ms Kiernan, 12.10 Ms McKiernan, 12.20 Mr Hall and then by surname A-G 12.20, H-N 12.30 and O-Z 12.40.*

*School reopens on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.*

*Please remember that parents cannot be onsite, please wait outside the school gate as usual. Remember to socially distance please.*

*Thank you*

*Mrs Murphy*

**Board of Management update:**

*The school has been given the go ahead to replace the flat roof on the existing building under the summer works scheme. The new building project is moving along with site surveys taking place at the moment as the design team are preparing tender documents. A review of the following policies were completed. Critical incident plan, English plan, Gaeilge plan, communication policy and e-learning plan. Understanding and Living the Ethos of a Catholic school is a new programme that we will begin to work on. We have chosen target D which is " Religious Education is an integral part of the life of this school". There are still some places for junior infants 2021. Through a company called Ambisense Environmental Analytics the air quality in 4 rooms was measured for approx 5 weeks. The monitor measures CO2 levels. This in turn informs our process of ventilation. We found if windows and doors were closed the level of CO2 rose quickly compared to when they were open. The temperature of the rooms were measured and were very cold during that cold spell in early December. With this monitor we could adjust the window and door ventilation to allow some heat to stay in the room but yet creating enough ventilation to reduce the risk of Covid. Many thanks to Ambisense Environmental Analytics. The monitoring will continue for a couple of weeks in January.*

*Barothery Community Council have secured new bollards for the front of the school. These will look like the other bollards in the village. There will be flower planters in between the bollards also.*

So what has been happening this month ? Ms Flannery's class enjoying pyjamas day in preparation for the Late Late Toy Show. They loved the hot chocolate!



Infants watching last year's toyshow with their hot chocolate.



Thank you to the Parents' Association and for your generosity in supporting their fundraising efforts. The children had the opportunity to attend a virtual panto. The Sword and the Stone. The children really enjoyed it!



We had our Covid Special outdoor Carol Service. Thank you to Mr Callaghan's and Ms Quigley's classes for performing the Nativity Story.



The children posting their letters to Santa. Very exciting!



Santa Visit 2020

Covid friendly of course!

The Great Christmas Bake Off, assignment on Google Classroom.



Thank you for your donations for St. Vincent de Paul. We collected €413 in total.

Also thank you for your support with the School Calendar and the Christmas Card Fundraiser.

Apologies for the delay with the Christmas Cards. The company had trouble with their printers which caused the delay. The calendars raised €943.05

Art work in senior infants. Christmas Mittens



Ms O' Mahony's class performed the Night Before Christmas outdoors this year. A link to her play will be on the website.



Marathon Kids are as successful as any other year. The children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class trained over a number of weeks and finished their last mile this month. A great achievement well done everyone.

