

November 30, 2017

Dear parents and children,

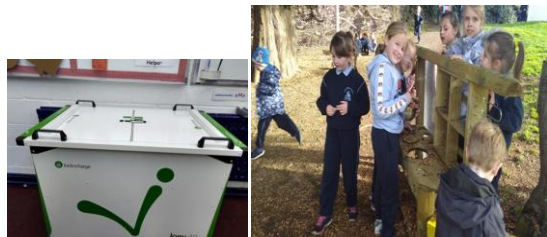
The children are in full swing now with the feeling of Christmas coming upon us all!!

Classes are beginning to get ready for our Carol Service on Tuesday the 19th of December at 7pm in the church. It is a lovely night. Children will sit with their class as all classes will perform on the night.

Thank you for supporting the Parents' Committee Christmas card fundraiser and for dropping off clothes for recycling. All support is greatly appreciated. With your support alongside the hard work of the Parents' Committee we have purchased many new items to enhance your child's learning experience.

We have developed outside learning areas with outdoor blackboards, a new ice-cream cart hand made by Tommy Gallagher, new Aistear toys and the mud kitchens. Goal posts and sports equipment were also purchased.

We have also purchased a new laptop trolley which charges laptops. These will begin to be timetabled next week for the senior end of the school. This means that we now have a set of Ipads and a set of laptops. We are working on developing the children's ICT skills as well as using technology to support learning.



Building update: Preparation for arrival of prefabs is ongoing. These are expected to be in place for the end of January. This will mean that we will have our hall back and that the children and teachers will have a much better learning environment. The Board is hoping that we will have an update on the main building project in January. The Department of Education is behind the project and we are working through the process with them.

Science Week 2017

The children experienced a week of science activities during science week. Thank you to Ms McKiernan for co-coordinating this. Each class carried out an experiment and showed it to another class.

Sarah Callaghan came and showed the two classes lots of interesting facts about bacteria.

Mr Hall's class visited Balbriggan Library for an outreach workshop by Dublin Zoo.

The infants went to Imaginosity and took part in a science workshop.



There were so many fantastic aeroplanes and rockets made for Science Week. Congratulations to one and all and thank you to the mums and dads for supporting this as well.





Food Dudes

This is a great initiative and a big thank you to Ms O Mahony for co-coordinating this with help from Joyce Denver. The children are getting free fruit and vegetables to taste. They are rewarded with stickers and awards. Hopefully it will encourage the children to try more fruit and vegetables and create a habit of choosing fruit/vegetables as a snack.



Green flag

The Green Flag committee is working hard on making sure we are turning off the lights. They are monitoring our bins to ensure that only paper is present. They have carried out an audit of our energy and water use and we are working towards decreasing both. Ms Markham and Ms Gleeson co-ordinate this with the Green Flag Committee.

Marathon Kids

The children in 5th and 6th class have been training for this event since September and today the 30th of November they will travel to Santry to take part in the event where schools in Fingal come together to run a marathon. The children's fitness level has improved since starting this programme. Well done everyone.

Tennis

Mr Hall's and Ms Kiernan's classes are taking part in a 6 week block of tennis lessons. It's a great opportunity for these children and they may develop an interest taking up tennis with Balrothery Tennis Club.



Soccer

There are four classes taking part in Soccer on a Monday morning. The FAI send coaches to schools and we have been lucky to get the opportunity.

GAA

Siobhan O Connor, Man O War GAA Cub, continues to coach GAA every Friday.

Dates for your diary:

Christmas Carol Service 7pm Tuesday the 19th of December in the church. Children will need to be there at 6.45 the latest.

School closes on Friday the 22nd of December for the Christmas Holidays and will reopen on January 8th.

Ms Andrews' class is exhibiting at the Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS on the 13th of January. They are investigating germs. Please visit our stall in the Primary Science Area.

November, a month of remembrance. This month we remember those who have died in our families. Children wrote names on leaves and these leaves were part of assemblies on remembering and praying for those who have died. This year Dublin will host the World Meeting of Families. The theme for November focused on Families of Hope keeping the focus on the importance of family.

Basketball : The girls team and their mentors/score keepers travelled to Tallaght Arena to play a match. It was a great experience for all, the team played really well. Ms O Mahony and Ms Kiernan were very proud of the team.



Shoeboxes: Great generosity was shown for this. We collected 191 boxes. Thank you to Barbara Dolan for looking after this.

