



Dear parents and children,

The children have all been working hard since coming back to school in September and deserve a good rest. The junior infants have settled in very well and it feels like they have always been there.

Please remember how important it is for your child to be on time for school. It's a good habit to develop as we all are aware in 'real life!' how important it is.

**Absences:** You are required to send in a note to explain absences otherwise the absence is logged as unexplained. Thank you

The children are a credit to you with their lovely healthy lunches. Thank you for your co-operation in this respect. It is wonderful to see the children eating lovely sandwiches and fresh fruit. This year we are recommending that water is the drink of choice and juice should only be taken when the children are eating their lunch. So pack an extra drink of water so that your child can have a drink when they feel the need during the day. Water helps your child to concentrate. Reminder that chocolate products are not allowed. Keep up the good work.

To celebrate Halloween we will have a dress up day on Thursday. Children can bring one or two treats. Unfortunately we can't do Friday this year as junior infants have their vaccination and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class are going on an educational trip to Drogheda. On Thursday please donate €1/€2 for the Dyslexia Association in Balbriggan. School will finish at the usual time on Friday for all children

The Parents' Committee will sell pumpkins at the school gate on Thursday and Friday at 2pm and 3pm. The pumpkins are always great value and money given will support the school.

Thank you for your patience with our new online payment system. Always ring and ask if you feel that a payment request is incorrect as with any system there will be mistakes. The Voluntary Contribution was very generously supported this year so thank you for that. It will be spent on resources that will benefit your child.

.We wish Ms Taylor the very best in her new job. We welcome Ms Kiernan who will be with us until June .

I hope you all have a happy and safe half term. See you all on Monday the 7th of November.

Mrs Murphy

#### Our website

The school website is up and running. Please log onto the website to keep up to date with school activities and school news. The school calendar is up to date.

#### The Parents' Committee

The AGM of the Parents' Committee was held in September. There was a good turn out and this support was appreciated by the committee. Treasurers Suzanne Bowes and Sarah Sheehan have stepped down from this role. A big thank you to them for their dedication and hard work and such is their dedication they will continue to be on the committee. Eithne Gordon ( chairperson) Brenda Rothwell ( secretary), Dorina Fondus and Taragh O' Connor ( Treasurers). Thank you to all parents who have agreed to be members of the committee. The school really appreciates it.

#### Parents are needed:

Volunteers: At times we ask parents to help out on class trips, walks etc . We need as many parents as possible to complete a Garda Vetting form as all volunteers must be Garda Vetted going forward. The form is very straight forward and will always be confidential. Forms are available from the office. Please ring and request and we can send it home. Thank you.

#### Yellow Flag Committee:

The committee is made up of the student council children and other children. There are three staff members and we need one or two parents. The Yellow Flag Committee works on anti-bullying, inclusiveness and on promoting diversity in our school. It will only involve one meeting a term for you. It would be lovely to have two parents helping us with this.

#### Curriculum:

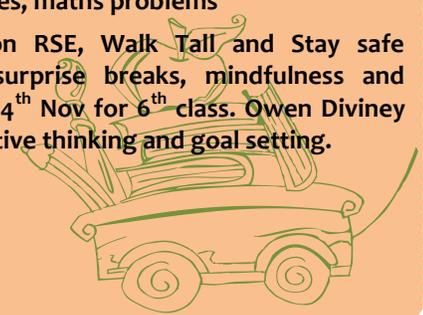
Oral language theme at the moment is clothes. In November it will be The Environment.

Writing genres: Recount writing and procedural writing.

Reading fluency : Concentrate on using volume when reading, we will focus on pace in November and December.

Maths : Keep learning those tables, maths problems

SPHE : Continued emphasis on RSE, Walk Tall and Stay safe programme, introduction of surprise breaks, mindfulness and speakers. Speaker planned for 14<sup>th</sup> Nov for 6<sup>th</sup> class. Owen Diviney will talk to the pupils about positive thinking and goal setting.



## Green flag Committee



They have started to ensure each class has their GOOS paper boxes. This is recycled paper. GOOS stands for good on one side. There will be a walk to school this **Wednesday**. Meeting points are Rosepark at 9am, the Inn at 9.10am and the Golf Club at 8.50 am. We are working on Global Citizenship which encompasses all Green Flag themes. The committee and Ms Taylor's Class did a tree trail in Ardgillan on National Tree Day. They learned all about the various trees in Ardgillan and the folklore that goes with them.

**Recycling Competition** : An artist in Balbriggan is collecting old footballs and using them to create a whale! In November we will start to collect them here so that Balrothery NS is contributing to the project. More details to follow.

## Athletics

The first race of the season took place in Newbridge House. Fifty athletes travelled from Balrothery. We had a very successful day with many children running in the top ten of their age group. Everyone loved the new location.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class are in training everyday taking part in the Kids Marathon Programme. They will run a mile on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November in the new custom made cross country field in Abbotstown at the National Sports Campus. Registration is between 8.30 and 9.30.

They had a talk and a visit from Frank Greally, editor of the Irish Runner magazine who encouraged the children to keep running as part of their lives. It can benefit them physically and mentally. All children received a medal and a t-shirt.

## Chess Club

Chess Club takes place at lunchtime on a Wednesday for pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> up to 6<sup>th</sup> class.

## Roald Dahl Day

The children dressed up as the characters from the many Roald Dahl books. The outfits were superb.



## A snap shot of our last six weeks!



Roald Dahl Day



## Enjoying Aistear! A visit to the opticians.



Warm Up before great run with Frank Greally and Phelim Kelly.



A beautiful day learning about our native trees.

## Maths Week 2016



## Maths Games First Class

The pupils in the school took part in maths activities all week as part of national maths week.

Older classes worked with younger classes carrying out maths trails and solving problems. More photos of maths week can be seen on the website.

