

April 29, 2015

Dear all,

We are now in full swing enjoying the last term at school.

Thanks to you all for your understanding and flexibility around the new procedures for entering and leaving the school. The staff is working hard to ensure all is running smoothly. The children are having staggered breaks as this allows them to move freely at playtime. We are awaiting prefabs and I am assured this always takes time to move onto the next phase. The Board and the project manager are working with the department to keep the project moving along. We will keep you informed.

Thank you all for your support for the fundraising activities organised by the parents' committee that have enabled us to purchase ipads. The teachers have undergone training and in early May we will have a timetable in place for all classes to access the ipads.

The ipad will be used as an extra learning tool that will enhance lessons across all subject areas.

Ms Andrews and Ms Farrell are co-ordinating this project.

Thank you to the parents' committee who has worked hard to raise this money. It shows that with your support we can provide extra resources for the children in the school.



Details of an upcoming quiz night on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of April are on the opposite side of this page. Don't forget our Golf Classic on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. Potential to win a car for a hole in one! Other great prizes to be won on the day. Entry is €200 for a team of four or sponsor a hole/tee for €50 or make a donation. All proceeds will help with the building project.

Again thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Murphy

School is closed Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> of May inclusive.

Confirmation is at 12 noon on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May.

New Infant Induction Days: 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June, junior and senior infants will go home at 12.

Sports day Fri 17<sup>th</sup> of June: location and details to follow.

Graduation Night : Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> of June: location and details to follow

### Communion

The communion was very successful and we were lucky with the weather. The children were a credit to you all. Well done to the choir and Ms Farrell and Mrs Callaghan for all their hard work and to Ms Taylor, Ms McKiernan, Joyce and Karen. Thank you to the Parents' Committee and others who volunteered on the day to host the after party! The committee did a brilliant job at making the occasion a success.

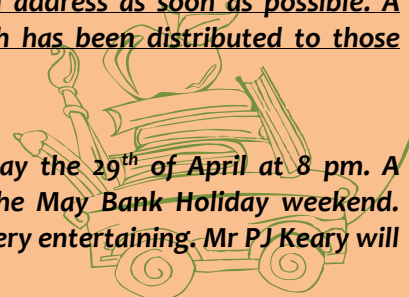


### Important:

Please be advised as texting is an expense that could be lessened by using e-mail, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2016 all communication will be done through e-mail eg information re sports day, school closures etc Please send a current e-mail address as soon as possible. A letter requesting such has been distributed to those who need one.

### Parents' Committee

Quiz Night is on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of April at 8 pm. A great way to start the May Bank Holiday weekend. Quiz night is always very entertaining. Mr PJ Keary will be the quiz master!



Green Flag Committee: Ms O Mahony and the committee have been busy.

The school has adopted a patch in the village and will keep it clean. The children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> took part in the national spring clean on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April and cleaned the area in front of the graveyard in preparation for the raising of the Irish Flag on national proclamation Day. WOW took place and there was a great uptake on this. More to follow!

The committee painted bird boxes made by Pat Hickey for the village. They have planted turnips, carrots and potatoes in our school garden.

Cricket : Both boys and girls have had matches and more to follow over the next few weeks. Thanks to Mrs McGovern for her continued interest in Cricket.

Tennis : The tennis school team have played against a very high standard of players and have done themselves proud. More games to follow and Ms Rooney with the help of parents are making this possible.

#### Boys and Girls GAA

Both teams are doing well considering we are in a higher division this year. Ms Taylor, Ms Hannon, Mr Hall and Ms O Mahony are ensuring the teams are prepared and ready for action.

Soccer : The boys' soccer team coached by Mr Callaghan and Mr Hall are in the quarter final of the Senior Cup after their win away to St Brigid's, Killester.

Cross Country : A great day was held in Santry to end the cross country season for this year. Well done to all who took part and to Mr Callaghan for organising and coaching the children and to Karen and Ms O Mahony also.

Junior Entrepreneur Award : The children and Mr Callaghan are very proud to announce that their Balrothery Cook Book is now ready to pre-order at the cost of €5 . Not only will you get fantastic recipes with this book but you will also be able to read a little bit around the background of each participant. It's a great book full of delicious goodies. The children have been working very well together to produce and fund this project.

#### Ulster Folk park Trip

Children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class travelled to Omagh to visit the Ulster Folk Park. It was a brilliant interactive experience enjoyed by one and all. Thank you to the parents who accompanied the children also.

Curriculum: Literacy: Our oral language theme this month and next month is home and houses.



Our writing genre is poetry and this will continue into May.

We continue to work on our tables and problem solving.

SPHE: The children will be working on the RSE programme.

Handwriting: we are placing a huge emphasis on handwriting and presentation throughout the school. The infants are doing very well at their cursive handwriting. Cursive handwriting will continue into 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and children will repeat the same textbook as the textbook is only a practice tool for the formation of each letter otherwise we will spend too much time photocopying.

#### Friendship Week 2016/Yellow Flag committee

Each year we take a week to focus on the importance of friendships and showing respect to all members of our community. We promote diversity and inclusiveness. This year we took part in the Yellow Flag art competition, we drew pictures of our friendships, we all including staff had a secret buddy, mini-assemblies were held sharing poems, drama, stories and songs. Classes all took part in anti-bullying lessons. The children had breakfast morning supported by the Parents' Committee. Juice and a croissant were given to each child and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> were served tea and hot chocolate!

The yellow Flag Committee will attend a ceremony on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April to formally receive the yellow Flag for the school.



The Committee supported by the parents.

