



Dear all,

We are looking forward to St Patrick's Day and our Easter break. Thankfully the weather seems to be picking up and the children are back playing on the grass.

School will close on Wednesday the 16th of March at 12.30 and reopen on Monday the 4th of April. Infants and their siblings will go home at 12. Please collect from the classroom door. All buses will leave at 12.

Easter Raffle

Our annual Easter raffle is now taking place. The children can buy tickets from their class teacher. 50c for one €2 for five.

Troaire boxes: these can be returned to the school after the Easter holidays.

Parents' Committee

The parents' committee will hold their annual Easter Egg hunt in school on Wednesday the 16th of March. The children love this and each child receives a treat.

As you know the committee are busy fundraising all the time for the benefit of the children. I am so pleased to say that a class set of Ipads have been ordered. Ipads are very easy to use, however to get the most benefit from them the teachers will receive specialised training in April on how best to use the Ipads as an additional teaching tool. The aim of the Ipad for the children is to enhance lessons using apps. Your support of all fundraising activities does support your child's learning. The cost of this was in total €12,700 which is a huge investment. Fundraising contributed €10,000. This is phase one of our investment in ICT for the children. The Ipads will be timetabled for each class.

Thank you to the committee and all of you for continuing to support our fundraising initiatives.

Golf Classic

There will be a golf classic to raise funds for the new school building on the 20th of May. If any parents and their workplace would like to come and play on the day, a team costs €200 for a team of 4. Brain Reynolds garage in Drogheda has given us the prize of a new car for a hole in one on a particular hole. Very exciting!

If you don't play golf you can sponsor a tee or a hole

for €50. Alternatively you could give a cash prize. It is shaping up to be a great day with the joint aim of having fun and raising money for the school.

Update on school building:

It is ongoing but we are very close to commencement. The cost of the build has escalated which means that negotiations with the department are on - going but I do feel that something may happen soon. Hopefully I won't be eating my words! Money raised for the building will be used to upgrade the existing building as otherwise we will be faced with a brand new half and an old half. It would be great to be able to merge both buildings by changing existing doors and floors.

Please Note: Monday 11th of April school closes at 12.30 to facilitate training in the new language curriculum as directed by the department of education. Teachers will undergo training at different times over the coming year.

Parents' Committee:

The movie afternoon was a great success. The children really enjoyed coming to school on a Saturday! Thank you for your support.

Dates for your diary:

6th class graduation will take place on Thursday the 23rd of June at 7pm.
Sports day : Friday the 17th of June.

Communion is on the 23rd of April at 12 noon.

We urge all choir members to keep that morning free as we will need them.

Confirmation is on Wednesday the 25th of May at 12 noon. The choir will sing that day also. A bus will be provided for this as it is during school time.

Proclamation Day 2016

The children are busy learning all about the 1916 Rising. We have had various visitors in to speak to the children bringing the 1916 to life. Bracken ETNS have written and produced a play and some of the student council will go to the play.

After our ceolchoirm we will raise the national flag. Children will sing the national anthem. Each class has written their own proclamation of what they would like Ireland to be in 2016. These will be read on proclamation day.

Time table for céilí mór: outdoor céilí weather permitting. Parents are welcome.

9.30 : Mr Callaghan, Ms Andrews, Mrs Callaghan, Mr Caffrey, Ms Hannon, Ms Farrell and Ms O Mahony.

10.15 : Ms Kiernan, Ms Taylor, Ms Gleeson, Ms McKiernan and Ms Markham.



Gaeilge

We are making a big effort to labhairt as Gaeilge this week and next week.

Children in 5th class have organised an art / Gaeilge competition . Entries must be in by Friday.

Lá Glas (Green Day) On Tuesday the 15th of March we will have our ceolchoirm . Children can wear all green . We are asking for a donation of €1/€2 for a past pupil living in the village who has cancer. Money is being raised so that this person can travel to have a necessary operation.

Céilí Mór: Breda Gibbons has worked her magic wand again and has prepared the children for this outdoor event. Children can wear green again. Parents are invited and we hope there will be sunshine and no rain.

Sport Buses are expensive but we have been advised to use buses as much possible due to insurance and Garda Vetting requirements. Voluntary Contribution will be used to supplement.

GAA: The boys and girls Gaa teams are in full swing. Ms Taylor, Ms O Mahony , Ms Hannon and Mr Hall are busy coaching and arranging matches. We are lucky to be able to avail of the new all weather facility in Balbriggan.

Cricket: The girls and boys are having coaching sessions up at the cricket club.

Athletics: Cross country. Mr Callaghan always gets a good crowd. The children are fantastic for going to these races as the weather is always cold and the competition fierce. Again our children do very well with a lot of children in the top ten.

Soccer : The soccer season is also underway.

Tennis : Ms Rooney is organising tennis coaching for our tennis teams. She does need help from parents if possible please.

Literacy and Numeracy

Oral language: This month the theme is food. The younger children should be able to describe their favourite food using a variety of adjectives. As the children move up the school they should be able to talk about food in other countries, the nutritional value of foods, foods that they like or dislike, give a critic of a visit to a restaurant....

Reading fluency: The children are given pieces to practise at home. Please ask them to read to you. We are focusing on volume, pace, clarity, expression and pause. Please continue to sign the reading logs.



SPHE : Children received internet safety talk and road talk this term as part of our SPHE programme. The stay safe programme is ongoing.

The Easter Raffle will take place on Tuesday the 15th of March.



Host Families are wanted in the summer for Spanish children. Please contact phanratt02@hotmail.com if you are interested.

We're on the Web!
See us at: Balrotheryins.com